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Chapter 1 - Overview of the Guide

Introduction

The Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) receives its funding for the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The CHA is not a federal department or agency. The CHA is a municipal corporation, created and authorized by Illinois state law under the Housing Authorities Act, 310 ILCS 10/1 et seq., to develop and operate housing and housing programs for low-income families.

The CHA enters into an Annual Contributions Contract with HUD to administer the program requirements on behalf of HUD. The CHA does not administer the HCV program directly but employs contractors and subcontractors to administer the program on behalf of the CHA. The CHA and its contractors and subcontractors must ensure compliance with federal laws, regulations, and notices and must establish policy and procedures to clarify federal requirements and to ensure consistency in program operation.

The CHA is participating in HUD Moving to Work (MTW) demonstration program. The CHA’s initial MTW Agreement was signed by the CHA and HUD on February 6, 2000, at which time HUD granted the CHA authority to implement its Plan for Transformation. Pursuant to Congressional action, all MTW Agreements, including the CHA’s, were extended until 2028.

MTW is a demonstration program that allows public housing agencies such as the CHA to design and test ways to:

- Promote self-sufficiency among assisted families
- Achieve programmatic efficiency and reduce costs
- Increase housing choice for low-income households

The MTW Agreement is a statement of the authority granted to the CHA by HUD to waive selected statutory and regulatory requirements to allow the CHA flexibility in achieving the stated objectives of the Move to Work Demonstration.

The CHA has already implemented changes in its HCV Program to achieve these objectives and will continue to implement changes in the future. More information on the CHA program changes is found in its Moving to Work Annual Plan that is posted on the CHA website.

This chapter contains information about the CHA and its programs with emphasis on the HCV program. It also contains information about the purpose, intent, and use of the CHA administrative plan.

Part I: The CHA

1-I.A. Organization and Structure of the CHA

The Section 8 tenant-based Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program is funded by the federal government and administered by the CHA for the jurisdiction of the City of Chicago.

The officials of the CHA are known as commissioners or, collectively, as the Board of Commissioners. Commissioners are appointed in accordance with Illinois state housing law, which establishes policies under which the CHA conducts business, ensuring that policies are followed by CHA staff and that CHA is successful in its mission. The board is responsible for preserving and expanding the agency’s resources and assuring the agency’s continued viability.
Formal actions of the CHA are taken through written resolutions, adopted by the Board of Commissioners and entered into the official records of the CHA.

The principal staff member of the CHA is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), hired and appointed by the Board of Commissioners. The CEO is directly responsible for carrying out the policies established by the commissioners and is delegated the responsibility for hiring, training and supervising the remainder of the CHA’s staff in order to manage the day-to-day operations of the CHA to ensure compliance with federal and Illinois state laws and directives for the programs managed. In addition, the CEO’s duties include budgeting and financial planning for the agency.

1-I.B. The CHA’s Mission
The CHA’s mission is to leverage the power of affordable, decent, safe, and stable housing to help communities thrive and low-income families increase their potential for long-term economic success and a sustained high quality of life.

1-I.C. The CHA’s Programs
The following programs are included under this procedure guide.

- Housing Choice Voucher
- Single Room Occupancy Housing
- Congregate housing
- Group home
- Shared housing
- Cooperative housing (excluding families that are not cooperative members)
- Homeownership
- Property-Based Vouchers

1-I.D. The CHA’s Commitment to Ethics and Service
As a public service agency, the CHA is committed to providing excellent service to HCV program participants – families and owners – in the community. The CHA’s standards include:

- Administer applicable federal and state laws and regulations to achieve high ratings in compliance measurement indicators while maintaining efficiency in program operation to ensure fair and consistent treatment of clients served.

- Provide decent, safe, and sanitary housing – in compliance with program housing quality standards – for very low income families while ensuring that family rents are fair, reasonable, and affordable.

- Encourage self-sufficiency of participant families and assist in the expansion of family opportunities which address educational, socio-economic, recreational and other human services needs.

- Promote fair housing and the opportunity for very low-income families of all ethnic backgrounds to experience freedom of housing choice.

- Promote a housing program which maintains quality service and integrity while providing an incentive to private property owners to rent to very low-income families.

- Promote a market-driven housing program that will help qualified low-income families be successful in obtaining affordable housing and increase the supply of housing choices for such families.

- Create positive public awareness and expand the level of family, owner, and community support in accomplishing the CHA’s mission.
Attain and maintain a high level of standards and professionalism in day-to-day management of all program components.

Administer an efficient, high-performing agency through continuous improvement of the PHA’s support systems and commitment to our employees and their development.

The CHA will make every effort to keep program participants and owners informed of HCV program rules and regulations, and to advise participants of how the program rules affect them.

The CHA will maintain proper standards of ethical conduct in the administration of the Housing Choice Voucher Program. To that end, the CHA has adopted the standards set forth in the Ethics Policy of the CHA. A copy of the CHA Ethics Policy is provided to all contractors, current officers and employees and to all new hires as part of the employee orientation as well as listed on the CHA website.

Part II: The Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Program

1-II.A. Overview and History of the Program

The intent of this section is to provide the public and staff with information related to the overall operation of the program.

The United States Housing Act of 1937 (the “Act”) is responsible for the birth of federal housing program initiatives. The Act was intended to provide financial assistance to states and cities for public works projects, slum clearance and the development of affordable housing developments for low-income residents.

The Housing and Community Development (HCD) Act of 1974 created a new federally assisted housing program – the Section 8 Existing program (also known as the Section 8 Certificate program). The HCD Act represented a significant shift in federal housing strategy from locally owned public housing to privately owned rental housing.

Under the Certificate program, federal housing assistance payments were made directly to private owners of rental housing, where this housing was made available to lower-income families. Eligible families were able to select housing in the private rental market. Assuming that the housing met certain basic physical standards of quality (“housing quality standards”) and was within certain HUD-established rent limitations (“fair market rents”), the family would be able to receive rental assistance in the housing unit. Family contribution to rent was generally set at 30 percent of the family’s adjusted income, with the remainder of the rent paid by the program.

Another unique feature of the Certificate program was that the rental assistance remained with the eligible family if the family chose to move to another privately owned rental unit that met program requirements (in contrast to the public housing program where the rental assistance remains with the unit, should the family decide to move). Consequently, the Certificate program was characterized as tenant-based assistance, rather than unit-based assistance.

The Housing and Community Development (HCD) Act of 1987 authorized a new version of tenant-based assistance – the Section 8 Voucher program. The program was very similar to the Certificate program in that eligible families were able to select housing in the private rental market and receive assistance in that housing unit.

However, this program permitted families more options in housing selection. Rental housing still had to meet the basic housing quality standards, but there was no fair market rent limitation on rent. In addition, family contribution to rent was not set at a limit of 30 percent of adjusted income. Consequently, depending on the actual rental cost of the unit selected, a family might pay more or less than 30 percent of their adjusted income for rent.
From 1987 through 1999, public housing agencies managed both the Certificate and Voucher tenant-based assistance programs, with separate rules and requirements for each. From 1994 through 1998, HUD published a series of new rules, known as “conforming” rules, to more closely combine and align the two similar housing programs, to the extent permitted by the law.

In 1998, the Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act (QHWRA) – also known as the Public Housing Reform Act – was signed into law. This act eliminated all statutory differences between the Certificate and Voucher tenant-based programs and required that the two programs merge into a single tenant-based assistance program, now known as the HCV program.

The HCV program was modeled closely on the pre-merger Voucher program. However, unlike the pre-merger Voucher program, the HCV program requires an assisted family to pay at least 30 percent of adjusted income for rent.

The transition of assistance from the Certificate and Voucher programs to the new HCV program began in October 1999. By October 2001, all families receiving tenant-based assistance were converted to the HCV program.

1-II.B. HCV Program Basics
The purpose of the HCV program is to provide rental assistance to eligible families. The rules and regulations of the program are determined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The Public Housing Authority is afforded choices in the operation of the program which are included in the PHA’s administrative plan, a document approved by the board of commissioners of the PHA.

The HCV program offers mobility to eligible families because they may search for suitable housing anywhere in the PHA’s jurisdiction and may also be eligible to move under portability to other PHAs’ jurisdictions.

When a family is determined to be eligible for the program and funding is available, the PHA issues the family a voucher. When the family finds a suitable housing unit and funding is available, the PHA will enter into a contract with the owner and the family will enter into a lease with the owner. Each party makes their respective payment to the owner so that the owner receives full rent.

Even though the family is determined to be eligible for the program, the owner has the responsibility of approving the family as a suitable renter. The PHA continues to make payments to the owner as long as the family is eligible and the housing unit continues to qualify under the program.

1-II.C. The HCV Partnerships
To administer the HCV program, the PHA enters into a contractual relationship with HUD under an Annual Contribution Contract. Additionally, because the CHA is participating in the MTW demonstration program, the CHA also enters into a MTW Demonstration Agreement with HUD. The CHA also enters into contractual relationships with the assisted family and the owner or property manager of the housing unit.

For the HCV program to work and be successful, all parties involved – HUD, the PHA, the owner, and the family – have important roles to play. The roles and responsibilities of all parties are defined in federal regulations and in legal documents that parties execute to participate in the program.

The chart below illustrates key aspects of these relationships.
The HCV Relationships

1. Congress appropriates funding
2. HUD provides funding to the CHA
3. The CHA administers the program
   - Voucher specifies family obligations
   - Lease specifies tenant and owner/property manager obligations
   - Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) contract specifies owner and CHA obligations
   - Family (program participant)
   - Owner/property manager
What Does HUD Do?

HUD has the following major responsibilities:

- Develop regulations, requirements, handbooks, notices and other guidance to implement HCV housing program legislation passed by Congress;
- Allocate HCV program funds to PHAs;
- Provide technical assistance to PHAs on interpreting and applying HCV program requirements;
- Monitor the PHA compliance with HCV program requirements and the PHA performance in program administration.

What Does the PHA Do?

The PHA administers the HCV program under contract with HUD and has the following major responsibilities:

- Establish local policies;
- Review applications from interested applicant families to determine whether applicants are eligible for the program;
- Maintain waiting lists and select families for admission;
- Issue voucher to selected family and, if necessary, assist the family in finding a place to live;
- Conduct outreach to owners, with special attention to owners outside areas of poverty or minority concentration;
- Approve the rental unit (including assuring compliance with housing quality standards and rent reasonableness), the owner, and the tenancy;
- Make housing assistance payments to the owner in a timely manner;
- Ensure that families and their rental units continue to qualify under the program;
- Ensure that owners and families comply with program rules;
- Provide families and owners with prompt, professional service;
- Comply with all fair housing and equal opportunity requirements, HUD regulations and requirements, the Annual Contributions Contract, HUD-approved applications for funding, the PHA’s administrative plan, and other applicable federal, state and local laws.

What Does the Owner Do?

The owner has the following major responsibilities:

- Screen families who apply for tenancy, to determine if they will be good renters.
  - The PHA can provide some information to the owner, but the primary responsibility for tenant screening rests with the owner.
  - The owner should consider family background factors such as rent and bill-paying history, history of caring for property, respecting the rights of others to peaceful enjoyment of the property, compliance with essential conditions of tenancy, whether the family is engaging in drug-related criminal activity or other criminal activity that might threaten others.
- Comply with the terms of the Housing Assistance Payments (HAP) contract, and any applicable riders, executed with the PHA;
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- Comply with the rules, policies and procedures contained in the PHA Administrative Plan and applicable procedures and riders;
- Comply with all applicable fair housing laws and discriminate against no one;
- Maintain the housing unit by making necessary repairs in a timely manner;
- Collect rent due from the assisted family and otherwise comply with and enforce provisions of the dwelling lease.

What Does the Family Do?

The family has the following responsibilities:

- Provide the PHA with complete and accurate information, determined by the PHA to be necessary for administration of the program;
- Make their best and most timely efforts to find a place to live that is suitable for them and that qualifies for the program;
- Attend all appointments scheduled by the PHA;
- Allow the PHA to inspect the unit at reasonable times and after reasonable notice;
- Take responsibility for care of the housing unit, including any violations of housing quality standards caused by the family;
- Comply with the terms of the lease with the owner;
- Comply with the family obligations of the voucher;
- Comply with the rules, policies and procedures contained in the PHA Administrative Plan and applicable procedures and riders;
- Not commit serious or repeated violations of the lease;
- Not engage in drug-related or violent criminal activity;
- Notify the PHA and the owner before moving or terminating the lease;
- Use the assisted unit only for residence and as the sole residence of the family. Not sublet the unit, assign the lease, or have any interest in the unit;
- Promptly notify the PHA of any changes in family composition;
- Not commit fraud, bribery, or any other corrupt or criminal act in connection with any housing programs.

If all parties fulfill their obligations in a professional and timely manner, the program responsibilities will be fulfilled effectively.

1-II.D. Applicable Regulations

Applicable regulations, except as modified in the approved MTW Demonstration Agreement, include:

- 24 CFR Part 5: General Program Requirements
- 24 CFR Part 8: Nondiscrimination
- 24 CFR Part 982: Section 8 Tenant-Based Assistance: Housing Choice Voucher Program
- 24 CFR 983: Property-Based Voucher Program
- 24 CFR 984: Section 8 and Public Housing Family Self-Sufficiency Program
- 24 CFR 985: Section 8 Management Assessment Program (SEMAP)
Part III: The HCV Program Procedure Guide

1-III.A. Overview and Purpose of the Guide

The purpose of the procedure guide is to establish procedures for administering the program in a manner consistent with HUD requirements and local goals and objectives. This procedure guide is a supporting document to the CHA’s Administrative Plan for the HCV program; it follows a similar format and provides more detail on how the policies outlined in the Plan are to be implemented.

This procedure guide defines the CHA’s local procedures for operation of the housing programs in the context of federal laws and regulations. The procedures in this guide have been designed to ensure compliance with the consolidated ACC and all HUD-approved applications for program funding.

The CHA will notify applicants and program participants of required actions in writing as specified in the procedure guide. The CHA will consider that the applicant or participant has received the written notice five calendar days after the day the notice is mailed to the last known address.

The CHA is responsible for complying with all changes in HUD regulations pertaining to the HCV program. If such changes conflict with this guide, HUD regulations will have precedence.

Administration of the HCV program and the functions and responsibilities of the CHA shall be in compliance with personnel policies and procedures and HUD’s program regulations as well as all federal, state and local fair housing laws and regulations.

1-III.B. Contents of the Guide

HUD regulations contain a list of what must be included in the administrative plan. The PHA administrative plan must cover PHA policies on these subjects:

- Selection and admission of applicants from the PHA waiting list, including any PHA admission preferences, procedures for removing applicant names from the waiting list, and procedures for closing and reopening the PHA waiting list (Chapter 4- Applicant, Waiting List, and Tenant Selection);
- Issuing or denying vouchers, including PHA policy governing the voucher term and any extensions or suspensions of the voucher term. 'Suspension' means stopping the clock on the term of a family’s voucher after the family submits a request for approval of the tenancy. If the PHA decides to allow extensions or suspensions of the voucher term, the PHA administrative plan must describe how the PHA determines whether to grant extensions or suspensions, and how the PHA determines the length of any extension or suspension (Chapter 5- Briefings and Voucher Issuance);
- Any special rules for use of available funds when HUD provides funding to the PHA for a special purpose (e.g., desegregation), including funding for specified families or a specified category of families (Chapter 4- Applicant, Waiting List, and Tenant Selection);
- Occupancy policies, including definition of what group of persons may qualify as a 'family', definition of when a family is considered to be 'continuously assisted'; standards for denying admission or terminating assistance based on criminal activity or alcohol abuse in accordance with 982.553 (Chapters 3- Eligibility and Chapter 12- Termination of Assistance and Tenancy);
- Encouraging participation by owners of suitable units located outside areas of low income or minority concentration (Chapter 13- Owners);
- Assisting a family that claims that illegal discrimination has prevented the family from leasing a suitable unit (Chapter 2- Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity);
• Providing information about a family to prospective owners (Chapters 3- Eligibility and Chapter 9- Leasing);
• Disapproval of owners (Chapter 13- Owners);
• Subsidy standards (Chapter 5- Briefings and Voucher Issuance);
• Family absence from the dwelling unit (Chapter 12- Termination of Assistance and Tenancy);
• How to determine who remains in the program if a family breaks up (Chapter 3- Eligibility);
• Informal review procedures for applicants (Chapter 16- Program Administration);
• Informal hearing procedures for participants (Chapter 16- Program Administration);
• The process for establishing and revising voucher payment standards (Chapter 16- Program Administration);
• The method of determining that rent to owner is a reasonable rent (initially and during the term of a HAP contract) (Chapter 8- Housing Quality Standards and Rent Reasonableness Determinations);
• Special policies concerning special housing types in the program (e.g., use of shared housing) (Chapter 15- Special Housing Types);
• Policies concerning payment by a family to the PHA of amounts the family owes the PHA (Chapter 16- Program Administration);
• Interim redeterminations of family income and composition (Chapter 11- Re-Examinations);
• Restrictions, if any, on the number of moves by a participant family (Chapter 10- Moving with Continued Assistance and Portability);
• Approval by the Board of Commissioners or other authorized officials to charge the administrative fee reserve (Chapter 16- Program Administration);
• Procedural guidelines and performance standards for conducting required housing quality standards inspections (Chapter 8- Housing Quality Standards and Rent Reasonableness); and
• PHA screening of applicants for family behavior or suitability for tenancy (Chapter 3- Eligibility).

Mandatory vs. Discretionary Policy

HUD makes a distinction between:

- Mandatory policies: those driven by legislation, regulations, current handbooks, notices, and legal opinions, and
- Optional, non-binding guidance, including guidebooks, notices that have expired and recommendations from individual HUD staff.

HUD expects the PHA to develop policies and procedures that are consistent with mandatory policies and to make clear the optional policies the PHA has adopted. The PHA’s administrative plan is the foundation of those policies and procedures. HUD’s directions require the PHA to make policy choices that provide guidance to staff and consistency to program applicants and participants. Please see Administrative Plan for these policies.

Following HUD guidance is not mandatory. While HUD has already determined that the recommendations and suggestions it makes are consistent with mandatory policies, if the PHA adopts an alternative strategy, the PHA will make its own determination that the alternative approach is consistent with legislation, regulations, and other mandatory requirements.

1-III.C. Organization of the Guide

The guide is organized to provide information to users in particular areas of operation.
1-III.D. Updating and Revising the Guide
The CHA will revise this procedure guide as needed to comply with changes in HUD regulations.
Chapter 2-Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity

Introduction
This chapter explains the laws and HUD regulations requiring PHAs to affirmatively further civil rights and fair housing in all federally-assisted housing programs. The letter and spirit of these laws are implemented through consistent policy and processes. The responsibility to further nondiscrimination pertains to all areas of the PHA’s housing choice voucher (HCV) operations.

This chapter describes HUD regulations and PHA policies related to these topics in three parts:

Part I: Nondiscrimination. This part presents the body of laws and regulations governing the responsibilities of the PHA regarding nondiscrimination.

Part II: Policies Related to Persons with Disabilities. This part discusses the rules and policies of the housing choice voucher program related to reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities. These rules and policies are based on the Fair Housing Act of 1968 (42.U.S.C.) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and incorporate guidance from the Joint Statement of The Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Department of Justice (DOJ), issued May 17, 2004.

Part III: Prohibition of Discrimination against Limited English Proficiency Persons. This part details the obligations of the PHA to ensure meaningful access to the HCV program and its activities by persons with limited English proficiency (LEP). This part incorporates HUD and DOJ’s Notice of Guidance, published December 19, 2003 in the Federal Register.

Part I: Nondiscrimination

2-I.A. Overview
Federal laws require PHAs to treat all applicants and participants equally, providing the same quality of service, regardless of family characteristics and background. Federal law prohibits discrimination in housing on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, familial status, and disability. The PHA will comply fully with all federal, state, and local nondiscrimination laws, and with rules and regulations governing fair housing and equal opportunity in housing and employment, including:

- Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964
- Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (as amended by the Community Development Act of 1974 and the Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988)
- Executive Order 11063
- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
- The Age Discrimination Act of 1975
- Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (to the extent that it applies, otherwise Section 504 and the Fair Housing Amendments govern)
- Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 (VAWA)
- Illinois Safe Homes Act
- When more than one civil rights law applies to a situation, the laws will be read and applied together.
- Any applicable state laws or local ordinances and any legislation protecting individual rights of tenants,
applicants, or staff that may subsequently be enacted

- The Voluntary Compliance Agreement (VCA) between a PHA and the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development effective from May 1, 2006 thru May 1, 2013 (to the extent that it applies).

2-I.B. Nondiscrimination
State and local nondiscrimination laws or ordinances apply to the CHA, and in particular the Illinois Human Rights Act, 775 ILCS 5/3-101; the Cook County Human Rights Act; Board of Commissioners 93-013; and the Chicago Fair Housing Ordinance, Municipal Code 5-8-010. Federal regulations prohibit discrimination against certain protected classes. State and local requirements, as well as PHA policies, can prohibit discrimination against additional classes of people.

The PHA shall not discriminate because of race, color, sex, religion, familial status, age, disability or national origin (called “protected classes”) or other protected classes under State and local laws, including but not limited to gender identity, military discharge status, source of income.

Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women, and people securing custody of children under the age of 18.

CHA Policy
The CHA will not discriminate on the basis of marital status or sexual orientation or other protected classes under state and local codes.

The PHA will not use any of these factors to:

- Deny to any family the opportunity to apply for housing, nor deny to any qualified applicant the opportunity to participate in the housing choice voucher program
- Provide housing that is different from that provided to others
- Subject anyone to segregation or disparate treatment
- Restrict anyone’s access to any benefit enjoyed by others in connection with the housing program
- Treat a person differently in determining eligibility or other requirements for admission
- Harass or create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment with respect to any protected class
- Steer an applicant or participant toward or away from a particular area based any of these factors
- Deny anyone access to the same level of services
- Deny anyone the opportunity to participate in a planning or advisory group that is an integral part of the housing program
- Discriminate in the provision of residential real estate transactions
- Discriminate against someone because they are related to or associated with a member of a protected class
- Publish or cause to be published an advertisement or notice indicating the availability of housing that prefers or excludes persons who are members of a protected class.

Providing Information to Families and Owners
The PHA must take steps to ensure that families and owners are fully aware of all applicable civil rights laws. As part of the briefing process, the PHA must provide information to HCV applicant families about civil rights requirements and the opportunity to rent in a broad range of neighborhoods [24 CFR 982.301]. The Housing Assistance Payments (HAP) contract informs owners of the requirement not to discriminate against any person
because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, familial status, or disability in connection with the contract.

Discrimination Complaints
If an applicant or participant believes that any family member has been discriminated against by the PHA or an owner, the family should advise the PHA. HUD requires the PHA to make every reasonable attempt to determine whether the applicant’s or participant’s assertions have merit and take any warranted corrective action. In addition, the PHA is required to provide the applicant or participant with information about how to file a discrimination complaint [24 CFR 982.304].

Part II: Policies Related to Persons with Disabilities

2-II.A. Overview
One type of disability discrimination prohibited by the Fair Housing Act is the refusal to make reasonable accommodation in rules, policies, practices, or services when such accommodation may be necessary to afford a person with a disability the equal opportunity to use and enjoy a program or dwelling under the program.

The PHA must ensure that persons with disabilities have full access to the PHA’s programs and services. This responsibility begins with the first inquiry of an interested family and continues through every programmatic area of the HCV program.

CHA Policy
The CHA will ask all applicants and participants if they require any type of accommodations in writing on the intake application, reexamination documents, and notices of adverse action by the CHA, by including the following language:

“If you or anyone in your family is a person with disabilities, and you require a specific accommodation in order to fully utilize our programs and services, please contact the housing authority.”

The CHA will extend the opportunity to request a reasonable accommodation to all applicants and participants throughout the time of their involvement with the HCV program. An applicant or participant may request a reasonable accommodation at any time. However, the CHA will specifically inquire about the need for a reasonable accommodation at the time of the program events identified above.

2-II.B. Definition of Reasonable Accommodation
A person with a disability may require special accommodations in order to have equal access to the HCV program. The types of reasonable accommodations the PHA can provide include changes, exceptions, or adjustments to a rule, policy, practice, or service.

Federal regulations stipulate that requests for accommodations will be considered reasonable if they do not create an "undue financial and administrative burden" for the PHA, or result in a “fundamental alteration” in the nature of the program or service offered. A fundamental alteration is a modification that alters the essential nature of a provider’s operations.

Types of Reasonable Accommodations
When needed, the PHA must modify normal procedures to accommodate the needs of a person with disabilities. Examples include:

- Permitting applications and reexaminations to be completed by mail
- Conducting home visits

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- Extending the time necessary to acquire documents and otherwise participate in the regular reexamination process
- Using higher payment standards (either within the acceptable range or with HUD approval of a payment standard outside the PHA range) if the PHA determines this is necessary to enable a person with disabilities to obtain a suitable housing unit
- Providing time extensions for locating a unit when necessary because of lack of availability of accessible units or special challenges of the family in seeking a unit
- Permitting an authorized designee or advocate to participate in the application or certification process and any other meetings with PHA staff
- Displaying posters and other housing information in locations throughout the PHA’s office in such a manner as to be easily readable from a wheelchair
- Approving the need for a Live-in Aide
- Extra Bedroom
  - Like requests for a live-in-aide, CHA verifies the need for these accommodations through a knowledgeable professional.
  - May be necessary in order to store large medical equipment.
  - May be necessary to allow a person with a disability to have their own room for certain reasons directly related to their disability.

2-II.C. Request for an Accommodation
If an applicant or participant indicates that an exception, change, or adjustment to a rule, policy, practice, or service is needed because of a disability, HUD requires that the PHA treat the information as a request for a reasonable accommodation, even if no formal request is made [Joint Statement of the Departments of HUD and Justice: Reasonable Accommodations under the Fair Housing Act].

The family must explain what type of accommodation is needed to provide the person with the disability full access to the PHA’s programs and services.

If the need for the accommodation is not readily apparent or known to the PHA, the family must explain the relationship between the requested accommodation and the disability. There must be an identifiable relationship, or nexus, between the requested accommodation and the individual’s disability.

CHA Policy
The CHA will encourage the family to make its request in writing using a reasonable accommodation request form. However, the CHA will consider the accommodation any time the family indicates that an accommodation is needed whether or not a formal written request is submitted. The preferred method is to utilize the “Request for Reasonable Accommodation” form.

The Reasonable Accommodation Request forms are available at the CHA offices or on the CHA’s website at [http://www.thecha.org](http://www.thecha.org)

If the individual with a disability is unable to submit their request in writing, the CHA will assist the individual to put their request in written form. The program participants should contact the CHA and owner/property manager about their reasonable accommodation needs.
Decisions to approve or deny requests for reasonable accommodations shall be made on a case-by-case basis. If the applicant/participant disagrees with the denial of the reasonable accommodation, the applicant may request an informal review or the participant may request an informal hearing.

2-II.D. Verification of Disability

The regulatory civil rights definition for persons with disabilities is provided in Exhibit 2-1 at the end of this chapter. The definition of a person with a disability for the purpose of obtaining a reasonable accommodation is much broader than the HUD definition of disability which is used for waiting list preferences and income allowances.

Before providing an accommodation, the PHA must determine that the person meets the definition of a person with a disability, and that the accommodation will enhance the family’s access to the PHA’s programs and services.

If a person’s disability is obvious or otherwise known to the PHA, and if the need for the requested accommodation is also readily apparent or known, no further verification will be required [Joint Statement of the Departments of HUD and Justice: Reasonable Accommodations under the Fair Housing Act].

If a family indicates that an accommodation is required for a disability that is not obvious or otherwise known to the PHA, the PHA must verify that the person meets the definition of a person with a disability, and that the limitations imposed by the disability require the requested accommodation.

When verifying a disability, the PHA will follow the verification policies provided in Chapter 7- Verification. All information related to a person’s disability will be treated in accordance with the confidentiality policies provided in Chapter 16- Program Administration. In addition to the general requirements that govern all verification efforts, the following requirements apply when verifying a disability:

- Third-party verification must be obtained from an individual identified by the family who is competent to make the determination. A doctor or other medical professional, a peer support group, a non-medical service agency, or a reliable third party who is in a position to know about the individual’s disability may provide verification of a disability [Joint Statement of the Departments of HUD and Justice: Reasonable Accommodations under the Fair Housing Act].

- The PHA must request only information that is necessary to evaluate the disability-related need for the accommodation. The PHA will not inquire about the nature or extent of any disability.

Medical records will not be accepted or retained in the participant file.

**CHA Policy**

The CHA must obtain verification of a Request for Reasonable Accommodation from a knowledgeable professional identified by the family. If a verification form is not returned by the knowledgeable professional within 30 calendar days, the family must follow-up with knowledgeable professional. The CHA will also attempt to obtain verification by third party means including U.S. postal service, fax, email, and when all other means fail, hand-carried by the family or verbally by a telephone call initiated by the CHA.

For continued approval the family must submit a new, written request subject to the CHA’s verification at each regular reexamination.

2-II.E. Approval/Denial of a Requested Accommodation

[Joint Statement of the Departments of HUD and Justice: Reasonable Accommodations under the Fair Housing Act].
The PHA must approve a request for an accommodation if the following three conditions are met:

- The request was made by or on behalf of a person with a disability.
- There is a disability-related need for the accommodation.
- The requested accommodation is reasonable, meaning it would not impose an undue financial and administrative burden on the PHA, or fundamentally alter the nature of the PHA’s HCV operations (including the obligation to comply with HUD requirements and regulations).

Requests for accommodations must be assessed on a case-by-case basis, taking into account factors such as the cost of the requested accommodation, the financial resources of the PHA at the time of the request, the benefits that the accommodation would provide to the family, and the availability of alternative accommodations that would effectively meet the family’s disability-related needs.

Before making a determination whether to approve the request, the PHA may enter into discussion and negotiation with the family, request more information from the family, or may require the family to sign a consent form so that the PHA may verify the need for the requested accommodation.

**CHA Policy**

After a request for an accommodation is received by the Housing Rights and Nondiscrimination Department, the CHA will respond, in writing, within 30 calendar days.

Where it is unclear there is a disability-related need for the accommodation, the CHA will notify the family as to what additional information is needed, and will make a timely decision when the additional information is provided.

If the CHA denies a request for an accommodation because it is not reasonable (it would impose an undue financial and administrative burden or fundamentally alter the nature of the CHA’s operations), the CHA will discuss with the family whether an alternative accommodation could effectively address the family’s disability-related needs without a fundamental alteration to the HCV program and without imposing an undue financial and administrative burden.

If a reasonable alternative accommodation has not been agreed upon after interactive discussion and negotiation, the CHA will notify the family, in writing, of its determination within 10 calendar days from the date of the most recent discussion or communication with the family.

2-II.F. Program Accessibility for Persons with Hearing or Vision Impairments

HUD regulations require the PHA to ensure that persons with disabilities related to hearing and vision have reasonable access to the PHA's programs and services [24 CFR 8.6].

At the initial point of contact with each applicant, the PHA shall inform all applicants of alternative forms of communication that can be used other than plain language paperwork.

**CHA Policy**

To meet the needs of persons with hearing impairments, TTD/TTY (text telephone display / teletype) communication will be available.

To meet the needs of persons with vision impairments, large-print and audio versions of key program documents will be made available upon request. When visual aids are used in public meetings or presentations, or in meetings with CHA staff, one-on-one assistance will be provided upon request.
Additional examples of alternative forms of communication are sign language interpretation; having material explained orally by staff; or having a third-party representative (a friend, relative or advocate, named by the applicant) to receive, interpret and explain housing materials and be present at all meetings.

2-II.G. Physical Accessibility
The PHA must comply with a variety of regulations pertaining to physical accessibility, including the following:

- **PIH 2002-01 (HA), Accessibility Notice**
- **Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973**
- **The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990**
- **The Architectural Barriers Act of 1968**
- **The Fair Housing Act of 1988**

The PHA’s policies concerning physical accessibility must be readily available to applicants and participants. They can be found in three key documents:

- This plan describes the key policies that govern the PHA’s responsibilities with regard to physical accessibility.
- **Notice PIH 2002-01 (HA) Accessibility Notice** (which must be posted in the HCV offices in a conspicuous place) summarizes information about pertinent laws and implementing regulations related to non-discrimination and accessibility in federally-funded housing programs.
- The PHA Plan provides information about self-evaluation, needs assessment, and transition plans.

The design, construction, or alteration of PHA facilities must conform to the Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards (UFAS). Newly-constructed facilities must be designed to be readily accessible to and usable by persons with disabilities. Alterations to existing facilities must be accessible to the maximum extent feasible, defined as not imposing an undue financial and administrative burden on the operations of the HCV program.

When issuing a voucher to a family that includes an individual with disabilities, the PHA will include a current list of available accessible units known to the PHA and will assist the family in locating an available accessible unit, if necessary. The PHA will provide information to a family about the PHA’s Modification Fund in order to assist families to fully enjoy their units. Participants deemed eligible may apply and receive the service when funding is available. In general, owners must permit the family to make reasonable modifications to the unit. However, the owner is not required to pay for the modification and may require that the unit be restored to its original state at the family’s expense when the family moves.

Under its MTW program, the CHA has established payment standards that are higher than the basic range. Approval of exception payment standards is determined on a case-by-case basis.

The CHA will allow property owners to receive an Exception Payment Standard for units that will be designed or modified with accessibility features for participants with physical disabilities. The units may be designed or modified for a specific participant or with general accessibility features that would allow a participant with limited mobility or who utilizes a wheelchair to access and utilize the unit.

In order to be eligible for an Exception Payment Standard up to 250% of the Fair Market Rent for units with accessibility features, Property Owners must:

- Request comparables for the unit without the modifications being considered;
- Agrees to make modifications to the unit/building and provide an accessibility checklist form with accessible features;
- Submit a layout of the original floor plan of the unit/building and the revised floor plan with accessibility features (if applicable) and provide receipts for all modifications or accessible features; and
- Allow CHA’s 3rd party architecture firm to complete a site visit.
- If the Modification Fund is being used to pay for the proposed accessibility features, the owner must work with the Mayor’s Office for People with Disabilities in order to complete the modifications.

If the accessibility design or modifications are approved, the CHA will:

- Modify the procedure for determining comparables to allow for units that may have similar accessibility features to be included in the rent determination; and
- Submit the conditional approval of the rent offer to owners.

2-II.H. Denial or Termination of Assistance

A PHA decision to deny or terminate the assistance of a family that includes a person with disabilities is subject to consideration of reasonable accommodation [24 CFR 982.552 (2)(iv)].

When applicants with disabilities are denied assistance, the notice of denial must inform them of the PHA’s informal review process and their right to request a hearing. In addition, the notice must inform applicants with disabilities of their right to request reasonable accommodations to participate in the informal hearing process.

When a participant family’s assistance is terminated, the notice of termination must inform them of the PHA’s informal hearing process and their right to request a hearing and reasonable accommodation.

When reviewing reasonable accommodation requests, the PHA must consider whether any mitigating circumstances can be verified to explain and overcome the problem that led to the PHA’s decision to deny or terminate assistance. If a reasonable accommodation will allow the family to meet the requirements, the PHA must make the accommodation.

Part III: Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency

2-III.A. Overview

Language for Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Persons can be a barrier to accessing important benefits or services, understanding and exercising important rights, complying with applicable responsibilities, or understanding other information provided by the HCV program.

CHA’s Office of Diversity oversees the Language Access Plan, which addresses these issues. Policies and procedures related to ensuring that LEP persons have meaningful access to CHA’s programs and services can be found in the Language Access Policy and Procedures document.

Exhibit 2-1: Definition of a Person with a Disability under Federal Civil Rights Laws [24 CFR Parts 8.3 and 100.201]

A person with a disability, as defined under federal civil rights laws, is any person who:

- Has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities of an individual, or
- Has a record of such impairment, or
- Is regarded as having such impairment

The phrase “physical or mental impairment” includes:
• Any physiological disorder or condition, cosmetic or disfigurement, or anatomical loss affecting one or more of the following body systems: neurological; musculoskeletal; special sense organs; respiratory, including speech organs; cardiovascular; reproductive; digestive; genitourinary; hemic and lymphatic; skin; and endocrine; or

• Any mental or psychological disorder, such as mental retardation, organic brain syndrome, emotional or mental illness, and specific learning disabilities. The term “physical or mental impairment” includes, but is not limited to: such diseases and conditions as orthopedic, visual, speech and hearing impairments, cerebral palsy, autism, epilepsy, muscular dystrophy, multiple sclerosis, cancer, heart disease, diabetes, mental retardation, emotional illness, drug addiction and alcoholism.

“Major life activities” includes, but is not limited to, caring for oneself, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, breathing, learning, and/or working.

“Has a record of such impairment” means has a history of, or has been misclassified as having, a mental or physical impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities.

“Is regarded as having an impairment” is defined as having a physical or mental impairment that does not substantially limit one or more major life activities but is treated by a public entity (such as the PHA) as constituting such a limitation; has none of the impairments defined in this section but is treated by a public entity as having such an impairment; or has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, only as a result of the attitudes of others toward that impairment.

The definition of a person with disabilities does not include:

• Current illegal drug users
• People whose alcohol use interferes with the rights of others
• Persons who objectively pose a direct threat or substantial risk of harm to others that cannot be controlled with a reasonable accommodation under the HCV program

The above definition of disability determines whether an applicant or participant is entitled to any of the protections of federal disability civil rights laws. Thus, a person who does not meet this disability is not entitled to a reasonable accommodation under federal civil rights and fair housing laws and regulations.

The HUD definition of a person with a disability is much narrower than the civil rights definition of disability. The HUD definition of a person with a disability is used for purposes of receiving the disabled family preference, the $400 elderly/disabled household deduction, the $480 dependent deduction, the allowance for medical expenses, or the allowance for disability assistance expenses.

The definition of a person with a disability for purposes of granting a reasonable accommodation request is much broader than the HUD definition of disability. Many people will not qualify as a disabled person under the HCV program, yet an accommodation is needed to provide equal opportunity.

Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Statement

Equal housing opportunity for all persons, regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, age, sex, familial status, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, military status or disability, is a fundamental policy of the CHA. The CHA is committed to diligence in assuring equal housing opportunity and non-discrimination in all aspects of its housing activities. The CHA has embraced an ethical as well as legal imperative to aggressively ensure that the CHA’s housing programs comply fully with all local, state and federal fair housing laws including, the Fair Housing Act of 1968, as amended (Fair Housing Act) and its implementing regulations as well as the Cook County Human Rights Ordinance, the Illinois Human Rights Act, the Chicago Human Rights Ordinance and the
Illinois Safe Homes Act. Additionally, the CHA is implementing several special initiatives to affirmatively further fair housing as required by Section 808(e)(5) of the Fair Housing Act. These efforts to affirmatively further fair housing include: promoting the de-concentration of poverty, income-mixing, and opportunities for families to live in the various diverse communities in the City of Chicago.

To affirmatively further fair housing in the Housing Choice Voucher Program, including Family Unification Program (FUP) participants, the CHA:

1) Promotes housing choice through ongoing educational opportunities by:
   a. Requiring ongoing training of CHA staff and its HCV contractors on Fair Housing regulations and requirements, including ADA/504 rules.
   b. Providing opportunity for staff to attend cultural/racial diversity training.
   c. Supporting and participating in fair housing educational programs hosted by local partners such as the Human Rights Commission, Chicago Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights, Chicago Area Fair Housing Alliance (a coalition of well-known fair housing organizations in Metropolitan Chicago), and Spanish Coalition for Housing.
   d. Providing fair housing literature that describes applicable local, federal and state fair housing laws and regulations.
   e. Supporting state and local Fair Housing Month (April) activities.

2) Ensures that all the CHA buildings and communications facilitate service delivery and are accessible to persons with disabilities. If requested, services can be provided at other locations. TTY telephone communications are available at all locations.

3) Operates four HCV Satellite Offices within Chicago that offer applicants and participants an opportunity to process their paperwork and research housing information in resource rooms that are conveniently located.

4) Prominently display of the Equal Housing Opportunity poster in all of its offices.

5) Participates in two web-based housing locator services listed below:
   - www.IILHousingSearch.org, which is sponsored by the Illinois Housing Development Authority, in an effort to overcome the barriers to finding safe and affordable housing. Owners/property managers throughout the State are encouraged to list affordable housing units and provide specific descriptions of accessibility features.

6) Provides fair housing information at the initial briefing including; how to find a safe and affordable unit and leasing provisions that are prohibited under law. Information is provided during the initial briefing on how to file a Fair Housing Complaint with the CHA’s Fair Housing Compliance Department and HUD. Local telephone numbers are provided for the tenant to call to submit a fair housing complaint along with the telephone numbers for the Housing Discrimination Hotline, 1-800-669-9777 and the federal Information Relay Service line at 1-800-887-8339. Applicants and participants are also encouraged to contact the CHA’s ADA/Section 504 Compliance Department, Telephone (312) 913-7072 or (312) 454-1748 TTY.

7) Distributes the CHA Housing Discrimination Form and the HUD Housing Discrimination Complaint form to voucher holders and participants which provides information on what housing discrimination is and the steps the tenant should take to submit a detailed report.
8) Sponsors a Modification Fund for owners/property managers to make structural modifications to their units as reasonable accommodations for HCV participants. The fund is carried out in partnership with the Mayor’s Office for People with Disabilities. The CHA refers owners/property managers to other local agencies when such funds are insufficient to cover the costs.

9) Has written policies and procedures on Reasonable Accommodation. These are outlined in the HCV Administrative Plan and Procedure Manual and are explained to HCV applicants at the time of the initial briefing.

10) Approves exception rents for units that are in housing opportunity areas and/or have accessibility features for persons with disabilities. Criteria for approving higher rents for reasonable accommodations and moves to opportunity neighborhoods.

11) Routinely examines current and proposed programs to ensure compliance and identify impediments to fair housing choice within these programs. The CHA has a commitment to work with the City of Chicago and the State of Illinois on addressing identified impediments to fair housing.

12) Maintains analyses and records of actions to remove fair housing barriers, including claims filed, basis for claims, actions taken, settlement agreements, and administrative hearing decisions. The CHA works with the City of Chicago and State of Illinois to plan and implement strategies to interdict identified discriminatory barriers such as those based on racial steering, source of income, women with children, gentrification, and accessibility for persons with disabilities.

13) Refers families who are at risk of losing housing assistance to local service providers for assistance with maintaining lease compliance.

14) Has provided a preference for housing with supportive services as part of its property-based voucher program. Such programs are offered in partnership with the City of Chicago and its Plan to End Homelessness.

15) Publishes a quarterly participant newsletter which features articles on fair housing, housing search, and family obligations.

16) Administers a Tax Savings Program for owners/property managers whose HCV housing units are located in areas with less than 12 percent poverty.

17) Operates a voluntary HCV mobility counseling program. This program offers participants additional assistance in finding units in opportunity areas within the City of Chicago that are defined based on characteristics such as income, education, accessibility and other demographic measures.

18) Operates a Fair Housing Compliance Department within the Housing Policy and Legislation division of the Office of the General Counsel. The Fair Housing Compliance Department provides guidance to all programs throughout the CHA on fair housing laws, policies and regulations; operates a Fair Housing Support line for HCV applicants, participants and owners/property managers; contracts with outside agencies to conduct fair housing testing and create an analysis of impediments; works with attorneys within the CHA’s legal department to respond to fair housing complaints; partners with outside agencies to provide training and education to CHA staff and HCV contractors and will investigate housing complaints filed internally through the Discrimination Complaint form.
Additional Affirmative Measures to Further Fair Housing for Family Unification Program Applicants and Participants

1) Provides a preference for families (including youth aging out of foster care) on the CHA HCV Waiting List to receive FUP vouchers. To identify families who may be FUP eligible, the CHA and Illinois Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS) perform a confidential, computer match between the CHA Waiting List with the DFCS database of families meeting FUP criteria. Identified families on the Waiting List are given preference for admission in the FUP program based on their lottery number on the Waiting list. Should the families choose not to participate in FUP, they retain their status on the HCV Waiting List. If there are not sufficient FUP-eligible families on CHA’s Waiting List, DFCS case workers will provide certification of eligibility for additional families for placement on the CHA HCV Waiting List. Eligible families are placed on the CHA’s waiting list in order of first come, first served for FUP vouchers only.

2) Collaborates with DFCS case workers to assist FUP applicants in identifying safe and affordable housing units along with other wrap-around support services.

Works closely with DFCS case managers to ensure that FUP Voucher participants have access to supportive services to assist FUP voucher holders in becoming self-sufficient and independent.
Chapter 3-Eligibility

Introduction

The PHA is responsible for ensuring that every individual and family admitted to the HCV program meets all program eligibility requirements. This includes any individual approved to join the family after the family has been admitted to the program. The family must provide any information needed by the PHA to confirm eligibility and determine the level of the family’s assistance.

To be eligible for the HCV program:

- The applicant family must:
  - Qualify as a family as defined by HUD and the PHA.
  - Have income at or below HUD-specified income limits.
  - Qualify on the basis of citizenship or the eligible immigrant status of family members.
  - Provide social security number information for family members as required.
  - Consent to the PHA’s collection and use of family information as provided for in PHA-provided consent forms.
- The PHA must determine that the current or past behavior of the household members does not include activities that are prohibited by HUD or the PHA.

CHA operates a number of demonstration programs and initiatives that serve special populations or that were designed for special purposes. These programs and initiatives may have different eligibility criteria for applicants compared to CHA’s standard criteria. A list and description of CHA’s demonstration programs and initiatives can be found in “The CHA Demonstration Program and Special Initiatives Overview” posted on the CHA website. CHA may update this document from time to time, as CHA amends, terminates, or develops programs/initiatives. CHA will obtain any required approvals, including MTW approval (if necessary), prior to implementing new or amended demonstration programs/initiatives.

For demonstration programs and special initiatives, applicants that meet the individual program criteria are pulled from the existing CHA wait list. If there are no applicants eligible for a specific program/initiative on the wait list, then applicants may be generated by referral from various community organizations or other government agencies. Referred applicants who meet program requirements are added to the wait list and are provided a local preference in accordance with the demonstration program for which they qualify. The demonstration wait list will remain open for qualified applicants.

This chapter contains three parts:

Part I: Definitions of Family and Household Members. This part contains HUD and PHA definitions of family and household members and explains initial and ongoing eligibility issues related to these members.

Part II: Basic Eligibility Criteria. This part discusses income eligibility, and rules regarding citizenship, social security numbers, and family consent.

Part III: Denial of Assistance. This part covers factors related to an applicant’s past or current conduct (e.g. criminal activity) that can cause the PHA to deny assistance.
Part I: Definitions of Family and Household Members

3-I.A. Overview

Some eligibility criteria and program rules vary depending upon the composition of the family requesting assistance. In addition, some requirements apply to the family as a whole and others apply to individual persons who will live in the assisted unit. This part provides information that is needed to correctly identify family and household members, and to apply HUD’s eligibility rules.

3-I.B. Family and Household

The terms *family* and *household* have different meanings in the HCV program.

**Family**

To be eligible for assistance, an applicant must qualify as a family. A family may be a single person or a group of persons. *Family* as defined by HUD includes a family with a child or children, two or more elderly or disabled persons living together, one or more elderly or disabled persons living with one or more live-in aides, or a single person. A single person family may be an elderly person, a displaced person, a disabled person, or any other single person. The PHA has the discretion to determine if any other group of persons qualifies as a family.

**CHA Policy**

A family also includes two or more individuals who are not related by blood, marriage, adoption, or other operation of law but who either can demonstrate that they have lived together previously or certify that each individual’s income and other resources will be available to meet the needs of the family.

Each family must identify the individuals to be included in the family at the time of application, and must update this information if the family’s composition changes.

The addition of a new family member should be limited to:

- Birth of a child by a current family member;
- Adoption of a child by a current family member;
- Court-awarded custody of a child to a current family member;
- Legal guardianship of a minor granted to a current family member;
- As result of marriage by a current family member;
- As result of a civil union created under any state law by a current family member;
- As a result of a registered domestic partnership under any state law by a current family member (including individuals that self-certify as a couple) where a current family member is declaring themselves to be in a relationship with another person;
- As a result of a reasonable accommodation for a current disabled family member;
- As a result of a returning family member from active military service;
- As a result of a returning and now disabled family member;
- As a result of a returning child, including adult children (including spouse and/or children of the returning child);
- As a result of returning or placement of a parent to an existing minor in the family;
- As a result of returning or placement of elderly or disabled parents or grandparents to be cared by current family members; or
- As a result of returning or placement of a foster child(ren) or foster adult(s) if their presence would not result in a violation of HQS space standards according to 24 CFR 982,401.

Household

*Household* is a broader term that includes additional people who, with the PHA’s permission, live in an assisted unit, such as live-in aides, foster children, and foster adults.

Household members will appear on the voucher but do not qualify as remaining family members to assume the voucher.

3-I.C. Family Break-Up and Remaining Members of Tenant Family

Family Break-up

[24 CFR 982.315](https://www.hud.gov/)  

The PHA has discretion to determine which members of an assisted family continue to receive assistance if the family breaks up. However, if a court determines the disposition of property, specifically addressing the continued receipt of a housing subsidy, between members of the assisted family in a divorce or separation decree, the PHA will follow the court’s determination of which family members continue to receive assistance. Such court determination does not waive the requirement that the assisted family members must continue to meet the PHA and HCV program screening requirements and eligibility criteria.

**CHA Policy**

When a family on the waiting list breaks up into two otherwise eligible families, only one of the new families may retain the original application date. Other former family members may make a new application with a new application date if the waiting list is open. Exceptions to this policy will be reviewed on a case by case basis and determinations made at the discretion of the CHA given the circumstances presented.

If a family breaks up into two otherwise eligible families while receiving assistance, only one of the new families will continue to be assisted.

The CHA will determine which family retains their placement on the waiting list, or will continue to receive assistance taking into consideration the following factors: (1) head of household on the application or lease, (2) a judicial decision indicating which individual will remain eligible for the assistance, or will continue to receive assistance; (3) documentation of an agreement among the original family members; (4) the interest of any minor children, including custody arrangements, (5) the interest of any ill, elderly, or disabled family members, (6) any possible risks to family members as a result of domestic violence, sexual violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking or criminal activity, and (7) the recommendations of social service professionals. In cases where there is a family break up due to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or staking, the victim will retain the assistance.

Remaining Members of a Tenant Family

[24 CFR 5.403](https://www.hud.gov/)  

The HUD definition of family includes the *remaining member of a tenant family*, which is a member of an assisted family who remains in the unit when other members of the family have left the unit. Household members such as live-in aides, foster children, and foster adults do not qualify as remaining members of a family to assume the voucher.

If dependents are the only “remaining members of a tenant family” and there is no family member able to assume the responsibilities of the head of household, the CHA will take into account various factors when determining
who receives continued assistance including the interest of the minor children, issues related to VAWA, other factors covered under 24 CFR 982.315, and factors considered by the CHA in its discretion on a case-by-case basis.

3-I.D. Head of Household

[24 CFR 5.504(B)]

*Head of household* means the adult member of the family who is considered the head for purposes of determining income eligibility and rent. The head of household is responsible for ensuring that the family fulfills all its responsibilities under the program, alone or in conjunction with a co-head or spouse.

*CHA Policy*

The family may designate any qualified family member as the head of household.

The head of household must have the legal capacity to enter into a lease under state and local law. A minor who is emancipated under state law may be designated as head of household.

3-I.E. Spouse, Co-Head, and Other Adult

A family may have a spouse or co-head, but not both [HUD-50058 Instruction Booklet, p. 13].

*Spouse* means the marriage partner of the head of household.

*CHA Policy*

The term “spouse” does not apply to friends, roommates, or significant others who are not marriage partners. A minor who is emancipated under state law may be designated as a spouse. The State of Illinois does not recognize common law marriages contracted in Illinois after June 30, 1905.

A *co-head of household* (“co-head”) is an individual in the household who is equally responsible with the head of household for ensuring that the family fulfills all of its responsibilities under the program, but who is not a spouse. A family can have only one co-head and cannot have both a spouse and co-head.

*CHA Policy*

Minors who are emancipated under state law may be designated as a co-head.

*Other adult* means a family member, other than the head, spouse, or co-head, who is 18 years of age or older. Foster adults and live-in aides are not considered other adults.

3-I.F. Dependent

[24 CFR 5.603]

A *dependent* is a family member who is under 18 years of age or a person of any age who is a person with a disability or a full-time student, except that the following persons can never be dependents: the head of household, spouse, co-head, foster children/adults and live-in aides. Identifying each dependent in the family is important because each dependent qualifies the family for a deduction from annual income as described in Chapter 6- Income and Subsidy Determinations.

Joint Custody of Dependents

*CHA Policy*

Dependents who are subject to a joint custody arrangement will be considered a member of the family, if they live with the applicant or participant family 51 percent or more of the time or are otherwise designated by a Joint Parenting Agreement to the parent who maintains primary residence of the child or children. Individuals with joint custody arrangements entered into in a state other than Illinois may be required to provide documentation of joint custody and/or evidence of the primary residence of a child or the children.
When more than one applicant or participant family is claiming the same dependents as family members, the family with primary custody and/or primary residence as set forth in a judgment or court decision at the time of the initial examination or reexamination will be able to claim the dependents. If there is a dispute about which family should claim them, the CHA will make the determination based on available documents such as court orders, school enrollment records, benefit/subsidy records, or an IRS return showing which family has claimed the child for income tax purposes.

3-I.G. Full-Time Student

[24 CFR 5.603; HCV GB, p. 5-29]

A full-time student (FTS) is a person who is attending school or vocational training on a full-time basis. The time commitment or subject load that is needed to be full-time is defined by the educational institution.

Identifying each FTS is important because: (1) each family member that is an FTS, other than the head, spouse, or co-head, qualifies the family for a dependent deduction, and (2) the income of such an FTS is treated differently from the income of other family members.

3-I.H. Elderly and Near-Elderly Persons, and Elderly Family

[24 CFR 5.100 and 5.403]

Elderly Persons

An elderly person is a person who is at least 62 years of age.

Near-Elderly Persons

A near-elderly person is a person who is 50-61 years of age.

Elderly Family

An elderly family is one in which the head, spouse, co-head, or sole member is an elderly person. Identifying elderly families is important because these families qualify for special deductions from income as described in Chapter 6 - Income and Subsidy Determinations.

3-I.I. Persons with Disabilities and Disabled Family

[24 CFR 5.403]

Persons with Disabilities

Under the HCV program, special rules apply to persons with disabilities and to any family whose head, spouse, or co-head is a person with disabilities. The technical definitions of individual with handicaps and persons with disabilities are provided in Exhibit 3-1: Detailed Definitions Related to Disabilities at the end of this chapter. These definitions are used for a number of purposes including ensuring that persons with disabilities are not discriminated against based upon disability.

As discussed in Chapter 2 - Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, the PHA must make all aspects of the HCV program accessible to persons with disabilities and consider reasonable accommodations requested based upon a person’s disability.

Disabled Family

A disabled family is one in which the head, spouse, or co-head is a person with disabilities. Identifying disabled families is important because these families qualify for special deductions from income as described in Chapter 6.
Even though persons with drug or alcohol dependencies are considered persons with disabilities for the purpose of non-discrimination, this does not prevent the PHA from denying assistance for reasons related to alcohol and drug abuse following policies found in Part III of this chapter, or from terminating assistance following the policies in Chapter 12- Termination of Assistance and Tenancy.

3-I.J. Guests

A guest is a person temporarily visiting the unit with the consent of the head of household or other adult member.

CHA Policy

A guest may visit the family in an assisted unit for a total of 30 calendar days in a calendar year; however, each visit cannot exceed 14 consecutive calendar days. Participants may request a time extension to this visitor timeframe.

Persons that exceed the time as a guest will be considered to reside in the assisted unit without CHA approval and will be considered an unauthorized occupant. The family will be subject to program termination.

Verification of an unauthorized occupancy can be established through the following:
1-Government issued ID's or reports
2-Utility Bills for the assisted unit
3-Property sign-in logs and/or
4-Other documentation or investigations

This is a programmatic condition and is separate from and in addition to any lease term or condition entered into between the assisted family and owner. Failure to adhere to this policy by an assisted family can result in termination of a family from the program.

3-I.K. Foster Children and Foster Adults

**Foster adults** are usually persons with disabilities, unrelated to the tenant family, who are unable to live alone [24 CFR 5.609].

The term **foster child** is not specifically defined by the regulations.

Foster children and foster adults who are living with an applicant or assisted family are considered household members but not family members. The income of foster children/adults is not counted in family annual income, and foster children/adults do not qualify for a dependent deduction [24 CFR 5.609; HUD-50058 Instruction Booklet, p. 13].

CHA Policy

A foster child is a child who is in the legal guardianship or custody of a state, county, or private adoption or foster care agency, yet is cared for by foster parents in their own homes, under some kind of short-term or long-term foster care arrangement with the custodial agency.

A foster child or foster adult may be allowed to reside in the unit if their presence would not result in a violation of HQS space standards according to 24 CFR 982.401.

It should be noted that if a head of household designates an individual as a foster child or foster adult, the CHA will not consider foster child or foster adult a family member for purposes of program administration, even though such individual may be related by blood or marriage to a head of household or other family members. This is to clarify confusion among program participants. A head of household must choose one designation for
such an individual (foster child/adult or family member), and cannot receive the benefits of both designations at the same time.

Foster child/adult, even if such individual is related by blood or marriage, will not qualify as a remaining family member for eligibility to obtain the voucher.

3-I.L. Family Absence from Unit
The family may be absent from the unit for brief periods. In accordance with the HUD HCV Voucher Family Obligations, the family must promptly notify CHA of family absences from the unit, and when a family member no longer resides in the unit. CHA has established how long the family may be absent from the unit before assistance is terminated.

Notice is required when all household members will be absent from the unit for over 30 consecutive days. If the entire household is absent beyond 90 consecutive days, CHA will consider the unit to be abandoned and will proceed to terminate the family’s participation and the Housing Assistance Payments to the owner even if the family continues to pay rent and/or utilities.

CHA may require the family to supply information to verify absence or residency in the assisted unit. Exceptions will be made for instances related to reasonable accommodations or VAWA.

3-I.M. Live-In Aide
Live-in aide means a person who resides with one or more elderly persons, or near-elderly persons, or persons with disabilities, and who: (1) is determined by a knowledgeable professional to be essential to the care and well-being of the persons, (2) is not obligated for the support of the persons, and (3) would not be living in the unit except to provide the necessary supportive services [24 CFR 5.403].

The PHA must approve a live-in aide if needed as a reasonable accommodation in accordance with 24 CFR 8, to make the program accessible to and usable by the family member with disabilities.

A live-in aide is a member of the household, but is not a family member, and the income of the aide is not considered in income calculations [24 CFR 5.609(b)]. Relatives may be approved as live-in aides if they meet all of the criteria defining a live-in aide. However, a relative who serves as a live-in aide is not considered a family member and would not be considered a remaining member of a tenant family. Any individual categorized as a live-in Aide is prohibited from becoming a family member and gaining rights to that voucher, at any time, regardless of when this request is made. When an individual is added as a Live-in Aide, this information is communicated to them, and they must affirmatively acknowledge via the Live in Aide Agreement, that they have no rights to the voucher.

CHA Policy
A family’s request for a live-in aide must be made in writing. Written verification will be required from a reliable, knowledgeable professional, such as a doctor, social worker, or case worker, that the live-in aide is essential for the care and well-being of the elderly, near-elderly, or disabled family member. For continued approval, the family must submit a new, written request-subject to the CHA verification-at each regular reexamination.

In addition, the family and live-in aide will be required to submit a certification stating that the live-in aide is (1) not obligated for the support of the person(s) needing the care, and (2) would not be living in the unit except to provide the necessary supportive services. The person submitted by the family as a live-in aide will be required to submit to a criminal background screening prior to any final determination by the CHA.
The CHA will not approve a particular person as a live-in aide, and may withdraw such approval if the person does not pass screening, including, but not limited to [24 CFR 982.316(b)]:

- Fraud, bribery or any other corrupt or criminal act in connection with any federal housing program;
- A record of drug-related criminal activity or violent criminal activity which includes arrest and/or conviction;
  - Violent criminal activity is defined by HUD as any criminal activity that has as one of its elements the use, attempted use, or threatened use of physical force substantial enough to cause, or be reasonably likely to cause, serious bodily injury or property damage.
  - Drug-related criminal activity is defined by HUD as the illegal manufacture, sale, distribution, or use of a drug, or the possession of a drug with intent to manufacture, sell, distribute, or use the drug [24 CFR 5.100]. Drug means a controlled substance as defined in Section 102 of the Controlled Substances Act [21 USC 802] or any other illegal drug.
- Illegal possession and use of a firearm or aggravated assault weapon in violation of federal, state or local criminal or civil laws; or
- Owes rent or other amounts to the CHA or to another PHA in connection with Section 8 or public housing assistance under the 1937 Act.

Within 30 calendar days of receiving a request for a live-in aide, including all required documentation related to the request, the CHA will notify the family of its decision in writing.

Part II: Basic Eligibility Criteria

3-II.A. Income Eligibility and Targeting

Income Limits

HUD is required by law to set income limits that determine the eligibility of applicants for HUD's assisted housing programs, including the housing choice voucher program. The income limits are published annually and are based on HUD estimates of median family income in a particular area or county, with adjustments for family size.

Types of Low-Income Families

[24 CFR 5.603(b)]

Low-income family. A family whose annual income does not exceed 80 percent of the median income for the area, adjusted for family size.

Very low-income family. A family whose annual income does not exceed 50 percent of the median income for the area, adjusted for family size.

Extremely low-income family. A family whose annual income does not exceed 30 percent of the median income for the area, adjusted for family size.

HUD may establish income ceilings higher or lower than 30, 50, or 80 percent of the median income for an area if HUD finds that such variations are necessary because of unusually high or low family incomes.

Using Income Limits for Eligibility

[24 CFR 982.201]

Income limits are used for eligibility only at admission. Eligibility is established by comparing a family's annual income with HUD's published income limits. To be income-eligible, a family must be one of the following:

- A very low-income family
• A low-income family that has been "continuously assisted" under the 1937 Housing Act. A family is considered to be continuously assisted if the family is already receiving assistance under any 1937 Housing Act program at the time the family is admitted to the HCV program [24 CFR 982.4].

**CHA Policy**
The CHA will consider a family to be continuously assisted if the family was leasing a unit under any 1937 Housing Act program at the time they were issued a voucher by the CHA.

• A low-income family that qualifies for voucher assistance as a non-purchasing household living in HOPE 1 (public housing homeownership), HOPE 2 (multifamily housing homeownership) developments, or other HUD-assisted multifamily homeownership programs covered by 24 CFR 248.173.

• A low-income or moderate-income family that is displaced as a result of the prepayment of a mortgage or voluntary termination of a mortgage insurance contract on eligible low-income housing as defined in 24 CFR 248.101.

**CHA Policy**
The CHA will utilize the low-income limit for all applicants.

**Using Income Limits for Targeting [24 CFR 982.201]**

At least 75 percent of the families admitted to the PHA's program during a PHA fiscal year must have incomes that are below the very low-income limit (50 percent of Area Median Income).

Families continuously assisted under the 1937 Housing Act and families living in eligible low-income housing that are displaced as a result of prepayment of a mortgage or voluntary termination of a mortgage insurance contract are not subject to the 75 percent restriction.

**3-II.B. Citizenship or Eligible Immigration Status [24 CFR 5, Subpart E]**

Housing assistance is available only to individuals who are U.S. citizens, U.S. nationals (herein referred to as citizens and nationals), or noncitizens that have eligible immigration status. At least one family member must be a citizen, national, or noncitizen with eligible immigration status in order for the family to qualify for any level of assistance.

All applicant families must be notified of the requirement to submit evidence of their citizenship status when they apply. Where feasible, and in accordance with the PHA’s Limited English Proficiency Plan, the notice must be in a language that is understood by the individual if the individual is not proficient in English.

**Declaration [24 CFR 5.508]**

HUD requires each family member to declare whether the individual is a citizen, a national, or an eligible noncitizen, except those members who elect not to contend that they have eligible immigration status. Those who elect not to contend their status are considered to be ineligible noncitizens. For citizens, nationals and eligible noncitizens the declaration must be signed personally by the head, spouse, co-head, and any other family member 18 or older, and by a parent or guardian for minors. The family must identify in writing any family members who elect not to contend their immigration status (see Ineligible Noncitizens below). No declaration is required for live-in aides, foster children, or foster adults.
U.S. Citizens and Nationals
In general, citizens and nationals are required to submit only a signed declaration that claims their status. However, HUD regulations permit the PHA to request additional documentation of their status, such as a passport.

CHA Policy
Family members who claim U.S. citizenship or national status will not be required to provide additional documentation unless the CHA receives information indicating that an individual’s declaration may not be accurate.

Eligible Noncitizens
In addition to providing a signed declaration, those declaring eligible noncitizen status must sign a verification consent form and cooperate with PHA efforts to verify their immigration status as described in Chapter 7-Verification. The documentation required for establishing eligible noncitizen status varies depending upon factors such as the date the person entered the U.S., the conditions under which eligible immigration status has been granted, the person’s age, and the date on which the family began receiving HUD-funded assistance.

Lawful residents of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and Palau, together known as the Freely Associated States, or FAS, are eligible for housing assistance under section 141 of the Compacts of Free Association between the U.S. Government and the Governments of the FAS [Public Law 106-504].

Ineligible Noncitizens
Those noncitizens who do not wish to contend their immigration status are required to have their names listed on a non-contending family members listing, signed by the head, spouse, or co-head (regardless of citizenship status), indicating their ineligible immigration status. The PHA is not required to verify a family member’s ineligible status and is not required to report an individual’s unlawful presence in the U.S. to the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

Providing housing assistance to noncitizen students is prohibited [24 CFR 5.522]. This prohibition extends to the noncitizen spouse of a noncitizen student as well as to minor children who accompany or follow to join the noncitizen student. Such prohibition does not extend to the citizen spouse of a noncitizen student or to the children of the citizen spouse and noncitizen student. Such a family is eligible for prorated assistance as a mixed family.

Mixed Families
A family is eligible for assistance as long as at least one member is a citizen, national, or eligible noncitizen. Families that include eligible and ineligible individuals are considered mixed families. Such families will be given notice that their assistance will be prorated and that they may request a hearing if they contest this determination. See Chapter 6 for a discussion of how rents are prorated, and Chapter 16-Program Administration for a discussion of informal hearing procedures.

Ineligible Families
[24 CFR 5.514(d), (e), and (f)]

A PHA may elect to provide assistance to a family before the verification of the eligibility of the individual or one family member [24 CFR 5.512(b)]. Otherwise, no individual or family may be assisted prior to the affirmative establishment by the PHA that the individual or at least one family member is eligible. Verification of eligibility for this purpose occurs when the individual or family members have submitted documentation to the PHA in accordance with program requirements [24 CFR 5.512(a)].
**CHA Policy**
The CHA will not provide assistance to a family before the verification of eligibility of all family members.

When the CHA determines that an applicant family does not include any citizens, nationals, or eligible noncitizens, following the verification process, the family will be sent a written notice within 10 calendar days of the determination.

The notice will explain the reasons for the denial of assistance, that the family may be eligible for proration of assistance, and will advise the family of its right to request an appeal to the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), or to request an informal hearing with the CHA. The informal hearing with the CHA may be requested in lieu of the USCIS appeal, or at the conclusion of the USCIS appeal process. The notice must also inform the applicant family that assistance may not be delayed until the conclusion of the USCIS appeal process, but that it may be delayed pending the completion of the informal hearing process.

Informal hearing procedures are contained in [Chapter 16- Program Administration](#).

**Timeframe for Determination of Citizenship Status**
[24 CFR 5.508(g)]

For new occupants joining the assisted family, the PHA must verify status at the first interim or regular reexamination following the person’s occupancy, whichever comes first.

If an individual qualifies for a time extension for the submission of required documents, the PHA must grant such an extension for no more than 30 days [24 CFR 5.508(h)].

Each family member is required to submit evidence of eligible status only one time during continuous occupancy.

**CHA Policy**
The CHA will verify the status of applicants at the time other eligibility factors are determined.

**3-II.C. Social Security Numbers**
[24 CFR 5.216 and 5.218]

The applicant and all members of the applicant’s household must disclose the complete and accurate social security number (SSN) assigned to each household member, and the documentation necessary to verify each SSN. A detailed discussion of acceptable documentation is provided in [Chapter 7- Verification](#). Families that add children to the household during the eligibility process must provide SSNs for children under the age of six years within 90 days of lease-up.

*Note:* These requirements do not apply to non-citizens who do not contend eligible immigration status.

If the PHA determines that an applicant family is otherwise eligible to participate in the program, the family may retain its place on the waiting list for a period of time, but assistance cannot be provided to the family until all SSN documentation requirements are met.

**CHA Policy**
When the participant requests to add a new household member who is at least six years of age, or who is under the age of six and has a SSN, the participant must provide the complete and accurate SSN assigned to each new member at the time of reexamination or recertification, in addition to the documentation required to verify it. The PHA may not add the new household member until such documentation is provided.
When a participant requests to add a new household member who is under the age of six and has not been assigned a SSN, the participant must provide the SSN assigned to each new child and the required documentation within 90 calendar days of the child being added to the household.

The PHA is required to grant the participant an additional 90 calendar day period to comply with the requirement if the PHA determines that the participant’s failure to comply was due to unforeseen circumstances and was outside of the participant’s control. During the period the PHA is awaiting documentation of the SSN, the child is required to be counted as part of the assisted household.

**CHA Policy**

The CHA will grant one additional 90-day extension if needed for reasons beyond the applicant’s control, such as delayed processing of the SSN application by the SSA, natural disaster, fire, death in the family, or other emergency approved by CHA.

While the CHA is awaiting disclosure and documentation of the SSN, the child will be counted as part of the assisted household, and the CHA will generate an ALT ID in the Public and Indian Housing Information Center (PIC). The ALT ID will be deleted within 30 calendar days of receipt of the SSN.

If a participant or any member of the household has been assigned a new SSN, it must be submitted at the time of receipt of the SSN, at the next interim or regular reexamination or recertification, or at an earlier time specified by the PHA, along with the documentation necessary for verification in order for the participant to remain eligible.

**CHA Policy**

If a participant or any member of the household has been assigned a new SSN, it must be submitted at the time of the interim or regular reexamination, whichever comes first.

The PHA must deny assistance to an applicant family if they do not meet the SSN disclosure, documentation and verification, and certification requirements contained in 24 CFR 5.216.

### 3-II.D. Family Consent to Release of Information

[24 CFR 5.230, HCV GB, p. 5-13]

HUD requires each adult family member, and the head of household, spouse, or co-head, regardless of age, to sign form HUD-9886, Authorization for the Release of Information/Privacy Act Notice, and other consent forms as needed to collect information relevant to the family’s eligibility and level of assistance. Chapter 7-Verification provides detailed information concerning the consent forms and verification requirements.

Program participants requesting assistance and protection under VAWA may make a claim for protection using Form HUD 5382.

The PHA must deny admission to the program if any member of the applicant family fails to sign and submit the consent forms for obtaining information in accordance with 24 CFR 5, Subparts B and F [24 CFR 982.552(b)(3)].

### 3-II.E. Students Enrolled in Institutions of Higher Education

[24 CFR 5.612 and FR Notice 4/10/06]

Section 327 of Public Law 109-115 and the implementing regulation at 24 CFR 5.612 established new restrictions on the eligibility of certain students (both part- and full-time) who are enrolled in institutions of higher education.

If a student enrolled at an institution of higher education is under the age of 24, is not a veteran, is not married, and does not have a dependent child, the student’s eligibility must be examined along with the income eligibility of the student’s parents. In these cases, both the student and the student’s parents must be income eligible for
the student to receive HCV assistance. If, however, a student in these circumstances is determined independent from his/her parents in accordance with PHA policy, the income of the student’s parents will not be considered in determining the student’s eligibility.

The new law does not apply to students who reside with parents who are applying to receive HCV assistance. It is limited to students who are seeking assistance on their own, separately from their parents.

Definitions
In determining whether and how the new eligibility restrictions apply to a student, the PHA will rely on the following definitions [FR 4/10/06, p. 18148].

**Dependent Child**
In the context of the student eligibility restrictions, dependent child means a dependent child of a student enrolled in an institution of higher education. The dependent child must also meet the definition of dependent in 24 CFR 5.603, which states that the dependent must be a member of the assisted family, other than the head of household or spouse, who is under 18 years of age, or is a person with a disability, or is a full-time student. Foster children and foster adults are not considered dependents.

**Independent Student**

**CHA Policy**
The CHA will consider a student “independent” from his or her parents and the parents’ income will not be considered when determining the student’s eligibility if the following four criteria are all met:

- The individual is of legal contract age under state law.
- The individual has established a household separate from his/her parents for at least one year prior to application for occupancy or the individual meets the U.S. Department of Education’s definition of independent student. To be considered an independent student according to the Department of Education, a student must meet one or more of the following criteria:
  - Be at least 24 years old by December 31 of the award year for which aid is sought
  - Be an orphan or a ward of the court through the age of 18
  - Be a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces
  - Have one or more legal dependents other than a spouse (for example, dependent children or an elderly dependent parent)
  - Be a graduate or professional student
  - Be married
  - Is a person with disabilities and was receiving assistance under Section 8 of the 1937 Act as of November 30, 2005
- The individual was not claimed as a dependent by his/her parents pursuant to IRS regulations, as demonstrated on the parents’ most recent tax forms
- The individual provides a certification of the amount of financial assistance that will be provided by his/her parents. This certification must be signed by the individual providing the support and must be submitted even if no assistance is being provided.

The CHA will verify that a student meets the above criteria in accordance with the policies in Section 7-II.E Verification of Student Status.

**Institution of Higher Education**
The PHA will use the statutory definition under section 102 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 to determine whether a student is attending an institution of higher education.
Parents

CHA Policy

For purposes of student eligibility restrictions, the definition of parents includes biological or adoptive parents, stepparents (as long as they are currently married to the biological or adoptive parent), and guardians (e.g., grandparents, aunt/uncle, godparents, etc.).

Veteran

CHA Policy

A veteran is a person who served in the active military, naval, or air service and who was discharged or released from such service under conditions other than dishonorable.

Determining Student Eligibility

If a student is applying for assistance on his/her own, apart from his/her parents, the PHA must determine whether the student is subject to the eligibility restrictions contained in 24 CFR 5.612. If the student is subject to those restrictions, the PHA must ensure that: (1) the student is individually eligible for the program, (2) either the student is independent from his/her parents or the student’s parents are income eligible for the program, and (3) the “family” with which the student is applying is collectively eligible for the program.

CHA Policy

For any student who is subject to the 5.612 restrictions, the CHA will:

- Follow its usual policies in determining whether the student individually and the student’s “family” collectively are eligible for the program
- Determine whether the student is independent from his/her parents in accordance with the definition of independent student in this section
- Follow the policies below, if applicable, in determining whether the student’s parents are income eligible for the program

If the CHA determines that the student, the student’s parents (if applicable), or the student’s “family” is not eligible, the CHA will send a notice of denial in accordance with the policies in Section 3-III.F. Notice of Eligibility or Denial, and the applicant family will have the right to request an informal review in accordance with the policies in Section 16-III.B. Informal Reviews.

Determining Parental Income Eligibility

CHA Policy

For any student who is subject to the 5.612 restrictions and who does not satisfy the definition of independent student in this section, the CHA will determine the income eligibility of the student’s parents as follows:

- If the student’s parents are married and living together, the CHA will obtain a joint income declaration and certification of joint income from the parents.
- If the student’s parent is widowed or single, the CHA will obtain an income declaration and certification of income from that parent.
- If the student’s parents are divorced or separated, the CHA will obtain an income declaration and certification of income from each parent.
- If the student has been living with one of his/her parents and has not had contact with or does not know where to contact his/her other parent, the CHA will require the student to submit a certification under
penalty of perjury describing the circumstances and stating that the student does not receive financial assistance from the other parent. The CHA will then obtain an income declaration and certification of income from the parent with whom the student has been living or had contact.

In determining the income eligibility of the student’s parents, the CHA will use the income limits for the jurisdiction in which the parents live.

Part III: Denial of Assistance

3-III.A. Overview
A family that does not meet the eligibility criteria discussed in Parts I and II, must be denied assistance.

In addition, HUD requires or permits the PHA to deny assistance based on certain types of current or past behaviors of family members.

Forms of Denial

Denial of assistance includes any of the following:

- Not placing the family’s name on the waiting list
- Denying or withdrawing a voucher
- Not approving a request for tenancy or refusing to enter into a HAP contract
- Refusing to process a request for or to provide assistance under portability procedures

Prohibited Reasons for Denial of Program Assistance

HUD rules prohibit denial of program assistance to the program based on any of the following criteria:

- Age, disability, race, color, religion, sex, or national origin and other protected classes under State and local laws. (See Chapter 2- Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity for additional information about fair housing and equal opportunity requirements.)
- Where a family lives prior to admission to the program
- Where the family will live with assistance under the program. Although eligibility is not affected by where the family will live, there may be restrictions on the family’s ability to move outside the PHA’s jurisdiction (See Chapter 10, Portability- Moving with Continued Assistance and Portability.)
- Whether members of the family are unwed parents, recipients of public assistance, or children born out of wedlock
- Whether the family includes children
- Whether a family decides to participate in a family self-sufficiency program; and
- Whether or not a qualified applicant has been a victim of domestic violence, sexual violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking.

3-III.B. Mandatory Denial of Assistance

HUD requires the PHA to deny assistance in the following cases:
Any member of the household has been evicted from federally-assisted housing in the last three years for drug-related criminal activity.

**CHA Policy**
The CHA may admit an otherwise-eligible family who was evicted from federally-assisted housing within the past three years for drug-related criminal activity, if the CHA is able to verify that the household member who engaged in the criminal activity has completed a supervised drug rehabilitation program approved by the CHA, or the person who committed the crime, is no longer living in the household.

**CHA Policy**
*Currently engaged in* is defined as any use of illegal drugs, including the distribution, possession, sale during the previous six months.

- The PHA has reasonable cause to believe that any household member's current use or pattern of use of illegal drugs, or current abuse or pattern of abuse of alcohol, may threaten the health, safety, or right to peaceful enjoyment of the premises by other residents.

**CHA Policy**
In determining reasonable cause, the CHA will consider all credible evidence, including but not limited to, any record of convictions, arrests, or evictions of household members related to the use of illegal drugs or the abuse of alcohol. The CHA will also consider evidence from treatment providers or community-based organizations providing services to household members.

- Any household member has ever been convicted of drug-related criminal activity for the production or manufacture of methamphetamine on the premises of federally assisted housing.

**CHA Policy**
Regardless of when the incident occurred, if any household member has ever been convicted of drug-related criminal activity for the production or manufacture of methamphetamine in any location, not just federally assisted housing; the family will be denied assistance.

**CHA Policy**
Regardless of when the incident occurred, if any household member's criminal activity is such that requires them to be registered as a lifetime sex offender under a State registration requirement.

### 3-III.C. Other Permitted Reasons for Denial of Assistance
The CHA will deny assistance for the criminal activity and previous behavior in assisted housing discussed below in this section.

**Criminal Activity**

If any household member is currently engaged in, or has engaged in any of the following criminal activities, within the past three (3) years, the family will be denied assistance.

- **Drug-related criminal activity**, defined by HUD as the illegal manufacture, sale, distribution, or use of a drug, or the possession of a drug with intent to manufacture, sell, distribute or use the drug. [24 CFR 5.100](https://www.federalregister.gov/editSearchText.do?node=24cfr5_100).
- **Violent criminal activity**, defined by HUD as any criminal activity that has as one of its elements the use, attempted use, or threatened use of physical force substantial enough to cause, or be reasonably likely to cause, serious bodily injury or property damage [24 CFR 5.100](https://www.federalregister.gov/editSearchText.do?node=24cfr5_100).
• Illegal possession and use of a firearm or aggravated assault weapon in violation of federal, state or local criminal or civil laws.
• If any household member has convicted of arson
• Criminal activity that may threaten the health, safety, or right to peaceful enjoyment of the premises by other residents or persons residing in the immediate vicinity; or
• Criminal activity that may threaten the health or safety of property owners and management staff, and persons performing contract administration functions or other responsibilities on behalf of the CHA (including a CHA employee or a CHA contractor, subcontractor, or agent).

Immediate vicinity means within a one mile radius of the premises.

Evidence of such criminal activity includes, but is not limited to:
• Any conviction for drug-related or violent criminal activity within the past three years.
• Any record of eviction from public or privately-owned housing as a result of criminal activity within the past three years.

The CHA will not deny assistance solely upon the basis of an applicant’s arrest record. See PIH Notice 2015-19.

In making its decision to deny assistance, the CHA may consider the factors discussed in Criteria for Deciding to Deny Assistance. Upon consideration of such factors, the CHA may, on a case-by-case basis, decide not to deny assistance.

Previous Behavior in Assisted Housing
[24 CFR 982552(c)].

HUD authorizes the PHA to deny assistance based on the family’s previous behavior in assisted housing:

CHA Policy
The CHA will not deny assistance to an otherwise eligible family because the family previously failed to meet its obligations under the Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) program.

The CHA will deny assistance to an applicant family if:
• The family does not provide complete or accurate information that the CHA or HUD determines is necessary in the administration of the program.
• Any household member has been convicted of arson. If any household member’s criminal activity is such that requires them to be registered as a lifetime sex offender
• Any family member has been evicted from federally-assisted housing in the last three years.
• Any PHA has previously terminated assistance for any family member under any federal assisted housing program within the last three years. This policy excludes voluntary terminations.
• Any family member has committed fraud, bribery, or any other corrupt or criminal act in connection with any federal housing program.
• The family owes rent or other amounts to any PHA in connection with the HCV, Certificate, Moderate Rehabilitation or public housing programs, unless the family repays the full amount of the debt prior to being selected from the waiting list.
• If the family has not reimbursed any PHA for amounts the PHA paid to an owner under a HAP contract for rent, damages to the unit, or other amounts owed by the family under the lease, unless the family repays the full amount of the debt prior to being selected from the waiting list.
The family has breached the terms of a repayment agreement entered into with the CHA, unless the family repays the full amount of the debt covered in the repayment agreement prior to being selected from the waiting list.

A family member has engaged in or threatened violent or abusive behavior toward CHA personnel (including a CHA employee or a CHA contractor, subcontractor, or agent).

- Abusive or violent behavior towards CHA personnel includes verbal as well as physical abuse or violence. Use of racial epithets, or other language, written or oral, that is customarily used to intimidate may be considered abusive or violent behavior.

- Threatening refers to oral or written threats or physical gestures that communicate intent to abuse or commit violence.

In making its decision to deny assistance, the CHA may consider the factors discussed in Section 3-III.E Criteria for Deciding to Deny Assistance. Upon consideration of such factors, the CHA may, on a case-by-case basis, decide not to deny assistance.

3-III.D. Screening

Screening for Eligibility

The PHA is authorized to obtain criminal conviction records from law enforcement agencies to screen applicants for admission to the HCV program. This authority assists the PHA in complying with HUD requirements and PHA policies to deny assistance to applicants who are engaging in or have engaged in certain criminal activities. In order to obtain access to the records the PHA must require every applicant family to submit a consent form signed by each adult household member [24 CFR 5.903].

CHA Policy

The CHA will perform a criminal background check for every adult household member.

If the results of the criminal background check indicate that there may be past criminal activity, but the results are inconclusive, the CHA may request a fingerprint card and may request information from the National Crime Information Center (NCIC).

PHA is required to perform criminal background checks necessary to determine whether any household member is subject to a lifetime registration requirement under a state sex offender program in the state where the housing is located, as well as in any other state where a household member is known to have resided [24 CFR 982.553(a)(2)(i)].

If the PHA proposes to deny assistance based on a criminal record or on lifetime sex offender registration information, the PHA must notify the household of the proposed action and must provide the subject of the record and the applicant a copy of the record and an opportunity to dispute the accuracy and relevance of the information prior to a denial of admission. [24 CFR 5.903(f) and 5.905(d)].

Screening for Suitability as a Tenant

[24 CFR 982.307]

The PHA has no liability or responsibility to the owner for the family’s behavior or suitability for tenancy. The PHA may opt to conduct additional screening to determine whether an applicant is likely to be a suitable tenant.

CHA Policy

The CHA will not conduct additional screening to determine an applicant family’s suitability for tenancy.
The owner is responsible for screening and selection of the family to occupy the owner’s unit. The PHA must inform the owner that screening and selection for tenancy is the responsibility of the owner. An owner may consider a family’s history with respect to factors such as: payment of rent and utilities, caring for a unit and premises, respecting the rights of other residents to the peaceful enjoyment of their housing, criminal activity that is a threat to the health, safety or property of others, and compliance with other essential conditions of tenancy.

CHA Policy

The CHA will inform owners of their responsibility to screen prospective tenants, and will provide owners with the required known name and address information, at the time of the initial HQS inspection or before. The CHA will not provide any additional information to the owner, such as tenancy history, criminal history, etc.

3-III.E. Criteria for Deciding to Deny Assistance

Evidence

[24 CFR 982.553(c)]

CHA Policy

The CHA will use the concept of the preponderance of the evidence as the standard for making all admission decisions.

Preponderance of the evidence is defined as evidence which is of greater weight or more convincing than the evidence which is offered in opposition to it; that is, evidence which as a whole shows that the fact sought to be proved is more probable than not. Preponderance of the evidence may not be determined by the number of witnesses, but by the greater weight of all evidence.

Consideration of Circumstances

[24 CFR 982.552(c)(2)]

HUD authorizes the PHA to consider all relevant circumstances when deciding whether to deny assistance based on a family’s past history except in the situations for which denial of assistance is mandated (see Section 3-III.B Mandatory Denial of Assistance).

CHA Policy

The CHA, in determining whether or not to deny assistance under Section 3-III-C Other Permitted Reasons for Denial of Assistance, may consider the following factors prior to making its decision:

- The seriousness of the case, especially with respect to how it would affect other residents
- The effects that denial of assistance may have on other members of the family who were not involved in the action or failure
- The extent of participation or culpability of individual family members, including whether the culpable family member is a minor or a person with disabilities, or (as discussed further in Section 3-III.G Prohibition against Denial of Assistance to Victims of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault and Stalking) a victim of domestic violence, sexual violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking
- The length of time since the violation occurred, the family’s recent history and the likelihood of favorable conduct in the future
- In the case of drug or alcohol abuse, whether the culpable household member is participating in or has successfully completed a supervised drug or alcohol rehabilitation program or has otherwise been rehabilitated successfully
The CHA will require the applicant 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.

CHA will accept information regarding any mitigating circumstances during the eligibility process.

Removal of a Family Member's Name from the Application
[24 CFR 982.552(c)(2)(ii)]
As a condition of receiving assistance, a family may agree to remove the culpable family member from the application. In such instances, the head of household must certify that the family member will not be permitted to visit or to stay as a guest in the assisted unit.

After admission to the program, the family must present evidence of the former family member’s current address upon CHA request.

Reasonable Accommodation
[24 CFR 982.552(c)(2)(iv)]
If the family includes a person with disabilities, the PHA’s decision concerning denial of admission is subject to consideration of reasonable accommodation in accordance with 24 CFR Part 8.

CHA Policy
If the family indicates that the behavior of a family member with a disability is the reason for the proposed denial of assistance, the CHA will determine whether the behavior is related to the disability. If so, upon the family’s request, the CHA will determine whether alternative measures are appropriate as a reasonable accommodation. The CHA will only consider accommodations that can reasonably be expected to address the behavior that is the basis of the proposed denial of assistance. See Chapter 2- Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity for a discussion of reasonable accommodation.

3-III.F. Notice of Eligibility or Denial
If the family is eligible for assistance, the PHA will notify the family when it extends the invitation to attend the voucher briefing appointment, as discussed in Chapter 5- Briefings and Voucher Issuance.

If the PHA determines that a family is not eligible for the program for any reason, the family must be notified promptly. The notice must describe: (1) the reasons for which assistance has been denied, (2) the family’s right to an informal review, and (3) the process for obtaining the informal review [24 CFR 982.554 (a)]. See Chapter 16- Program Administration, for informal review policies and procedures.

CHA Policy
The family will be notified of a decision to deny assistance in writing within 10 calendar days of the determination.

If a PHA uses a criminal record or sex offender registration information obtained under 24 CFR 5, Subpart J, as the basis of a denial, a copy of the record must precede the notice to deny, with an opportunity for the applicant to dispute the accuracy and relevance of the information before the PHA can move to deny the application. In addition, a copy of the record must be provided to the subject of the record [24 CFR 5.903(f) and 5.905(d)]. The PHA must give the family an opportunity to dispute the accuracy and relevance of that record, in the informal review process in accordance with program requirements [24 CFR 982.553(d)].

CHA Policy
If based on a criminal record or sex offender registration information an applicant family appears to be
ineligible, the CHA will issue a notice of denial and provide a copy of the record to the applicant and to the subject of the record.

If an applicant has knowledge of previous criminal activity at time of application, they may submit information on mitigating circumstances to be considered during the normal eligibility process.

If applicant is denied, the applicant will be given 10 calendar days to request an informal review. Notice requirements related to denying assistance to noncitizens are contained in Section 3-II.B. Citizenship or Eligible Immigration Status. Notice policies related to denying admission to applicants who may be victims of domestic violence, sexual violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking are contained in Section 3-III.G Prohibition against Denial of Assistance to Victims of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault and Stalking.

3-III.G. Prohibition against Denial of Assistance to Victims of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault and Stalking

[Pub.L. 109-162]

The Violence against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 (VAWA) prohibits denial of admission to an otherwise qualified applicant on the basis that the applicant is or has been a victim of domestic violence, sexual violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking. However, if a denial of assistance is required by a federal statute, (any mandatory denials listed in the Administrative Plan) based on a particular adverse factor, the CHA must comply with that statute, even if the adverse factor is a direct result of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking. For example, if the applicant is subject to a lifetime registration requirement under a State sex offender registration program, the PHA must comply with section 578 of the Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act of 1998 and deny the applicant admission, even if the sex offense were a direct result of the fact that the applicant was a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking. VAWA adds the following provision to Section 8 of the U.S. Housing Act of 1937, which lists contract provisions and requirements for the housing choice voucher program:

- That an applicant or participant is or has been a victim of domestic violence, sexual violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking is not an appropriate reason for denial of program assistance or for denial of admission, if the applicant otherwise qualifies for assistance or admission.

Definitions

As used in VAWA:

- The term domestic violence includes felony or misdemeanor crimes of violence committed by a current or former spouse of the victim, by a person with whom the victim shares a child in common, by a person who is cohabitating with or has cohabitated with the victim as a spouse, by a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction receiving grant monies, or by any other person against an adult or youth victim who is protected from that person's acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction.

- The term dating violence means violence committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim; and where the existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on a consideration of the following factors:
  - The length of the relationship
  - The type of relationship
  - The frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship

- The term stalking means:
To follow, pursue, or repeatedly commit acts with the intent to kill, injure, harass, or intimidate; or
To place under surveillance with the intent to kill, injure, harass, or intimidate another person; and
In the course of, or as a result of, such following, pursuit, surveillance, or repeatedly committed acts, to place a person in reasonable fear of the death of, or serious bodily injury to, or to cause substantial emotional harm to (1) that person, (2) a member of the immediate family of that person, or (3) the spouse or intimate partner of that person.

- The term *immediate family member* means, with respect to a person:
  - A spouse, parent, brother or sister, or child of that person, or an individual to whom that person stands in the position or place of a parent; or
  - Any other person living in the household of that person and related to that person by blood and marriage.

**Notification**

**CHA Policy**

The CHA acknowledges that a victim of domestic violence, sexual violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking may have an unfavorable history (e.g., a poor credit history, a record of previous damage to an apartment, a prior arrest record) that would warrant denial of admission under the CHA’s policies. Therefore, if the CHA makes a determination to deny admission to an applicant family, the CHA will include in its notice of denial:

- A statement of the protection against denial provided by VAWA
- A statement indicating the applicant has 14 calendar days from the date of the CHA letter to request an informal review of the CHA’s denial
- A statement that an applicant wishing to claim this protection must submit documentation to the CHA meeting the specifications below with the request for an informal review (see Section 16-III.D Hearing and Appeal Provisions for Non-Citizens)
- A description of the CHA confidentiality requirements

**Documentation**

**Victim Documentation**

**CHA Policy**

The applicant must complete the HUD 5382, which certifies that they are a victim of domestic violence, sexual violence, sexual assault or stalking. In cases where a family has fled due to domestic violence and is asking for portability or if coming to the CHA offices would endanger their health and safety, the CHA will accept a verbal statement from the victim in place of written documentation. The CHA will document the name, date and statement of applicant at that time in the confidential database.

The CHA will only require the victim to provide third party documentation there is any conflicting accounts of the domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking. Any of the following documents would be acceptable third party documentation.

- A document
  - Signed by an employee, agent, or volunteer of a victim service provider, an attorney, or medical professional or a mental health professional from whom the victim has sought assistance relating to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking or the effects of abuse;
  - Signed by the applicant or participant; and
  - That specifies, under penalty of perjury, that the professional believes in the occurrence of the incident of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking that is ground for
protection and remedies under the VAWA Final Rule, and that the incident meets the applicable
definition of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking under 24 CF 5.2003

- A record of Federal State, tribal, territorial, or local law enforcement agency, court, or administrative
  agency (for example, a police report) that documents the incident of domestic violence, dating violence,
  sexual assault, or stalking.
- At the discretion of the covered housing provider, a statement or other evidence provided by the
  applicant or participant.

In cases of conflicting documentation between two accounts, if one applicant submits a court order addressing
rights of access or control of the property (such as a protection order granting the victim exclusive possession of
the unit), the CHIA will honor this court order.

If an applicant or participant does not submit the required documentation within the required timeframe, the
CHA may accept the applicant assertion of victim status for the purposes of VAWA protections.

**Perpetrator Documentation**

**CHA Policy**

If the perpetrator of the abuse is a member of the applicant family, the applicant must provide additional
documentation consisting of one of the following:

- A signed statement (1) requesting that the perpetrator be removed from the application and (2) certifying
  that the perpetrator will not be permitted to visit or to stay as a guest in the assisted unit
- Documentation that the perpetrator has successfully completed, or is successfully undergoing, rehabilitation
  or treatment. The documentation must be signed by an employee or agent of a domestic violence service
  provider or by a medical or other knowledgeable professional from whom the perpetrator has sought or is
  receiving assistance in addressing the abuse. The signer must attest under penalty of perjury that it is their
  belief the rehabilitation was successfully completed or is progressing successfully. The victim and perpetrator
  must also sign or attest to the documentation related to rehabilitation or treatment received by the
  perpetrator.

**Time Frame for Submitting Documentation**

**CHA Policy**

The applicant must submit the required documentation with their request for an informal review (see section 16-
III.D) or must request in writing within the 14 calendar day period that the CHA grant an extension of time for
submitting the documentation. If the applicant so requests, the CHA will grant an extension of 10 calendar days
and will postpone scheduling the applicant’s informal review until after the CHA has received the documentation
or the 10-calendar day extension period has elapsed. If, after reviewing the documentation provided by the
applicant, the CHA determines that the family is eligible for assistance, no informal review will be scheduled, and
the CHA will proceed with admission of the applicant family.

**PHA Confidentiality Requirements**

All information provided to the PHA regarding domestic violence, sexual violence, dating violence, sexual assault
or stalking, including the fact that an individual is a victim of such violence or stalking, must be retained in
confidence. The PHA will maintain confidentiality of information received and shared, and keep all information
provided confidential. The PHA will not enter information into any shared database nor provide information to
any related entity, except to the extent that the disclosure (a) is requested or consented to by the individual in
writing, (b) is required for use in an eviction proceeding, or (c) is otherwise required by applicable law.
CHA Policy

If disclosure is required for use in an eviction proceeding or is otherwise required by applicable law, the CHA will inform the victim before disclosure occurs so that safety risks can be identified and addressed.

3-III.H. Public Housing to HCV Transition

Below are the procedures for staff when administering a voucher for participant who is transitioning from Public Housing to HCV.

1. After every HCV WL pull, HCV Contractors will identify current PH tenants from the list of applicants chosen. Current PH tenants will be based on the PH rent rolls pulled weekly and a listing of all adult PH tenants pulled at least every six months.

2. Before HCV Contractors issue any of these applicants a voucher, each applicant must sign the Public Housing to HCV Transition Process Reminders form and be determined to be in Good Standing with PH (See the Good Standing Procedure for more details).

3. Both PH and HCV will track the progress of the HCV applicant during the lease up process and will notify all relevant staff of updates about the applicant.

4. Once the HCV unit has passed inspection, the HCV applicant may submit a Notice to Vacate to their PM to give their PM written notice before he or she moves out of their PH unit.

5. Once the HCV rent determination is completed, the rent will be offered to the HCV landlord with the earliest lease effective date (LED) allowable will be calculated as follows:
   - If the date the rent determination is completed is between the 1st and 15th of the month, that earliest LED will be the rent determination date.
   - If the date the rent determination is completed is after the 15th of the month, the earliest LED will be the 1st of the following month.

6. When the HCV department notifies the PH department that the resident has signed a lease, HCV must provide a completed copy of the lease that is signed and dated by the resident and the owner to Property Office.

7. Once provided with the signed lease, the corresponding PM and Portfolio Manager will begin the move out process with the tenant and process an End of Participation (EOP- action 6 in Yardi) once the tenant has vacated the unit (See the PH Move-Out Process for more details).

8. After the EOP has been processed by PH, HCV Contractors will process a New Admission (action 1 in Yardi) for the tenant, officially transitioning the tenant to the HCV Program.

9. Staff must ensure that HAP doesn’t overlap for over one month.

Good Standing Procedure

1. During the applicant’s eligibility appointment, HCV Contractors will confirm whether the applicant is a current resident in PH.

2. If the applicant currently resides in PH, HCV Contractors will email a Property Office and HCV representative to request that a Certificate of Good Standing be completed for this applicant from their PM.

3. Property Office will work with the corresponding PM to complete and review this document. It must be returned within 1-2 weeks from the time of request.
4. When the certificate is obtained, a copy will be emailed to HCV for review.

- If HCV or Property Office determines that the applicant is more than one month behind on their rent or otherwise not in Good Standing, the applicant will be referred back to their PM and the case will be forwarded on to CHA Legal for further action and the issuance of the voucher will be delayed.

- If the applicant is determined to be in Good Standing, HCV will forward the completed Certificate of Good Standing to HCV Contractors. HCV Contractors may then schedule the applicant for a briefing if he or she is otherwise determined to be eligible.

- Note: The Certificate of Good Standing must be uploaded to iFile with the other eligibility documents for this applicant once the briefing is complete.

**PH Move-Out Process**

- In the event the resident should decide to cancel the move after signing a lease and remain in Public Housing, they may do so as long as they are still program compliant; they must submit the cancellation request in writing.

- If only part of the PH family (non-Head of Household adult) is moving to the HCV program:
  1. The family must submit a move out affidavit with an interim request to the PM.
  2. The PM must process an interim (action 3 in Yardi) to remove the family member(s). This step must take place before the HCV department processes the New Admission in Yardi.

- If the entire family is moving from PH to the HCV program:
  1. Once HCV receives the HCV lease that has been signed and dated by both the resident and owner, a copy of it must be submitted to the Property Office. Property Office must then send a request to the corresponding PM advising them to complete one of the following tasks:
    a. If the lease is received after the HCV lease effective date: send the tenant a 48-hour notice of entry. If the PM finds that the tenant is still occupying the unit, the PM will notify Property Office who will submit a request to Legal with all relevant documents for a 30 Day Termination Notice to be sent to the tenant.
    b. If the lease is received prior to the HCV lease effective date: send the tenant a notice to vacate the unit by their HCV lease effective date. If the tenant has not completed the move-out process by this time, the PM will follow the steps outlined above under 1a of this section.
  2. The resident is expected to complete the move-out process with the property management team. Once the move out process is complete, the PM must process an End of Participation (EOP- action 6 in Yardi) removing the resident from the PH program.
  3. If the resident vacates the unit without completing the move-out process with the PM, the PM team can dispose of items left behind or keep the items in storage (please refer to the leasing policy in the ACOP). However, the EOP must still be processed for the date they moved out of the unit.
  4. Once the applicant has moved out of PH and is leased up with HCV, the PM will calculate the tenant’s final balance with PH (factoring in any outstanding rent, damages to the unit, and any other outstanding charges).
5. The final balance will be submitted to Property Accounting for review.

6. If it is determined that the PH resident has any outstanding debt owed to PH, Property Office will advise the HCV Department of this outstanding debt within 60 days of when the tenant’s End of Participation (EOP- action 6 in Yardi) was processed.

7. The HCV Department will notify the HCV Contractor of any tenants with outstanding debt and instruct the HCV Contractor to schedule a meeting with the tenant to enter into a CHA PH Debt Repayment Agreement.

8. If the tenant disputes their final PH balance, he or she has 30 days within which to review their balance with their former PM and provide proof of payment.

9. By the end of the 30 days a final determination will be made on their outstanding balance and if a Repayment Agreement is still necessary, the tenant must either enter into a Repayment Agreement at that time or an Intent to Terminate (ITT) will be issued.

Special Procedure for Single ID Applicants (i.e. 2014 applicant z-code)
1. If a current PH tenant is leased under the same ID number as they are listed on the HCV WL, when they are pulled off the HCV WL, a new ID will be created by HCV Contractors prior to the applicant’s eligibility appointment.
   o The following memo will be added under the new tenant ID in Yardi: A new tenant ID was created due to the applicant coming from Public Housing under the same ID as the applicant had on the HCV waitlist. Old Tenant ID: [...] New Tenant ID: [...] 

2. HCV Contractors will advise the HCV Department and the Property Office of the applicant’s new ID.

Direct Port-Outs
1. If the PH resident decides to port-out once they have received their voucher, HCV Contractors will notate on the applicant’s Port-Out Request form that the family is coming from PH and will refer to PH documentation when reviewing the request.

2. A letter will be added to the applicant’s Port-Out Packet by HCV Contractors before it is sent to the Receiving PHA, referring the Receiving PHA to a contact person within Property Office in reference to questions, concerns, and updates on this applicant’s lease up process in relation to the applicant’s status in CHA Public Housing.

Exhibit 3-1: Detailed Definitions Related to Disabilities

Person with Disabilities

[24 CFR 5.403]

The term *person with disabilities* means a person who has any of the following types of conditions:

- Has a disability, as defined in 42 U.S.C. Section 423(d)(1)(A), which reads:
  - Inability to engage in any substantial gainful activity by reason of any medically determinable physical or mental impairment which can be expected to result in death or which has lasted or can be expected to last for a continuous period of not less than 12 months; or
  - In the case of an individual who has attained the age of 55 and is blind (within the meaning of “blindness” as defined in section 416(i)(1) of this title), inability by reason of such blindness to engage in substantial
gainful activity, requiring skills or ability comparable to those of any gainful activity in which he has previously engaged with some regularity and over a substantial period of time.

- Has a developmental disability as defined in the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 [42 U.S.C.15002(8)], which defines developmental disability in functional terms as follows:

(A) In General
The term “developmental disability” means a severe, chronic disability of an individual that:
(i) is attributable to a mental or physical impairment or combination of mental and physical impairments;
(ii) is manifested before the individual attains age 22;
(iii) is likely to continue indefinitely;
(iv) results in substantial functional limitations in three or more of the following areas of major life activity:
   (I) Self-care, (II) Receptive and expressive language, (III) Learning, (IV) Mobility, (V) Self-direction, (VI) Capacity for independent living, (VII) Economic self-sufficiency; and
(v) reflects the individual's need for a combination and sequence of special, interdisciplinary, or generic services, individualized supports, or other forms of assistance that are of lifelong or extended duration and are individually planned and coordinated.

(B) Infants and Young Children
An individual from birth to age 9, inclusive, who has a substantial developmental delay or specific congenital or acquired condition, may be considered to have a developmental disability without meeting 3 or more of the criteria described in clauses (i) through (v) of subparagraph (A) if the individual, without services and supports, has a high probability of meeting those criteria later in life.

- Has a physical, mental, or emotional impairment that is expected to be of long-continued and indefinite duration; substantially impedes his or her ability to live independently, and is of such a nature that the ability to live independently could be improved by more suitable housing conditions.

People with the acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) or any conditions arising from the etiologic agent for AIDS are not excluded from this definition.

A person whose disability is based solely on any drug or alcohol dependence does not qualify as a person with disabilities for the purposes of this program.

For purposes of reasonable accommodation and program accessibility for persons with disabilities, the term person with disabilities refers to an individual with handicaps.

Individual with Handicaps

Individual with handicaps means any person who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities; has a record of such impairment; or is regarded as having such impairment. The term does not include any individual who is an alcoholic or drug abuser and whose current use of alcohol or drugs prevents the individual from participating in the program or activity in question, or whose participation, by reason of such current alcohol or drug abuse, would constitute a direct threat to property or the safety of others. As used in this definition, the phrase:

(1) Physical or mental impairment includes:
(a) Any physiological disorder or condition, cosmetic disfigurement, or anatomical loss affecting one or more of the following body systems: neurological; musculoskeletal; special sense organs; respiratory, including speech organs; cardiovascular; reproductive; digestive; genitourinary; hemic and lymphatic; skin; and endocrine; or

(b) Any mental or psychological disorder, such as mental retardation, organic brain syndrome, emotional or mental illness, and specific learning disabilities. The term physical or mental impairment includes, but is not limited to, such diseases and conditions as orthopedic, visual, speech and hearing impairments, cerebral palsy, autism, epilepsy, muscular dystrophy, multiple sclerosis, cancer, heart disease, diabetes, mental retardation, emotional illness, drug addiction and alcoholism.

(2) Major life activities means functions such as caring for one's self, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning and working.

(3) Has a record of such an impairment means has a history of, or has been misclassified as having, a mental or physical impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities.

(4) Is regarded as having an impairment means:

   (a) Has a physical or mental impairment that does not substantially limit one or more major life activities but that is treated by a recipient as constituting such a limitation;

   (b) Has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities only as a result of the attitudes of others toward such impairment; or

   (c) Has none of the impairments defined in paragraph (1) of this section but is treated by a recipient as having such an impairment.
Chapter 4-Applicant, Waiting List and Tenant Selection

Introduction

When a family wishes to receive Section 8 HCV assistance, the family must submit an application that provides the CHA with the information needed to determine the family’s eligibility. HUD requires the CHA to place all families that apply for assistance on a waiting list. When HCV assistance becomes available, the CHA must select families from the waiting list in accordance with HUD requirements and CHA policies as stated in the administrative plan and the annual plan.

The CHA is required to adopt a clear approach to accepting applications, placing families on the waiting list and selecting families from the waiting list and must follow this approach consistently. The actual order in which families are selected from the waiting list can be affected if a family has certain characteristics designated by HUD or the CHA to receive preferential treatment. Funding earmarked exclusively for families with particular characteristics may also alter the order in which families are served.

HUD regulations require that all families have an equal opportunity to apply for and receive housing assistance, and that the CHA affirmatively further fair housing goals in the administration of the program [24 CFR 982.53, HCV GB p. 4-1] Housing Choice Voucher Program Guidebook, Chapter 4: Waiting List and Tenant Selection. Adherence to the selection policies described in this chapter ensures that the CHA will be in compliance with all relevant fair housing requirements, as described in Chapter 2- Fair Housing an Equal Opportunity.

This chapter describes HUD and CHA policies for taking applications, managing the waiting list and selecting families for HCV assistance. The policies outlined in this chapter are organized into three sections, as follows:

Part I: The Application Process. This part provides an overview of the application process. It also specifies how the CHA will handle the applications it receives.

Part II: Managing the Waiting List. This part presents the policies that govern how the CHA’s waiting list is structured, when it is opened and closed, and how the public is notified of the opportunity to apply for assistance.

Part III: Selection for HCV Assistance. This part describes the policies that guide the CHA in selecting families for HCV assistance as such assistance becomes available. It also specifies how in-person interviews will be used to ensure that the CHA has the information needed to make a final eligibility determination.

Part I: The Application Process

4-I.A. Overview

This part describes the policies that guide the CHA’s efforts to distribute and accept applications, and to make preliminary determinations of applicant family eligibility that affect placement of the family on the waiting list. This part also describes the CHA’s obligation to ensure the accessibility of the application process to elderly persons, people with disabilities, and people with limited English proficiency (LEP).

4-I.B. Applying for Assistance [HCV GB, pp. 4-11 – 4-16]

Any family that wishes to receive HCV assistance must apply for admission to the program.
The CHA uses a two-step application process because of the long wait from the time a family applies for assistance and the time a family is selected from the waiting list.

Under the two-step application process, the CHA initially will require families to provide only the information needed to determine the family’s placement on the waiting list. The family will be required to provide all of the information necessary to establish family eligibility and level of assistance when the family is selected from the waiting list.

Except for HUD special admissions, targeted funding, project-based assistance, and certain preference categories, the CHA will only accept applications when the waiting list is open. After the CHA announces the opening of the waiting list, families may apply for assistance under the HCV program.

4-I.C. Accessibility of the Application Process

Elderly and Disabled Populations

The CHA must take a variety of steps to ensure that the application process is accessible to those people who might have difficulty complying with the standard CHA application process. This could include people with disabilities, certain elderly individuals, as well as persons with limited English proficiency (LEP). The CHA must provide reasonable accommodation to the needs of individuals with disabilities. The application-taking facility and the application process must be fully accessible, or the CHA must provide an alternate approach that provides full access to the application process. Chapter 2- Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity provides a full discussion of the CHA’s policies related to providing reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities.

Limited English Proficiency

The CHA is required to take reasonable steps to ensure meaningful access to their programs and activities by persons with limited English proficiency [24 CFR 1]. Chapter 2- Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity provides a full discussion on the CHA’s policies related to ensuring access to people with limited English proficiency (LEP).

4-I.D. Placement on the Waiting List

With the exception of HUD special admissions, targeted funding, and the CHA’s preference categories, due to the size of the CHA’s HCV program, families will be placed on the CHA’s waiting list using a lottery. Once each application has been randomly assigned a number, the applications will be placed on the waiting list in order of the assigned numbers and according to CHA preference(s).

The CHA will request a complete application with detailed information required to establish family eligibility and the level of assistance when the family is selected from the waiting list.

No applicant has a right or entitlement to be listed on the waiting list, or to any particular position on the waiting list [24 CFR 982.202(c)].

Part II: Managing the Waiting List

4-II.A. Overview

The CHA must have policies regarding various aspects of organizing and managing the waiting list of applicant families. This includes opening the list to new applicants, closing the list to new applicants, notifying the public of waiting list openings and closings, updating waiting list information, purging the list of families that are no longer interested in or eligible for assistance, as well as conducting outreach to ensure a sufficient number of applicants.
In addition, HUD imposes requirements on how the CHA may structure its waiting list and how families must be treated if they apply for assistance to more than one assisted housing program.

4-II.B. Organization of the Waiting List

[24 CFR 982.204 and 205]

The CHA’s HCV waiting list must be organized in such a manner to allow the CHA to accurately identify and select families for assistance in the proper order, according to the admissions policies described in this plan.

The waiting list must contain the following information for each applicant listed:

- Applicant name;
- Family unit size;
- Assigned lottery number, if applicable;
- Date and time of application, if applicable;
- Qualification for any local preference;
- Racial or ethnic designation of the head of household.

HUD requires the CHA to maintain a single waiting list for the tenant-based HCV program.

The CHA also maintains a tenant-based HCV transfer list for participants in the project-based HCV program. Families living in units receiving property-based voucher assistance that have fulfilled their occupancy requirement and have not violated any family obligations under the HCV program are eligible for the HCV transfer list.

The CHA will provide assistance to participants that are on the HCV transfer list before assisting families on the general tenant-based program waiting list.

HUD directs that a family that applies for assistance from the HCV program must be offered the opportunity to be placed on the waiting list for any public housing, property-based voucher or moderate rehabilitation program the CHA operates if 1) the other programs’ waiting lists are open, and 2) the family is qualified for the other programs.

A family’s decision to apply for, receive, or refuse other housing assistance must not affect the family’s placement on the HCV waiting list, or any preferences for which the family may qualify.

The CHA will not merge the HCV waiting list with the waiting list for any other program the CHA operates. If a family refuses project-based voucher program assistance, the family will not lose position on the waiting list for tenant-based voucher program assistance. Similarly, if a family refuses tenant based voucher program assistance, the family will not lose its position on the waiting list for project-based voucher program assistance.

4-II.C. Opening and Closing the Waiting List

[24 CFR 982.206]

Closing the Waiting List

The CHA closes the waiting list when it is anticipated that there are sufficient waiting list applicants that can be served within a time period determined by the CHA.

The CHA may keep the list open for certain categories of families that meet particular criteria. If there is an insufficient number of eligible families on the waiting list to make use of special admissions, targeted funding, property-based vouchers, and demonstration programs established by the CHA, the CHA may accept applications limited to eligible families to ensure the appropriate use of these vouchers.
Re-opening the Waiting List
If the waiting list has been closed, it cannot be reopened until the CHA publishes a notice in local newspapers of general circulation, minority media, electronic and social media, and other suitable media outlets. The notice must comply with HUD fair housing requirements and must state where and when to apply, along with any limitations on who may apply.

The CHA will announce the reopening of the waiting list at least 10 calendar days prior to the date applications will first be accepted. If the list is only being reopened for certain categories of families, this information will be contained in the notice.

The CHA will give public notice by publishing the relevant information in suitable media outlets, including electronic media and social media, to provide public announcement to the diverse Chicago community.

4-II.D. Reporting Changes in Family Circumstances
While the family is on the waiting list, the family must inform the CHA within a reasonable time of changes in contact information, including current residence, mailing address, and phone number. The changes must be submitted in writing. All applicants have the responsibility to maintain the accuracy of their personal information provided on their application. Failure to do so may result in the CHA removing the family from the waiting list if the family does not respond to notices such as those for selection, purging, and updating the waiting list.

The waiting list registration number may be transferred to a family member in the following situations:

- Spouses of deceased applicants, if the surviving spouse is currently showing as the deceased applicant’s spouse in CHA records or if the surviving spouse provides a marriage certificate showing that they were married after applying to CHA. The transfer of the waitlist registration number will not be put into effect until a copy of the death certificate has been presented to CHA.
- Adult children of deceased applicants are not allowed to assume the applicant’s waitlist registration number. However, in considering the well-being of minor children, if the single parent of minor children is deceased and another relative becomes the legal guardian of the children, CHA may allow that legal guardian to have the waitlist registration number.
- In the event of a divorce, only the applicant listed as head of household will be allowed to retain the waitlist registration number, taking into consideration the well-being of minor children, then head of household. If awarded by a court order, CHA will assign the waitlist registration number to the individual identified in the court order.

4-II.E. Updating the Waiting List
[24 CFR 982.204]
HUD requires the CHA to establish policies to use when removing applicant names from the waiting list.

Purging the Waiting List
The decision to withdraw an applicant family that includes a person with disabilities from the waiting list is subject to reasonable accommodation. If the applicant did not respond to a CHA request for information or updates because of the family member’s disability, the CHA must reinstate the applicant family to their former position on the waiting list [24 CFR 982.204(c)(2)].

The waiting list will be updated as necessary to ensure that all applicants and applicant information is current and timely.
If a family is removed from the waiting list for failure to respond, the CHA may reinstate the family if determines the lack of response was due to a CHA error or to circumstances beyond the family’s control.

If a family failed to respond to the CHA’s request for information or updates because of the family member’s disability, the family must show that there is a nexus between the family member’s disability and the failure to respond to be reinstated to their former position on the waiting list.

If a family is removed from the waiting list for failure to respond, the CHA may reinstate the family if determines the lack of response was due to a CHA error and/or or to circumstances beyond the family’s control (provided the waiting list that they initially applied to is still open).

Removal from the Waiting List
If at any time an applicant family is on the waiting list and the CHA determines that the family is not eligible for assistance (see Chapter 3-Eligibility), the family will be removed from the waiting list.

If a family is removed from the waiting list because the CHA has determined the family is not eligible for assistance, a written notice will be sent to the family’s address of record. The notice will state the reasons the family was removed from the waiting list and will inform the family how to request an informal review regarding the CHA’s decision and the timeframe in which the request for an informal review must be received. (see Chapter 16-Program Administration) [24 CFR 982.201(f)].

Once an applicant family receives a voucher, that family will be removed from the waiting list. Any family currently receiving assistance in the HCV Program are removed from the waiting list.

Part III: Selection for HCV Assistance
4-III.A. Overview
As vouchers become available, families on the waiting list must be selected for assistance in accordance with the policies described in this part.

The order in which families receive assistance from the waiting list depends on the selection method chosen by the CHA and is impacted in part by any selection preferences for which the family qualifies. The source of HCV funding also may affect the order in which families are selected from the waiting list.

The CHA must maintain a clear record of all information required to verify that the family is selected from the waiting list according to the CHA’s selection policies [24 CFR 982.204(b) and 982.207(e)].

4-III.B. Selection and HCV Funding Sources
Special Admissions
[24 CFR 982.203]

HUD may award funding for specifically-named families living in specified types of units (e.g., a family that is displaced by demolition of public housing; a family affected by an owner's decision to opt-out of a project based Section 8 contract and families affected by an owner's decision to prepay a HUD insured mortgage). In these cases, the CHA may admit families that are not on the waiting list or may admit families without considering their position on the waiting list. The CHA must maintain records showing that such families were admitted with special program funding.
In the following cases, the CHA may add or move the family to the top of the waiting list in order to select in accordance with Special Admissions requirements.

- Families covered under the CHA Relocation Rights Contract (RRC) whose right of return or return preference to final replacement housing has not been satisfied and who were relocated as a result of rehabilitation, demolition, or disposition activities as described in the RRC.
- Families that are displaced due to rehabilitation (for ADA purposes) of the public housing unit in which they are living.
- Families affected by an owner’s decision to opt-out of a project-based Section 8 contract.
- Families affected by an owner’s decision to prepay or upon final payment of a HUD-insured mortgage.

Special Funding For the Families Receiving Assistance under the Section 8 Moderate Rehabilitation Program

The CHA may convert all or part of a Section 8 Moderate Rehabilitation development to property-based vouchers. Eligible families residing in the units assisted under the Section 8 Moderate Rehabilitation program at the time of conversion will be offered assistance under HCV property-based voucher program.

The CHA will provide tenant-based vouchers to eligible families residing in units assisted under the Section 8 Moderate Rehabilitation program at the time that the Section 8 Moderate Rehabilitation HAP contract expires but is not renewed.

In these cases, the CHA may add or move the family to the top of the waiting list in order to select in accordance with Special Admissions requirements.

Targeted Funding

[24 CFR 982.204(e)]

HUD may award the CHA funding for a specified category of families on the waiting list. The CHA must use this funding only to assist the families within the specified category. Within this category of families, the order in which such families are assisted is determined according to the policies provided in Section 4-III.C. Selection Method.

The CHA administers the following types of targeted funding:

- HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) program—this special allocation of vouchers is not subject to selection from the CHA waiting list and selections for participation are based on referrals to the CHA by the participating Veterans Affairs Medical Center.
- Family Unification Program
  - Families eligible for participation are selected from the HCV program waiting list, or referred by Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), and must be approved as eligible.
- Mainstream vouchers for persons with disabilities.
  - Vouchers with a one-year term. The CHA will make the one year vouchers available only to non-elderly families with a disabled person. The CHA will select non-elderly families with a disabled person from the HCV program waiting list.
  - The CHA will make the five-year vouchers available to elderly families and non-elderly families with a disabled person. The CHA will select non-elderly families with a disabled person from the HCV program waiting list.
• Non-Elderly disabled vouchers.
  o The CHA will make these vouchers available to non-elderly disabled families (families that do not meet the definition of an elderly family, whose head, spouse or sole member is a person with disabilities). The CHA will select non-elderly disabled families from the HCV program wait list.
  o The CHA will make these vouchers available to non-elderly disabled households (defined as a household composed of one or more non-elderly persons with disabilities, which may include additional household members who are not non-elderly persons with disabilities; a household where the sole member is an emancipated minor is not an eligible household). Eligible households can be referred to the CHA by partner agencies and added to the HCV waitlist. The CHA will provide a waitlist preference for these vouchers to non-elderly persons with disabilities who are transitioning out of institutional or other segregated settings, at serious risk of institutionalization, homeless, or at risk of becoming homeless.

• Other programs designated under any new HUD awarded funding
  o The CHA will administer such programs in accordance with the HUD requirements.

The CHA will use the funds (including any renewal of such funds and new allocations of funds) that are provided by HUD only for the specific purposes identified above. In addition, when any targeted vouchers are returned by families, the CHA will only use that voucher for the same purpose.

In the event of a funding shortfall, these special purpose vouchers will be issued first when the CHA begins issuing vouchers again after the shortfall.

Regular HCV Funding
Regular HCV funding may be used to assist any eligible family on the waiting list. Families are selected from the waiting list according to the policies provided in Section 4-III.C. Selection Method.

4-III.C. Selection Method
The CHA must describe the method for selecting applicant families from the waiting list, including the system of admission preferences that the CHA will use [24 CFR 982.202(d)].

Order of Selection
When selecting families from the waiting list the CHA is required to use targeted funding to assist only those families who meet the specified criteria. The CHA is not permitted to skip down the waiting list to a family that it can afford to subsidize when there are not sufficient funds to subsidize the family at the top of the waiting list [24 CFR 982.204(d) and (e)]. The CHA does not permit applicants to give their place on the waiting list to another applicant. The CHA may limit the number of applicants who may qualify for any local preference.

CHA will select families in order of preference as follows:
(1) Families that meet the criteria under targeted funding;
(2) Special/emergency circumstances, such as:
   a. Families that meet the eligibility criteria for and are participating in a CHA demonstration program
   b. Families that are victims of a federally declared national disaster affecting the city of Chicago; or
   c. Families that are an active participant in a Witness protection Program or State Victim Assistance Program; or
   d. Families living in a CHA administered housing unit which must be rehabilitated to meet ADA/504 requirements and for whom alternate CHA administered housing units are not available; and
e. Over-housed or under-housed families living in a Section 8 Moderate Rehabilitation project administered by the CHA for whom no appropriate size unit is available in the same project that is already under a HAP contract.

f. Public Housing residents covered under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and for whom the CHA has determined that it does not have a suitable unit in its portfolio to which the household can be relocated.

   (3) Families or individuals that meet HUD’s definition of homelessness under the HEARTH Act and are referred by the City of Chicago or Chicago’s Continuum of Care through the Coordinated Entry System. This will be limited to an annual number each year with those on the CHA waiting list prioritized first.

4) Working Families [24 CFR 982.207]:

   a. Families where head or spouse or co-head is employed

   b. However, an applicant shall be given the benefit of the working preference when head and co-head/spouse are age 62 or older, and/or a person with disabilities.

(4) Veterans, Active or Inactive Military Personnel and Immediate Family members of both.

CHA will cap RAD transfer vouchers to 75 percent of its turnover vouchers.

Families that qualify for the above preferences will be selected within each preference by their assigned lottery number. If it is determined that the family does not qualify for the preference, the family will be returned to their original placement on the waiting list.

Families that do not qualify for any of the above preferences will be selected from the waiting list after all qualified preference families have been provided assistance. The non-preference eligible families will be selected in numerical order based on the number that was assigned to each application by lottery, at the time the applicants were placed on the waiting list and any preferences for which the families qualify.

Families that qualify for a specified category of program funding (targeted funding or special CHA demonstrations) may be selected from the waiting list ahead of higher placed families that do not qualify for the targeted or demonstration funding. However, within any targeted or demonstration funding category, applicants will be selected in numerical order based on the number that was assigned to each application by lottery, at the time the applicants were placed on the waiting list.

For demonstration programs and special initiatives, applicants that meet the individual program criteria are pulled from the existing CHA wait list. If there are no applicants eligible for a specific program/initiative on the wait list, then applicants may be generated by referral from various community organizations or other government agencies. Referred applicants who meet program requirements are added to the wait list and are provided a local preference in accordance with the demonstration program for which they qualify.

The CHA maintains separate preferences for the property-based HCV program (See Chapter 17- Property Rental Assistance Program).

Income Targeting Requirement [24 CFR 982.201(b)(2)]

Under the Move to Work program HUD requires that very low-income families make up at least 75 percent of the families admitted to the HCV program during the CHA’s fiscal year. Very low-income families are those with annual incomes at or below 50 percent of the area median income.
Low income families admitted to the program that are “continuously assisted” under the 1937 Housing Act [24 CFR 982.4(b)], as well as low-income or moderate-income families admitted to the program that are displaced as a result of the prepayment of the mortgage or voluntary termination of an insurance contract on eligible low-income housing, are not counted for income targeting purposes [24 CFR 982.201(b)(2)(v)].

The CHA will monitor progress in meeting the very low income requirement throughout the fiscal year. The CHA will monitor the families admitted to the HCV program based on the number of families that entered into a lease within the CHA’s fiscal year. Very low-income families will be selected ahead of other eligible families on an as-needed basis to ensure the income targeting requirement is met.

4-III.D. Notification of Selection
When a family has been selected from the waiting list, the CHA must notify the family.

The CHA will notify the family by first class mail when it is selected from the waiting list. The notice will inform the family of the following:

- Date, time, and location of the scheduled application interview, including any procedures for rescheduling the interview
- Who is required to attend the interview
- Documents that must be provided at the interview to document the legal identity of household members, including information about what constitutes acceptable documentation
- Other documents and information that should be brought to the interview

If a notification letter is returned to the CHA with no forwarding address, the family will be removed from the waiting list.

4-III.E. The Application Interview
HUD recommends that the CHA obtain the information and documentation needed to make an eligibility determination though a private interview [HCV GB, pg. 4-16 Housing Choice Voucher Program Guidebook, Chapter 4: Waiting List and Tenant Selection]. Being invited to attend an interview does not constitute admission to the program.

Reasonable accommodation must be made for persons with disabilities who are unable to attend an interview due to their disability.

The CHA requires families selected from the waiting list to participate in an eligibility interview. All adult family members are required to attend the interview.

The interview will be conducted only if the head of household or spouse/co-head provides appropriate documentation of legal identity (see Chapter 7- Verification).

The family must provide the information necessary to establish the family’s eligibility and determine the appropriate level of assistance, as well as completing required forms, providing required signatures, and submitting required documentation. If any materials are missing, the CHA will provide the family with a written list of items that must be submitted.

Any required documents or information that the family is unable to provide at the interview must be provided within 10 calendar days of the interview (Chapter 7- Verification provides details about longer submission deadlines for particular items, including documentation of Social Security numbers and eligible noncitizen status). If the family is unable to obtain the information or materials within the required time frame, the family may
request an extension. If the required documents and information are not provided within the required time frame (plus any extensions granted by the CHA), the family will be sent a notice of denial (see Chapter 3- Eligibility).

An advocate, interpreter, or other assistant may assist the family with the application and the interview process. Interviews will be conducted in English. For limited English proficient (LEP) applicants, the CHA will provide an interpreter or translator services in accordance with the CHA’s LEP plan. Interpreter or translator services must be requested in advance of the interview.

If the family is unable to attend a scheduled interview, the family should contact the CHA in advance of the interview to schedule a new appointment. If a family does not attend a scheduled interview, the CHA will send a second notification letter with a new interview appointment time. Applicants who fail to attend the rescheduled interview will be denied assistance based on the family’s failure to supply information needed to determine eligibility. A notice of denial will be issued in accordance with policies contained in Chapter 3- Eligibility.

4-III.F. Completing the Application Process

The CHA must verify all information provided by the family (see Chapter 7- Verification). Based on verified information, the CHA must make a final determination of eligibility (see Chapter 3- Eligibility) and must confirm that the family qualified for any special admission, targeted admission, or selection preference that affected the order in which the family was selected from the waiting list.

If the CHA determines that the family is ineligible, the CHA will send written notification of the ineligibility determination within 10 calendar days of the determination. The notice will specify the reasons for ineligibility, and will inform the family of its right to request an informal review (Chapter 16- Program Administration).

If a family fails to qualify for any criteria that affected the order in which it was selected from the waiting list (e.g. targeted funding), the family will be returned to its original position on the waiting list. The CHA will notify the family in writing that it has been returned to the waiting list and will specify the reasons for it.

If the CHA determines that the family is eligible to receive assistance, the CHA will invite the family to attend a briefing in accordance with the policies in Chapter 5- Briefings and Voucher Issuance.
Chapter 5-Briefings and Voucher Issuance

Introduction
This chapter explains the briefing and voucher issuance process. When a family is determined to be eligible for the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program, the PHA must ensure that the family fully understands the way the program operates and the family’s obligations under the program. This is accomplished through both an oral briefing and provision of a briefing packet containing written documentation of information the family needs to know. Once the family is fully informed of the program’s requirements, the PHA issues the family a voucher. The voucher includes the unit size for which the family qualifies based on the PHA’s subsidy standards, as well as the dates of issuance and expiration of the voucher. The voucher is the document that permits the family to begin its search for a unit, and limits the amount of time the family has to successfully locate an acceptable unit.

This chapter describes HUD regulations and the PHA policies related to these topics in two parts:

Part I: Briefings and Family Obligations. This part details the program’s requirements for briefing families orally, and for providing written materials describing the program and its requirements. It includes a particular focus on the family’s obligations under the program.

Part II: Subsidy Standards and Voucher Issuance. This part discusses the PHA’s standards for determining how many bedrooms for which a family of a given composition qualifies, that in turn affects the amount of subsidy the family can receive. It also discusses the policies that dictate how vouchers are issued, and how long families have to locate a unit.

Part I: Briefings and Family Obligations

5-I.A. Overview
HUD regulations require the PHA to conduct mandatory briefings for applicant families. The briefing provides a broad description of owner and family responsibilities, explains the PHA’s procedures, and includes instructions on how to lease a unit. This part describes how oral briefings will be conducted, specifies what written information will be provided to families, and lists the family’s obligations under the program.

5-I.B. Briefing
[24 CFR 982.301]
The PHA must give the family an oral briefing and provide the family with a briefing packet containing written information about the program. Families may be briefed individually or in groups. At the briefing, the PHA must ensure effective communication in accordance with Section 504 requirements (Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973), and ensure that the briefing site is accessible to individuals with disabilities. For a more thorough discussion of accessibility requirements, refer to Chapter 2- Fair Housing and Equal Opportunities.

CHA Policy
Briefings will be conducted in group meetings.

Generally, all adult family members are required to attend the briefing. If any adult member is unable to attend, the PHA may waive this requirement as long as the head, spouse or co-head attends the briefing.

Families that attend group briefings and still need individual assistance will be referred to an appropriate CHA staff person.

Briefings will be conducted in English. For limited English proficient (LEP) applicants, the CHA will provide translation services in accordance with the CHA’s LEP plan (See Chapter 2- Fair Housing and Equal Opportunities).
When a participant requires moving papers due to an emergency HQS fail, staff must conduct a one on one briefing and issue them moving papers immediately.

Notification and Attendance

CHA Policy
Families will be notified of their eligibility for assistance at the time they are invited to attend a briefing. The notice will identify who is required to attend the briefing, as well as the date and time of the scheduled briefing.

If the notice is returned by the post office with no forwarding address, the CHA will mail a second attempt to the same address, if the second notice is returned by the post office with no forwarding address, the applicant will be denied and their name will not be placed back on the waiting list.

Applicants who fail to attend a scheduled briefing will automatically be scheduled for another briefing. The CHA will notify the family of the date and time of the second scheduled briefing. Applicants who fail to attend two scheduled briefings, without CHA approval, will be denied assistance (see Chapter 3- Eligibility).

Oral Briefing

[24 CFR 982.301(a)]

Each briefing must provide information on the following subjects:

- How the Housing Choice Voucher program works;
- Family and owner responsibilities;
- Where the family can lease a unit, including renting a unit inside or outside the PHA’s jurisdiction;
- For families eligible under portability, an explanation of portability. The PHA cannot discourage eligible families from moving under portability; and
- For families living in high-poverty census tracts, an explanation of the advantages of moving to areas outside of high-poverty concentrations.

CHA Policy

When the CHA-owned units are available for lease, the CHA will inform the family during the oral briefing that the family has the right to select any eligible unit available for lease, and is not obligated to choose a CHA-owned unit.

Briefing Packet

[24 CFR 982.301(b)]

Documents and information provided in the briefing packet must include the following:

- The term of the voucher, and the PHA’s policies on any extensions of the term. If the PHA allows extensions, the packet must explain how the family can request an extension.
- A description of the method used to calculate the housing assistance payment for a family, including how the PHA determines the payment standard for a family, how the PHA determines total tenant payment for a family, and information on the payment standard and utility allowance schedule.
- An explanation of how the PHA determines the maximum allowable rent for an assisted unit.
- Where the family may lease a unit. For a family that qualifies to lease a unit outside the PHA jurisdiction under portability procedures, the information must include an explanation of how portability works.
- The HUD-required tenancy addendum, which must be included in the lease.
The form the family must use to request approval of tenancy, and a description of the procedure for requesting approval for a tenancy.

A statement of the PHA policy on providing information about families to prospective owners.

The PHA subsidy standards including when and how exceptions are made.

The HUD brochure on how to select a unit.

The HUD pamphlet on lead-based paint entitled Protect Your Family from Lead in Your Home.

Information on federal, state and local equal opportunity laws and a copy of the housing discrimination complaint form.

Information on a participants’ rights under VAWA, including the right to confidentiality and the exceptions.

Information on how to access a web based list of owners/property managers willing to lease to assisted families and other resources to assist with housing search.

Notice that if the family includes a person with disabilities, the family may request a list of available accessible units known to the PHA.

The family obligations under the program.

The grounds on which the PHA may terminate assistance for a participant family because of family action or failure to act.

The PHA informal hearing procedures including when the PHA is required to offer a participant family the opportunity for an informal hearing, and how to request the hearing.

If a PHA is located in a metropolitan FMR area, the following additional information will be included in the briefing packet in order to receive full points under SEMAP Indicator 7, Expanding Housing Opportunities [24 CFR 985.3(g)].

Maps showing areas with housing opportunities outside areas of poverty or minority concentration, both within its jurisdiction and its neighboring jurisdiction.

Information about the characteristics of these areas including job opportunities, schools, transportation and other services.

An explanation of how portability works, including a list of portability contact persons for neighboring PHAs including names, addresses, and telephone numbers.

Additional Items to be Included in the Briefing Packet

In addition to items required by the regulations, the PHA may include supplemental materials to help explain the program to both participants and owners [HCV GB, p. 8-7]Housing Choice Voucher Program Guidebook, Chapter 8: Housing Search and Leasing.

CHA Policy

The CHA will provide the following additional materials in the briefing packet:

When the CHA-owned units are available for lease, a written statement that the family has the right to select any eligible unit available for lease, and is not obligated to choose a CHA-owned unit.

Information on how to fill out and file a housing discrimination complaint form; and
The publication Things You Should Know (HUD-1140-OIG) that explains the types of actions a family must avoid and the penalties for program abuse.

All applicants who have been issued a voucher must have a Code 10 processed at the time of voucher issuance. If the applicant fails to lease a unit in the allotted time, including any extensions granted, staff must process an Expiration of Voucher (Code 11) effective on the voucher expiration date. Issuance of vouchers should never be processed for current participants requesting to transfer.

The final 50058 in the system for all households who are not active in the program or are not residing within CHA jurisdiction must be EOP (Code 6) Port Out (Code 5), or Voucher Expiration (Code 11).

5-I.C. Family Obligations
Obligations of the family are described in the housing choice voucher (HCV) regulations and on the voucher itself (see Chapter 12- Termination of Assistance and Tenancy for the list of Family Obligations). These obligations include responsibilities the family is required to fulfill, as well as prohibited actions. The PHA must inform families of these obligations during the oral briefing, and the same information must be included in the briefing packet.

When the family’s unit is approved and the HAP contract is executed, the family must meet those obligations in order to continue participating in the program. Violation of any family obligation may result in termination of assistance, as described in Chapter 12- Termination of Assistance and Tenancy.

Part II: Voucher Term and Subsidy Standards

5-II.A. Overview
The PHA must establish subsidy standards that determine the number of bedrooms needed for families of different sizes and compositions. This part presents the policies that will be used to determine the family unit size (also known as the voucher size) a particular family should receive, and the policies that govern making exceptions to those standards. The PHA also must establish policies related to the issuance of the voucher, to the voucher term, and to any extensions or suspensions of that term.

5-II.B. Determining Family Unit (Voucher) Size
[24 CFR 982.402]
For each family, the PHA determines the appropriate number of bedrooms under the PHA subsidy standards and enters the family unit size on the voucher that is issued to the family. The family unit size does not dictate the size of unit the family must actually lease, nor does it determine who within a household will share a bedroom/sleeping room.

The following requirements apply when the PHA determines family unit size:

- The subsidy standards must provide for the smallest number of bedrooms needed to house a family without overcrowding.
- The subsidy standards must be consistent with space requirements under the housing quality standards.
- The subsidy standards must be applied consistently for all families of like size and composition.
- A child who is temporarily away from the home because of placement in foster care is considered a member of the family in determining the family unit size.
- A family that consists of a pregnant woman (with no other persons) must be treated as a two-person family.
- Any live-in aide (approved by the PHA to reside in the unit to care for a family member who is disabled or is at least 50 years of age) must be counted in determining the family unit size; and
• Unless a live-in-aide resides with a family, the family unit size for any family consisting of a single person must be either a zero- or one-bedroom unit, as determined under the PHA subsidy standards.

Live-in Aides (LIA) who are family members but move into the unit as a live-in aid are prohibited from changing this status and gaining rights to the voucher. In accordance to PIH Notice 2010-26, a live-in aide should not be required to share a bedroom with another family member of the household and the live-in aide and his/her family members are restricted to one (1) bedroom.

CHA Policy
The CHA will assign one (1) bedroom for the head of household and spouse or co-head and an additional bedroom for each two (2) persons within the household. The live-in aide and his/her family members will not be classified as family members to the Head of Household.

5-II.C. Exceptions to Subsidy Standards
In determining family unit size for a particular family, the PHA may grant an exception to its established subsidy standards if the PHA determines that the exception is justified by the age, sex, health, handicap, or relationship of family members or other personal circumstances [24 CFR 982.402(b)(8)]. Reasons may include, but are not limited to:

• A need for an additional bedroom for medical equipment
• A need for a separate bedroom for reasons related to a family member’s disability, medical or health condition

For a single person who is not elderly, disabled, or a remaining family member, an exception cannot override the regulatory limit of a zero or one bedroom unit [24 CFR 982.402(b)(8)].

CHA Policy
The CHA will consider granting an exception for any of the reasons specified in the regulation: the age, sex, health, handicap, or relationship of family members or other personal circumstances.

The family must request any exception to the subsidy standards in writing. The request must explain the need or justification for a larger family unit size, and must include appropriate documentation. Requests based on health-related reasons must be verified by a knowledgeable professional source (e.g., doctor or health professional), unless the disability and the disability–related request for accommodation is readily apparent or otherwise known. The family’s continued need for an additional bedroom due to special medical equipment must be re-verified at regular reexamination.

The CHA will notify the family of its determination within 10 calendar days of receiving the family’s request. If a participant family’s request is denied, the notice will inform the family of their right to request an informal hearing.

The CHA may also offer Exception Payment Standards in accordance with the activities in its MTW Plan.

5-II.D. Voucher Issuance
[24 CFR 982.302]

When a family is selected from the waiting list (or as a special admission as described in Chapter 4- Applicant, Waiting List, and Tenant Selection), or when a participant family wants to move to another unit, the PHA issues a Housing Choice Voucher, form HUD-52646. This chapter deals only with voucher issuance for applicants. For voucher issuance associated with moves of program participants, please refer to Chapter 10- Moving with Continued Assistance and Portability.
The voucher is the family’s authorization to search for housing. It specifies the unit size for which the family qualifies, and includes both the date of voucher issuance and date of expiration. It contains a brief description of how the program works and explains the family obligations under the program. The voucher is evidence that the PHA has determined the family to be eligible for the program, and that the PHA expects to have money available to subsidize the family if the family finds an approvable unit. However, the PHA does not have any liability to any party by the issuance of the voucher, and the voucher does not give the family any right to participate in the PHA’s housing choice voucher program [Voucher, form HUD-52646].

A voucher can be issued to an applicant family only after the PHA has determined that the family is eligible for the program based on information received within the 60 days prior to issuance [24 CFR 982.201(e)] and after the family has attended an oral briefing [HCV GB, 8-1] Housing Choice Voucher Program Guidebook, Chapter 8: Housing Search and Leasing.

**CHA Policy**

The CHA will determine that a family is eligible for the program based on information that the CHA received within the 120 day period prior to issuance of the voucher. Vouchers will be issued to eligible applicants immediately following the mandatory briefing.

The PHA should have sufficient funds to house an applicant before issuing a voucher. If funds are insufficient to house the family at the top of the waiting list, the PHA must wait until it has adequate funds before it calls another family from the list [HCV GB, p. 8-10] Housing Choice Voucher Program Guidebook, Chapter 8: Housing Search and Leasing.

**CHA Policy**

Prior to issuing any vouchers, the CHA will determine whether it has sufficient funding in accordance with the policies in Part VIII of Chapter 16- Program Administration.

If the PHA determines that there is insufficient funding after a voucher has been issued, the PHA may rescind the voucher and place the affected family back on the waiting list in its original position.

**5-II.E. Voucher Term and Extensions**

**Voucher Term**

[24 CFR 982.303]

The initial voucher term will be 120 calendar days.

The family must submit a Request for Tenancy Approval within the 120 calendar day period unless the CHA grants an extension.

In the case of public housing families that are considered temporary relocatees under the CHA Leaseholder Housing Choice and Relocation Rights Contract, the initial term of the voucher will be 180 days.

**Extensions of Voucher Term**

[24 CFR 982.303(b)]

The PHA has the authority to grant extensions of search time, to specify the length of an extension, and to determine the circumstances under which extensions will be granted. Discretionary policies related to extension and expiration of search time must be described in the PHA’s administrative plan [24 CFR 982.54].

The PHA must approve additional search time if needed as a reasonable accommodation to make the program accessible to and usable by a person with disabilities. The extension period must be reasonable for the purpose.
The family must be notified in writing of the PHA’s decision to approve or deny an extension. The PHA’s decision to deny a request for an extension of the voucher term is not subject to informal review [24 CFR 982.554(c)(4)].

**CHA Policy**

The CHA will approve an extension in thirty day increments not to exceed 60 calendar days upon written request from the family in the following circumstances:

- It is necessary as a reasonable accommodation for a person with disabilities.
- The family meets the definition of hard to house (has three or more minors or has a disabled member and is moving to a different unit)
- The family had an emergency, including, but not limited to, a health issue or death of a family member that prevented them from looking for a unit for a significant amount of time
- The family ported out, but was unable to lease-up in the receiving PHA’s jurisdiction and returns to look for a unit within CHA’s jurisdiction.
- A port out request was submitted and there was an administrative delay in the receiving PHA obtaining the file
- The family previously submitted an RTA that was denied by CHA through no fault of their own
- The family suffered some type of discrimination and provided documentation that a formal complaint was made
- Obstacles due to employment; or
- Whether family size or other special requirements make finding a unit difficult

Any request for an additional extension must include the reason(s) an additional extension is necessary. The CHA may require the family to provide documentation to support the request.

In the case of public housing families that are considered temporary relocatees under the CHA Leaseholder Housing Choice and Relocation Rights Contract, the CHA may extend the voucher term for up to an additional six months but the total voucher term, including any extensions, may not exceed one year.

All requests for extensions to the voucher term must be made in writing and submitted to the CHA prior to the expiration date of the voucher (or extended term of the voucher).

The CHA will decide whether to approve or deny an extension request within 10 calendar days of the date the request is received, and will immediately provide the family written notice of its decision.

**Suspensions of Voucher Term**

[24 CFR 982.303(c)]

When a Request for Tenancy Approval is received by the CHA, the term of the voucher will be suspended while the CHA processes the request. For CHA suspension procedures please go to **CHA Advisory 2015-18** and **2015-19**.

**Expiration of Voucher Term**

Once a family’s housing choice voucher term (including any extensions) expires, the family is no longer eligible to search for housing under the program. If the family still wishes to receive assistance, the PHA may require that the family reapply, or may place the family on the waiting list with a new application date but without requiring reapplication. Such a family does not become ineligible for the program on the grounds that it was unable to locate a unit before the voucher expired [HCV GB, p. 8-13] Housing Choice Voucher Program Guidebook, Chapter 8: Housing Search and Leasing.
Chapter 6-Income and Subsidy Determinations


Introduction

A family’s income determines eligibility for assistance and is also used to calculate the family’s payment and the PHA’s subsidy. The PHA will use the policies and methods described in this chapter to ensure that only eligible families receive assistance and that no family pays more or less than its obligation under the regulations. This chapter describes HUD regulations and PHA policies related to these topics in three parts as follows:

- **Part I: Annual Income.** HUD regulations specify the sources of income to include and exclude to arrive at a family’s annual income. These requirements and PHA policies for calculating annual income are found in Part I.

- **Part II: Adjusted Income.** Once annual income has been established HUD regulations require the PHA to subtract from annual income any of five mandatory deductions for which a family qualifies. These requirements and PHA policies for calculating adjusted income are found in Part II.

- **Part III: Calculating Family Share and PHA Subsidy.** This part describes the statutory formula for calculating total tenant payment (TTP), the use of utility allowances, and the methodology for determining the PHA subsidy and required family payment.

**Part I: Annual Income**

6-I.A. Overview

The general regulatory definition of *annual income* shown below is from **24 CFR 5.609**.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>5.609 Annual income.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(a) Annual income means all amounts, monetary or not, which: (1) Go to, or on behalf of, the family head or spouse (even if temporarily absent) or to any other family member; or</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2) Are anticipated to be received from a source outside the family during the 12-month period following admission or regular reexamination effective date; and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(3) Which are not specifically excluded in paragraph [5.609(c)].</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(4) Annual income also means amounts derived (during the 12-month period) from assets to which any member of the family has access.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to this general definition, HUD regulations establish policies for treating specific types of income and assets. For full texts of the regulations see:

- Annual Income Inclusions, Exclusions and Treatment of Family Assets (**24 CFR 5.609**)  
- Earned Income Disallowance for Persons with Disabilities (**24 CFR 5.617**)  
- The Effect of Welfare Benefit Reduction (**24 CFR 5.615**)

**Sections 6-I.B. Household Composition and Income** and **Section 6-I.C. Anticipating Annual Income** discuss general requirements and methods for calculating annual income. The rest of this section describes how each source of income is treated for the purposes of determining annual income. HUD regulations present income inclusions and exclusions separately [**24 CFR 5.609(b)** and **24 CFR 5.609(c)**]. In this plan, however, the discussions of income inclusions and exclusions are integrated by topic (e.g., all policies affecting earned income are discussed together...
in Section 6-I.D. Earned Income). Verification requirements for annual income are discussed in Chapter 7 - Verification.

6-I.B. Household Composition and Income
Income received by all family members must be counted unless specifically excluded by the regulations. It is the responsibility of the head of household to report changes in family composition. The rules on which sources of income are counted vary somewhat by family member.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summary of Income Included and Excluded by Person</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Live-in aides</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foster child or foster adult</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head, spouse, or co-head Other adult family members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children under 18 years of age</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full-time students 18 years of age or older (not head, spouse, or co-head)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Absent Family Members
The income of family members approved to live in the unit will be counted, even if the family member is absent from the unit.

CHA Policy
Notice is required when all household members will be absent from the unit for over 30 consecutive days. If the entire household is absent beyond 90 consecutive days, CHA will consider the unit to be abandoned and will proceed to terminate the family’s participation and the Housing Assistance Payments to the owner even if the family continues to pay rent and/or utilities.

CHA may require the family to supply information to verify absence or residency in the assisted unit. Exceptions will be made for instances related to reasonable accommodations or VAWA.

Joint Custody of Dependents
CHA Policy
Dependents that are subject to a joint custody arrangement will be considered a member of the family, if they live with the applicant or participant family 51 percent or more of the time or are otherwise designated by a Joint Parenting Agreement to the parent who maintains primary residence of the child or children. Individuals with joint custody arrangements entered into in a state other than Illinois may be required to provide documentation of joint custody and/or evidence of the primary residence of a child or the children.

When more than one applicant or participant family is claiming the same dependents as family members, the family with primary custody and/or primary residence as set forth in a judgment or court decision at the time of the initial examination or reexamination will be able to claim the dependents. If there is a dispute about which
family should claim them, the CHA will make the determination based on available documents such as court orders, school enrollment records, benefit/subsidy records, or an IRS return showing which family has claimed the child for income tax purposes.

Caretakers for a Child

CHA Policy

In cases where the Head of Household passes and there are no other adults to assume the voucher, no one will assume the voucher (even those who have legal guardianship of the minor children) if all minor children in the household are age 15 and under. However, if one or more of the remaining minor children are between the ages 16-17 (as of the date of the death of the Head of Household), the legal guardian may assume the voucher, subject to eligibility. The Legal Guardian must submit court documents awarding guardianship of the minor child(ren) aged 16-17. Additionally, the Legal Guardian must sign the Assumption of Voucher-Minor Children document, which states as soon as one of the minor remaining members of the original tenant family turns 18 years of age, that child will become the Head of Household, subject to eligibility.

If an individual attempts to become the Head of Household through this process but does not meet the eligibility criteria outlined above, the request must be denied. When the original minor remaining family member becomes the new Head of Household (HOH), the new HOH will determine if the former legal guardian will remain on the voucher.

6-I.C. Anticipating Annual Income

CHA is required to count all income “anticipated to be received from a source outside the family during the 12-month period following admission or regular reexamination effective date” [24 CFR 5.609(a)(2)]. Policies related to anticipating annual income are provided below.

Basis of Annual Income Projection

CHA will determine annual income based on past actual income received or earned within the last 12 months.

CHA is required to use HUD’s Enterprise Income Verification (EIV) system in its entirety as a third party source to verify employment and income information from the most recent 12 months of income information available in EIV, and to reduce administrative subsidy payment errors in accordance with HUD administrative guidance [24 CFR 5.233(a)(2)]. Because this EIV report will give actual earnings data verified by a third party, the program participant is no longer required to provide third party documentation (e.g., pay stubs, payroll summary report, unemployment monetary benefit notice). (PIH Notice 2013-03).

Failure to use the EIV system in its entirety may result in the imposition of sanctions, the assessment of disallowed costs associated with any resulting incorrect subsidy or tenant rent calculations, or both [24 CFR 5.233(b)].

If there has been a change in circumstances or the family disputes the EIV reported income, and is unable to provide documentation to resolve the dispute; CHA will request written third-party verification. CHA must
continue to verify income from sources not available in EIV. However, CHA must use the same time period for both wage and non-wage income. (PIH Notice 2013-03).

6-I.D. Earned Income

Types of Earned Income Included in Annual Income

Wages and Related Compensation

The full amount, before any payroll deductions, of wages and salaries, overtime pay, commissions, fees, tips and bonuses, and other compensation for personal services is included in annual income [24 CFR 5.609(b)(1)].

CHA Policy

For persons who regularly receive bonuses or commissions, the CHA will verify and then average amounts received for the two years preceding admission or reexamination. If only a one-year history is available, the CHA will use the prior year amounts. In either case the family may provide, and the CHA will consider, a credible justification for not using this history to anticipate future bonuses or commissions. If a new employee has not yet received any bonuses or commissions, the CHA will count only the amount estimated by the employer. The file will be documented appropriately.

Income from Chicago Public Schools

When interviewing family members that are employed by CPS, staff must give the family member the option to have their income annualized by proration or calculated for the full year. Staff must explain both methods of calculation to the family member. Additionally, the voucher holder must affirmatively acknowledge which option they are choosing via the Chicago Public School Employee Annual Wage Reporting Designation Form.

Family members who choose to have their income calculated by proration (annual salary from CPS website/21 pay periods) will not be eligible for an interim during the summer months. For family members that choose the proration, staff may use the CPS Employee Position Roster listed on the CPS website if it is available.

Household members that choose to have their wage calculated for the full school year (check stubs calculated for 26 pay periods) may report an interim during the summer months and their income will be re-calculated and reduced. At the time of processing the reexamination, a subsequent interim must be processed for the 1st of the month following the date that the household member’s CPS calendar indicates a return to work. Thirty days’ notice must still be provided if there is an increase in the participant portion. If the household member does not return to the employment, it is the family’s responsibility to notify the CHA in order for an adjusted interim reexamination to be processed. These procedures also apply to participants who are employed at other school districts.

Some Types of Military Pay

All regular pay, special pay and allowances of a member of the Armed Forces are counted [24 CFR 5.609(b)(8)] except for the special pay to a family member serving in the Armed Forces who is exposed to hostile fire [24 CFR 5.609(c)(7)].

Types of Earned Income Not Counted in Annual Income

Temporary, Nonrecurring, or Sporadic Income [24 CFR 5.609(c)(9)]

This type of income (including gifts) is not included in annual income.

CHA Policy

Sporadic income is income that is not received periodically and cannot be reliably predicted. For example, the
income of an individual who works occasionally as a handyman would be considered sporadic if future work could not be anticipated and no historic, stable pattern of income existed.

Children’s Earnings
Employment income earned by children (including foster children) under the age of 18 years is not included in annual income [24 CFR 5.609(c)(1)]. (See Chapter 3-Eligibility for a definition of foster children.)

Certain Earned Income of Full-Time Students
Earnings in excess of $480 for each full-time student 18 years old or older (except for the head, spouse, or co-head) are not counted [24 CFR 5.609(c)(11)]. To be considered “full-time,” a student must be considered “full-time” by an educational institution with a degree or certificate program [HCV GB, p. 5-29] Housing Choice Voucher Program Guidebook, Chapter 5: Eligibility and Denial of Assistance.

Income of a Live-in Aide
Income earned by a live-in aide, as defined in [24 CFR 5.403], is not included in annual income [24 CFR 5.609(c)(5)]. (See Eligibility chapter for a full discussion of live-in aides.)

Income Earned under Certain Federal Programs
Income from some federal programs is specifically excluded from consideration as income [24 CFR 5.609(c)(17)], including:

- Payments to volunteers under the Domestic Volunteer Services Act of 1973 (42 U.S.C. 5044(f), 5058)
- Payments received under programs funded in whole or in part under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2931)
- Awards under the federal work-study program (20 U.S.C. 1087 u)
- Payments received from programs funded under Title V of the Older Americans Act of 1985 (42 U.S.C. 3056(f))
- Allowances, earnings, and payments to AmeriCorps participants under the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12637(d))
- Allowances, earnings, and payments to participants in programs funded under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2931)
- Temporary income payments from the U.S. Census Bureau, defined as employment lasting no longer than 180 days per year and not culminating in permanent employment.

Resident Service Stipend
Amounts received under a resident service stipend are not included in annual income. A resident service stipend is a modest amount (not to exceed $200 per individual per month) received by a resident for performing a service for the PHA or owner, on a part-time basis, that enhances the quality of life in the development. Such services may include, but are not limited to, fire patrol, hall monitoring, lawn maintenance, resident initiatives coordination, and serving as a member of the PHA’s governing board. No resident may receive more than one such stipend during the same period of time [24 CFR 5.609(c)(8)(iv)].

State and Local Employment Training Programs
Incremental earnings and benefits to any family member resulting from participation in qualifying state or local employment training programs (including training programs not affiliated with a local government) and training of a family member as resident management staff are excluded from annual income. Amounts excluded by this provision must be received under employment training programs with clearly defined goals and objectives and are excluded only for the period during which the family member participates in the training program [24 CFR 5.609(c)(8)(v)].
CHA Policy

The CHA defines training program as “a learning process with goals and objectives, generally having a variety of components, and taking place in a series of sessions over a period to time. It is designed to lead to a higher level of proficiency, and it enhances the individual’s ability to obtain employment. It may have performance standards to measure proficiency. Training may include, but is not limited to: (1) classroom training in a specific occupational skill, (2) on-the-job training with wages subsidized by the program, or (3) basic education” [expired Notice PIH 98-2, p. 3].

The CHA defines incremental earnings and benefits as the difference between: (1) the total amount of welfare assistance and earnings of a family member prior to enrollment in a training program, and (2) the total amount of welfare assistance and earnings of the family member after enrollment in the program [expired Notice PIH 98-2, pp. 3–4].

In calculating the incremental difference, the CHA will use as the pre-enrollment income the total annualized amount of the family member’s welfare assistance and earnings reported on the family’s most recently completed HUD-50058.

End of participation in a training program must be reported in accordance with the CHA’s interim reporting requirements.

HUD-Funded Training Programs

Amounts received under training programs funded in whole or in part by HUD [24 CFR 5.609(c)(8)(i)] are excluded from annual income. Eligible sources of funding for the training include operating subsidy, Section 8 administrative fees, and modernization, Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME program, and other grant funds received from HUD.

CHA Policy

To qualify as a training program, the program must meet the definition of training program provided above for state and local employment training programs.

Earned Income Tax Credit

Earned income tax credit (EITC) refund payments received on or after January 1, 1991 (26 U.S.C. 32(j)), are excluded from annual income [24 CFR 5.609(c)(17)]. Although many families receive the EITC annually when they file taxes, an EITC can also be received throughout the year. The prorated share of the annual EITC is included in the employee’s payroll check.

Earned Income Disallowance

The earned income disallowance for persons with disabilities is discussed in section 6-I.E below.


The earned income disallowance (EID) encourages people with disabilities to enter the work force by not including the full value of increases in earned income for a period of time. Eligibility criteria and limitations on the disallowance are summarized below.

Eligibility

This disallowance applies only to individuals in families already participating in the HCV program (not at initial examination). To qualify, the family must experience an increase in annual income that is the result of one of the following events:
- Employment of a family member who is a person with disabilities and who was previously unemployed for one or more years prior to employment. *Previously unemployed* includes a person who annually has earned not more than the minimum wage applicable to the community multiplied by 500 hours. The applicable minimum wage is the federal minimum wage unless there is a higher state or local minimum wage.

- Increased earnings by a family member who is a person with disabilities and whose earnings increase during participation in an economic self-sufficiency or job-training program. A self-sufficiency program includes a program designed to encourage, assist, train, or facilitate the economic independence of HUD-assisted families or to provide work to such families [24 CFR 5.603(b)].

New employment or increased earnings by a family member who is a person with disabilities and who has received benefits or services under Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or any other state program funded under *Part A of Title IV of the Social Security Act* within the past six months. If the benefits are received in the form of monthly maintenance, there is no minimum amount. If the benefits or services are received in a form other than monthly maintenance, such as one-time payments, wage subsidies, or transportation assistance, the total amount received over the six-month period must be at least $500.

Calculation of the earned income disallowance for an eligible member of a qualified family begins with a comparison of the member’s current income with his or her “prior income.”

**CHA Policy**

The CHA defines *prior income*, or *prequalifying income*, as the family member’s last certified income prior to qualifying for the EID.

For families that are subject to the Earned Income Disregard (EID) and are selected to participate in the FSS program, CHA may eliminate the EID for immediate accrual of escrow by the FSS family from any reported earned income.

The family member’s prior, or prequalifying, income remains constant throughout the period that he or she is receiving the EID.

**Exclusion Period**

During the entire 24 months, the full amount (100 percent) of any increase in income attributable to new employment or increased earnings is excluded.

**CHA Policy**

The initial EID exclusion period will begin on the first of the month following the date an eligible member of a qualified family is first employed or first experiences an increase in earnings.

**Lifetime Limitation**

The EID has a two year (24 month) lifetime maximum. The two-year eligibility period begins at the same time that the initial exclusion period begins and ends 24 months later. The one-time eligibility for the EID applies even if the eligible individual begins to receive assistance from another housing agency, if the individual moves between public housing and Section 8 assistance, or if there are breaks in assistance.

**6-I.F. Business Income**

[24 CFR 5.609(b)(2)]

Annual income includes “the net income from the operation of a business or profession. Expenditures for business expansion or amortization of capital indebtedness shall not be used as deductions in determining net income. An allowance for depreciation of assets used in a business or profession may be deducted, based on straight line depreciation, as provided in Internal Revenue Service regulations. Any withdrawal of cash or assets from the
operation of a business or profession will be included in income, except to the extent the withdrawal is reimbursement of cash or assets invested in the operation by the family” [24 CFR 5.609(b)(2)].

Business Expenses
Net income is “gross income less business expense” [HCV GB, p. 5-19] Housing Choice Voucher Program Guidebook, Chapter 5: Eligibility and Denial of Assistance.

CHA Policy
To determine business expenses that may be deducted from gross income, the CHA will use current applicable Internal Revenue Service (IRS) rules for determining allowable business expenses [see IRS Publication 535], unless a topic is addressed by HUD regulations or guidance as described below.

Business Expenses
HUD regulations do not permit the PHA to deduct from gross income expenses for business expansion.

CHA Policy
Business expansion is defined as any capital expenditures made to add new business activities, to expand current facilities, or to operate the business in additional locations. For example, purchase of a street sweeper by a construction business for the purpose of adding street cleaning to the services offered by the business would be considered a business expansion. Similarly, the purchase of a property by a hair care business to open at a second location would be considered a business expansion.

Capital Indebtedness
HUD regulations do not permit the PHA to deduct from gross income the amortization of capital indebtedness.

CHA Policy
Capital indebtedness is defined as the principal portion of the payment on a capital asset such as land, buildings, and machinery. This means the CHA will allow as a business expense interest, but not principal, paid on capital indebtedness.

Negative Business Income
If the net income from a business is negative, no business income will be included in annual income; a negative amount will not be used to offset other family income.

Co-owned Businesses
CHA Policy
If a business is co-owned with someone outside the family, the family must document the share of the business it owns. If the family’s share of the income is lower than its share of ownership, the family must document the reasons for the difference.

6-I.G. Assets
[24 CFR 5.609(b)(3) and 24 CFR 5.603(b)]

Overview
There is no asset limitation for participation in the HCV program. However, HUD requires that CHA includes in annual income the “interest, dividends, and other net income of any kind from real or personal property” [24 CFR 5.609(b)(3)]. HUD requires that the income from various types of assets is included.
6-I.H. Periodic Payments

Periodic payments are forms of income received on a regular basis. HUD regulations specify periodic payments that are and are not included in annual income. Periodic Payments Included in Annual Income:

- Periodic payments from sources such as social security, unemployment, and welfare assistance, annuities, insurance policies, retirement funds, and pensions. However, periodic payments from retirement accounts, annuities, and similar forms of investments are counted only after they exceed the amount contributed by the family [24 CFR 5.609(b)(4) and (b)(3)].

- Disability or death benefits and lottery receipts paid periodically, rather than in a single lump sum [24 CFR 5.609(b)(4) and HCV, p. 5-14] Housing Choice Voucher Program Guidebook, Chapter 5: Eligibility and Denial of Assistance

Lump-Sum Payments for the Delayed Start of a Periodic Payment

Most lump sums received as a result of delays in processing periodic payments, such as unemployment or welfare assistance, are counted as income. However, lump-sum receipts for the delayed start of periodic social security or supplemental security income (SSI) payments are not counted as income [CFR 5.609(b)(4)].

CHA Policy

When a delayed-start payment is received and reported during the period in which the CHA is processing a regular reexamination, the CHA will adjust the family share and the CHA subsidy retroactively for the period the payment was intended to cover. The family may pay in full any amount due or request to enter into a repayment agreement with the CHA.

Treatment of Overpayment Deductions from Social Security Benefits

The PHA must make a special calculation of annual income when the Social Security Administration (SSA) overpays an individual, resulting in a withholding or deduction from their benefit amount until the overpayment is paid in full. The amount and duration of the withholding will vary depending on the amount of the overpayment and the percent of the benefit rate withheld. Regardless of the amount withheld or the length of the withholding period, the PHA must use the reduced benefit amount after deducting only the amount of the overpayment withholding from the gross benefit amount [Notice PIH 2010-3].

Note: A social security overpayment can be withheld from an SSI underpayment due to the beneficiary.

CHA Policy

In the case of a Social Security Administration overpayment/recoupment, the CHA will calculate annual income using the reduced amount. Depending on the length of the withholding period, the calculation will either remain effective until the next reexamination of income, or the CHA will recalculate annual income after the withholding period ends using the full benefit amount.

Periodic Payments Excluded from Annual Income

- Payments received for the care of foster children or foster adults (usually persons with disabilities, unrelated to the assisted family, who are unable to live alone) [24 CFR 5.609(c)(2)]

- The CHA will exclude payments for the care of foster children and foster adults only if the care is provided through an official arrangement with a local welfare agency [HCV GB, p. 5-18] Housing Choice Voucher Program Guidebook, Chapter 5: Eligibility and Denial of Assistance.

- Amounts paid by a state agency to a family with a member who has a developmental disability and is living at home to offset the cost of services and equipment needed to keep the developmentally disabled family member at home [24 CFR 5.609(c)(16)]
- Amounts received under the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program [24 CFR 5.609(c)(17)]
- Amounts received under the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858g) [24 CFR 5.609(c)(17)]
- Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) refund payments (26 U.S.C. 32(j)) [24 CFR 5.609(c)(17)].
- Lump sums received as a result of delays in processing Social Security and SSI payments (see Section 6-I.J. Welfare Assistance) [24 CFR 5.609(b)(4)].

6-I.I. Payments in Lieu of Earnings
Payments in lieu of earnings, such as unemployment and disability compensation, worker’s compensation, and severance pay, are counted as income [24 CFR 5.609(b)(5)] if they are received either in the form of periodic payments or in the form of a lump-sum amount or prospective monthly amounts for the delayed start of a periodic payment. If they are received in a one-time lump sum (as a settlement, for instance), they are treated as lump-sum receipts [24 CFR 5.609(c)(3)]. (See also the discussion of periodic payments in Section 6-I.H. Periodic Payments and the discussion of lump-sum receipts in Section 6-I.G. Assets)

6-I.J. Welfare Assistance
Overview
Welfare assistance is counted in annual income. Welfare assistance includes Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and any payments to individuals or families based on need that are made under programs funded separately or jointly by federal, state, or local governments [24 CFR 5.603(b)].

Sanctions Resulting in the Reduction of Welfare Benefits [24 CFR 5.615]
The PHA must make a special calculation of annual income when the welfare agency imposes certain sanctions on certain families. The requirements are summarized below. This rule applies only if a family was receiving HCV assistance at the time the sanction was imposed.

Covered Families
The families covered by 24 CFR 5.615 are those “who receive welfare assistance or other public assistance benefits (‘welfare benefits’) from a State or other public agency (‘welfare agency’) under a program for which Federal, State or local law requires that a member of the family must participate in an economic self-sufficiency program as a condition for such assistance” [24 CFR 5.615(b)].

Imputed Income
When a welfare agency imposes a sanction that reduces a family’s welfare income because the family commits fraud or fails to comply with the agency’s economic self-sufficiency program or work activities requirement, the PHA must include in annual income “imputed” welfare income. The PHA must request that the welfare agency inform the PHA when the benefits of an HCV participant family are reduced. The imputed income is the amount the family would have received if the family had not been sanctioned.

This requirement does not apply to reductions in welfare benefits: (1) at the expiration of the lifetime or other time limit on the payment of welfare benefits, (2) if a family member is unable to find employment even though the family member has complied with the welfare agency economic self-sufficiency or work activities requirements, or (3) because a family member has not complied with other welfare agency requirements [24 CFR 5.615(b)(2)].
Offsets
The amount of the imputed income is offset by the amount of additional income the family begins to receive after the sanction is imposed. When the additional income equals or exceeds the imputed welfare income, the imputed income is reduced to zero [24 CFR 5.615(c)(4)].

6-I.K. Periodic and Determinable Allowances [24 CFR 5.609(b)(7)]
Annual income includes periodic and determinable allowances, such as alimony and child support payments, and regular contributions or gifts received from organizations or from persons not residing with an assisted family.

Alimony and Child Support
The PHA must count alimony or child support amounts awarded as part of a divorce or separation agreement.

CHA Policy
The CHA will count court-awarded amounts for alimony and child support unless the CHA verifies that: (1) the payments are not being made, and (2) the family has made reasonable efforts to collect amounts due, including filing with courts or agencies responsible for enforcing payments [HCV GB, pp. 5-23 and 5-47] Housing Choice Voucher Program Guidebook, Chapter 5: Eligibility and Denial of Assistance.

Families who do not have court-awarded alimony and child support awards are not required to seek a court award and are not required to take independent legal action to obtain collection.

Regular Contributions or Gifts
The PHA must count as income regular monetary and nonmonetary contributions or gifts from persons not residing with an assisted family [24 CFR 5.609(c)(9)]. Temporary, nonrecurring, or sporadic income and gifts are not counted [24 CFR 5.609(c)(9)].

CHA Policy
Examples of regular contributions include: (1) regular payment of a family’s bills (e.g., utilities, telephone, rent, credit cards, and car payments), (2) cash provided to any family member on a regular basis, and (3) “in-kind” contributions such as groceries and clothing provided to a family on a regular basis.

Nonmonetary contributions will be valued at the cost of purchasing the items, as determined by the CHA. For contributions that may vary from month to month (e.g., utility payments), the CHA will include an average amount based upon past history.

6-I.L. Student Financial Assistance [24 CFR 5.609(b)(9)]
In 2005, Congress passed a law (for section 8 programs only) requiring that certain student financial assistance be included in annual income. Prior to that, the full amount of student financial assistance was excluded. For some students, the full exclusion still applies.

Student Financial Assistance Included in Annual Income [24 CFR 5.609(b)(9) and FR 4/10/06]
The regulation requiring the inclusion of certain student financial assistance applies only to students who satisfy all of the following conditions:

- They are enrolled in an institution of higher education, as defined under the Higher Education Act (HEA) of 1965.
They are seeking or receiving Section 8 assistance on their own—that is, apart from their parents—through the HCV program, the property-based certificate program, the property-based voucher program, or the moderate rehabilitation program.

They are under 24 years of age OR they have no dependent children.

For students who satisfy these three conditions, any financial assistance in excess of tuition received: (1) under the 1965 HEA, (2) from a private source, or (3) from an institution of higher education, as defined under the 1965 HEA, must be included in annual income.

To determine annual income in accordance with the above requirements, the PHA will use the definitions of dependent child, institution of higher education, and parents in Section 3-II.E. Students Enrolled in Institutions of Higher Education, along with the following definitions [FR 4/10/06, pp. 18148-18150]:


- Assistance from private sources means assistance from nongovernmental sources, including parents, guardians, and other persons not residing with the student in an HCV assisted unit.

- Tuition will have the meaning given this term by the Department of Education, which includes tuition and required fees covering a full academic year (see PIH 2015-21).

Student Financial Assistance Excluded from Annual Income [24 CFR 5.609(c)(6)]

Any student financial assistance not subject to inclusion under 24 CFR 5.609(b)(9) is fully excluded from annual income under 24 CFR 5.609(c)(6), whether it is paid directly to the student or to the educational institution the student is attending. This includes any financial assistance received by:

- Students residing with parents who are seeking or receiving Section 8 assistance
- Students who are enrolled in an educational institution that does not meet the 1965 HEA definition of institution of higher education
- Students who are over 23 AND have at least one dependent child, as defined in Section 3-II.E. Students Enrolled in institutions of Higher Education.
- Students who are receiving financial assistance through a governmental program not authorized under the 1965 HEA.

6-I.M. Additional Exclusions from Annual Income

Other exclusions contained in 24 CFR 5.609(c) that have not been discussed earlier in this chapter include the following:

- Reimbursement of medical expenses [24 CFR 5.609(c)(4)]

- Amounts received by participants in other publicly assisted programs which are specifically for or in reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses incurred and which are made solely to allow participation in a specific program [24 CFR 5.609(c)(8)(iii)]

- Amounts received by a person with a disability that are disregarded for a limited time for purposes of Supplemental Security Income eligibility and benefits because they are set aside for use under a Plan to Attain Self-Sufficiency (PASS) [(24 CFR 5.609(c)(8)(ii)]
Reparation payments paid by a foreign government pursuant to claims filed under the laws of that government by persons who were persecuted during the Nazi era [24 CFR 5.609(c)(10)]

Adoption assistance payments in excess of $480 per adopted child [24 CFR 5.609(c)(12)]

Refunds or rebates on property taxes paid on the dwelling unit [24 CFR 5.609(c)(15)]

Amounts paid by a state agency to a family with a member who has a developmental disability and is living at home to offset the cost of services and equipment needed to keep the developmentally disabled family member at home [24 CFR 5.609(c)(16)]

Amounts specifically excluded by any other federal statute [24 CFR 5.609(c)(17)]. HUD publishes an updated list of these exclusions periodically. It includes:

(a) The value of the allotment provided to an eligible household under the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 2017(b))

(b) Payments to Volunteers under the Domestic Volunteer Services Act of 1973 (42 U.S.C. 5044(g), 5058)

(c) Payments received under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1626(c))

(d) Income derived from certain sub marginal land of the United States that is held in trust for certain Indian tribes (25 U.S.C. 459e)

(e) Payments or allowances made under the Department of Health and Human Services’ Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program [42 U.S.C. 8624(f)]

(f) Payments received under programs funded in whole or in part under the Job Training Partnership Act (29 U.S.C. 1552(b)) (Effective July 1, 2000, references to Job Training Partnership Act shall be deemed to refer to the corresponding provision of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2931).

(g) Income derived from the disposition of funds to the Grand River Band of Ottawa Indians [Pub. L. 94-540, 90 Stat. 2503-04]

(h) The first $2,000 of per capita shares received from judgment funds awarded by the Indian Claims Commission or the U. S. Claims Court, the interests of individual Indians in trust or restricted lands, including the first $2,000 per year of income received by individual Indians from funds derived from interests held in such trust or restricted lands [25 U.S.C. 1407-1408]

(i) Payments received from programs funded under Title V of the Older Americans Act of 1985 (42 U.S.C. 3056(f))

(j) Payments received on or after January 1, 1989, from the Agent Orange Settlement Fund or any other fund established pursuant to the settlement in In Re Agent-product liability litigation, M.D.L. No. 381 (E.D.N.Y).

(k) Payments received under the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act of 1980 (25 U.S.C. 1721)

(l) The value of any child care provided or arranged (or any amount received as payment for such care or reimbursement for costs incurred for such care) under the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858q)

(m) Earned income tax credit (EITC) refund payments [26 U.S.C. 32(j)] received on or after January 1, 1991.

(n) Payments by the Indian Claims Commission to the Confederated Tribes and Bands of Yakima Indian Nation or the Apache Tribe of Mescalero Reservation (Pub. L. 95-433)
(o) Allowances, earnings and payments to AmeriCorps participants under the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12637(d))

(p) Any allowance paid under the provisions of 38 U.S.C. 1805 to a child suffering from spina bifida who is the child of a Vietnam veteran (38 U.S.C. 1805)

(q) Any amount of crime victim compensation (under the Victims of Crime Act) received through crime victim assistance (or payment or reimbursement of the cost of such assistance) as determined under the Victims of Crime Act because of the commission of a crime against the applicant under the Victims of Crime Act (42 U.S.C. 10602)

(r) Allowances, earnings and payments to individuals participating in programs under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2931)

Part II: Adjusted Income

6-II.A. Introduction

Overview

HUD regulations require PHAs to deduct from annual income any of five mandatory deductions for which a family qualifies. The resulting amount is the family’s adjusted income. Mandatory deductions are found in 24 CFR 5.611.

5.611(a) Mandatory deductions. In determining adjusted income, the responsible entity [PHA] must deduct the following amounts from annual income:

(1) $480 for each dependent;

(2) $400 for any elderly family or disabled family;

(3) The sum of the following, to the extent the sum exceeds three percent of annual income:

(i) Unreimbursed medical expenses of any elderly family or disabled family;

(ii) Unreimbursed reasonable attendant care and auxiliary apparatus expenses for each member of the family who is a person with disabilities, to the extent necessary to enable any member of the family (including the member who is a person with disabilities) to be employed. This deduction may not exceed the earned income received by family members who are 18 years of age or older and who are able to work because of such attendant care or auxiliary apparatus; and

(4) Any reasonable child care expenses necessary to enable a member of the family to be employed or to further his or her education.

This part covers policies related to these mandatory deductions. Verification requirements related to these deductions are found in Chapter 7- Verification.

Anticipating Expenses

Generally, the CHA will use current circumstances to anticipate expenses. When possible, for costs that are expected to fluctuate during the year (e.g., child care during school and non-school periods), the CHA will estimate costs based on historic data and known future costs.

In the case of medical expenses, the CHA will use receipts from the last 12 months as anticipated future expenses (e.g., printout of prescription expenses from a drug store, and doctor’s statement of costs for medical treatment and payments). If a family has an accumulated debt for medical or disability assistance expenses, the CHA will
include as an eligible expense the portion of the debt that the family expects to pay during the period for which the income determination is being made. However, amounts previously deducted will not be allowed even if the amounts were not paid as expected in a preceding period. The CHA may require the family to provide documentation of payments made in the preceding year.

6-II.B. Dependent Deduction
A deduction of $480 is taken for each dependent [24 CFR 5.611(a)(1)]. Dependent is defined as any family member other than the head, spouse, or co-head who is under the age of 18 or who is 18 or older and is a person with disabilities or a full-time student. Foster children, foster adults, and live-in aides are never considered dependents [24 CFR 5.603(b)].

6-II.C. Elderly or Disabled Family Deduction
A single deduction of $400 is taken for any elderly or disabled family [24 CFR 5.611(a)(2)]. An elderly family is a family whose head, spouse, co-head, or sole member is 62 years of age or older, and a disabled family is a family whose head, spouse, co-head, or sole member is a person with disabilities [24 CFR 5.403].

6-II.D. Medical Expenses Deduction [24 CFR 5.611(a)(3)(i)]
Unreimbursed medical expenses may be deducted to the extent that, in combination with any disability assistance expenses, they exceed three percent of annual income.

The medical expense deduction is permitted only for families in which the head, spouse, or co-head is at least 62 or is a person with disabilities. If a family is eligible for a medical expense deduction, the medical expenses of all family members are counted [Verification Guidance, page 28].

Definition of Medical Expenses
HUD regulations define medical expenses at 24 CFR 5.603(b) to mean “medical expenses, including medical insurance premiums, that are anticipated during the period for which annual income is computed, and that are not covered by insurance.”

CHA Policy
The most current IRS Publication 502, Medical and Dental Expenses, will be used to determine the costs that qualify as medical expenses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summary of Allowable Medical Expenses from IRS Publication 502</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Services of medical professionals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surgery and medical procedures that are necessary, legal, non-cosmetic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services of medical facilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospitalization, long-term care, and in-home nursing services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prescription medicines and insulin, but not nonprescription medicines even if recommended by a doctor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Substance abuse treatment programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychiatric treatment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ambulance services and some costs of transportation related to medical expenses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The cost and care of necessary equipment related to a medical condition (e.g., eyeglasses/lenses, hearing aids, crutches, and artificial teeth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost and continuing care of necessary service animals</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Improvements to housing directly related to medical needs (e.g., ramps for a wheel chair, handrails) | Medical insurance premiums or the cost of a health maintenance organization (HMO)

**Note:** This chart provides a summary of eligible medical expenses only. Detailed information is provided in IRS Publication 502. Medical expenses are considered only to the extent they are not reimbursed by insurance or some other source.

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work” [HCV GB, p. 5-30] Housing Choice Voucher Program Guidebook, Chapter 5: Eligibility and Denial of Assistance.

HUD advises PHA to further define and describe auxiliary apparatus [Verification Guidance, page 30].

Eligible Auxiliary Apparatus

CHA Policy

Expenses incurred for maintaining or repairing an auxiliary apparatus are eligible. In the case of an apparatus that is specially adapted to accommodate a person with disabilities (e.g., a vehicle or computer), the cost to maintain the special adaptations (but not maintenance of the apparatus itself) is an eligible expense. The cost of service animals trained to give assistance to persons with disabilities, including the cost of acquiring the animal, veterinary care, food, grooming, and other continuing costs of care, will be included.

Eligible Attendant Care

The family determines the type of attendant care that is appropriate for the person with disabilities.

CHA Policy

Attendant care includes, but is not limited to, reasonable costs for home medical care, nursing services, in-home or center-based care services, interpreters for persons with hearing impairments, and readers for persons with visual disabilities.

Attendant care expenses will be included for the period that the person enabled to work is employed plus reasonable transportation time. The cost of general housekeeping and personal services is not an eligible attendant care expense. However, if the person enabled to work is the person with disabilities, personal services necessary to enable the person with disabilities to work are eligible.

If the care attendant also provides other services to the family, the CHA will prorate the cost and allow only that portion of the expenses attributable to attendant care that enables a family member to work. For example, if the care provider also cares for a child who is not the person with disabilities, the cost of care must be prorated. Unless otherwise specified by the care provider, the calculation will be based upon the number of hours spent in each activity and/or the number of persons under care.

Payments to Family Members

No disability assistance expenses may be deducted for payments to a member of an assisted family [24 CFR 5.603(b)]. However, expenses paid to a relative who is not a member of the assisted family may be deducted if they are not reimbursed by an outside source.

Necessary and Reasonable Expenses

The family determines the type of care or auxiliary apparatus to be provided and must describe how the expenses enable a family member to work. The family must certify that the disability assistance expenses are necessary and are not paid or reimbursed by any other source.

CHA Policy

The CHA determines the reasonableness of the expenses based on typical costs of care or apparatus in the locality. To establish typical costs, the CHA will collect information from organizations that provide services and support to persons with disabilities. A family may present, and the CHA will consider, the family’s justification for costs that exceed typical costs in the area.
Families That Qualify for Both Medical and Disability Assistance Expenses

CHA Policy
This policy applies only to families in which the head or spouse is 62 or older or is a person with disabilities.

When expenses anticipated by a family could be defined as either medical or disability assistance expenses, the CHA will consider them medical expenses unless it is clear that the expenses are incurred exclusively to enable a person with disabilities to work.

6-II.F. Child Care Expense Deduction
HUD defines child care expenses at 24 CFR 5.603(b) as “amounts anticipated to be paid by the family for the care of children under 13 years of age during the period for which annual income is computed, but only where such care is necessary to enable a family member to actively seek employment, be gainfully employed, or to further his or her education and only to the extent such amounts are not reimbursed. The amount deducted shall reflect reasonable charges for child care. In the case of child care necessary to permit employment, the amount deducted shall not exceed the amount of employment income that is included in annual income.”

Clarifying the Meaning of Child for This Deduction
Child care expenses do not include child support payments made to another on behalf of a minor who is not living in an assisted family’s household [Verification Guidance, page 26]. However, child care expenses for foster children that are living in the assisted family’s household, are included when determining the family’s child care expenses [HCV GB, p. 5-29] Housing Choice Voucher Program Guidebook, Chapter 5: Eligibility and Denial of Assistance.

Qualifying for the Deduction

Determining Who Is Enabled to Pursue an Eligible Activity

CHA Policy
The family must identify the family member(s) enabled to pursue an eligible activity. The term eligible activity in this section means any of the activities that may make the family eligible for a child care deduction (seeking work, pursuing an education, or being gainfully employed).

In evaluating the family’s request, the CHA will consider factors such as how the schedule for the claimed activity relates to the hours of care provided, the time required for transportation, the relationship of the family member(s) to the child, and any special needs of the child that might help determine which family member is enabled to pursue an eligible activity.

Seeking Work

CHA Policy
If the child care expense being claimed is to enable a family member to seek employment, the family must provide evidence of the family member’s efforts to obtain employment at each reexamination. The deduction may be reduced or denied if the family member’s job search efforts are not commensurate with the child care expense being allowed by the CHA.

Furthering Education

CHA Policy
If the child care expense being claimed is to enable a family member to further his or her education, the member must be enrolled in school (academic or vocational) or participating in a formal training program. The
family member is not required to be a full-time student, but the time spent in educational activities must be commensurate with the child care claimed.

**Being Gainfully Employed**

**CHA Policy**

If the child care expense being claimed is to enable a family member to be gainfully employed, the family must provide evidence of the family member’s employment during the time that child care is being provided. Gainful employment is any legal work activity (full- or part-time) for which a family member is compensated.

**Earned Income Limit on Child Care Expense Deduction**

When a family member looks for work or furthers his or her education, there is no cap on the amount that may be deducted for child care – although the care must still be necessary and reasonable. However, when child care enables a family member to work, the deduction is capped by “the amount of employment income that is included in annual income” [24 CFR 5.603(b)].

The earned income used for this purpose is the amount of earned income verified after any earned income disallowances or income exclusions are applied.

When the person who is enabled to work is a person with disabilities who receives the earned income disallowance (EID) or a full-time student whose earned income above $480 is excluded, child care costs related to enabling a family member to work may not exceed the portion of the person’s earned income that actually is included in annual income. For example, if a family member who qualifies for the EID makes $15,000 but because of the EID only $5,000 is included in annual income, child care expenses are limited to $5,000.

The PHA must not limit the deduction to the least expensive type of child care. If the care allows the family to pursue more than one eligible activity, including work, the cap is calculated in proportion to the amount of time spent working [HCV GB, p. 5-30] Housing Choice Voucher Program Guidebook, Chapter 5: Eligibility and Denial of Assistance.

**CHA Policy**

When the child care expense being claimed is to enable a family member to work, only one family member’s income will be considered for a given period of time. When more than one family member works during a given period, the CHA generally will limit allowable child care expenses to the earned income of the lowest-paid member. The family may provide information that supports a request to designate another family member as the person enabled to work.

**Eligible Child Care Expenses**

The type of care to be provided is determined by the assisted family. The PHA may not refuse to give a family the child care expense deduction because there is an adult family member in the household that may be available to provide child care. [Verification Guidance, page 26]

**Allowable Child Care Activities**

**CHA Policy**

For school-age children, costs attributable to public or private school activities during standard school hours are not considered. Expenses incurred for supervised activities after school or during school holidays (e.g., summer day camp, after-school sports league) are allowable forms of child care.

The costs of general housekeeping and personal services are not eligible. Likewise, child care expenses paid to a family member who lives in the family’s unit are not eligible; however, payments for child care to relatives who do not live in the unit are eligible.
If a child care provider also renders other services to a family or child care is used to enable a family member to conduct activities that are not eligible for consideration, the CHA will prorate the costs and allow only that portion of the expenses that is attributable to child care for eligible activities. For example, if the care provider also cares for a child with disabilities who is 13 or older, the cost of care will be prorated. Unless otherwise specified by the child care provider, the calculation will be based upon the number of hours spent in each activity and/or the number of persons under care.

**Necessary and Reasonable Costs**

Child care expenses will be considered necessary if: (1) a family adequately explains how the care enables a family member to work, actively seek employment, or further his or her education, and (2) the family certifies, and the child care provider verifies, that the expenses are not paid or reimbursed by any other source.

**CHA Policy**

Child care expenses will be considered for the time required for the eligible activity plus reasonable transportation time. For child care that enables a family member to go to school, the time allowed may include not more than one study hour for each hour spent in class.

To establish the reasonableness of child care costs, the CHA will use the schedule of child care costs from the Illinois Department of Human Services, published yearly as reasonable payment for home child care providers in Cook County. Families may present, and the CHA will consider, justification for costs that exceed typical costs in the area but will require additional documentation.

6-II.J. Child Support Payment Deduction

Applicants and participants can deduct 100 percent of their child support payments made if the proper verification is provided. The annualized amount should be added to the 50058 as excluded income. If the applicant/participant checks that they pay child support, but does not provide any supporting documentation, no deduction is given. This deduction is available to all working adult household members who are required to pay child support. The amount should be annualized the same way as those who receive child support as income, irrespective of the amount on the application, and 100% of their payments must be deducted. Verification of payment can be one of the following:

- Pay stubs where the payments are automatically deducted: or
- Printout from DCFS showing amount paid: or
- Court document showing payments are being made and the specific amounts

The annualized amount should be added to the 50058 as excluded income in column 7e of the corresponding wages, and under 7c (PHA Use) staff must enter “Child Support.” If the applicant/participant checks that they pay child support, but does not provide any supporting documentation, no deduction is given.

Part III: Calculating Family Share and PHA Subsidy

6-III.A. Overview of Rent and Subsidy Calculations

**TTP Formula**

[24 CFR 5.628]

HUD regulations specify the formula for calculating the total tenant payment (TTP) for an assisted family. TTP is the highest of the following amounts, rounded to the nearest dollar:

- 30 percent of the family’s monthly adjusted income (adjusted income is defined in Part II)
10 percent of the family’s monthly gross income (annual income, as defined in Part I, divided by 12)

- A minimum rent between $0 and $50 that is established by the PHA

The PHA has authority to suspend and exempt families from minimum rent when a financial hardship exists, as defined in Section 6-III.B. Financial Hardships Affecting Minimum Rent below.

The amount that a family pays for rent and utilities (the family share) will never be less than the family’s TTP but may be greater than the TTP depending on the rent charged for the unit the family selects.

**Minimum Rent**

[24 CFR 5.630]

*CHA Policy*

**CHA’s MTW Agreement** allows for a minimum rent of $75.

**PHA Subsidy**

[24 CFR 982.505(b)]

The PHA will pay a monthly housing assistance payment (HAP) for a family that is equal to the lower of (1) the applicable payment standard for the family minus the family’s TTP or (2) the gross rent for the family’s unit minus the TTP. (For a discussion of the application of payment standards, see Section 6-III.C. Applying Payment Standards)

**Utility Reimbursement**

[24 CFR 982.514(b)]

When the PHA subsidy for a family exceeds the rent to owner, the family is due a utility reimbursement.

*CHA Policy*

The CHA will make utility reimbursements to the family.

**6-III.B. Financial Hardships Affecting Minimum Rent**

[24 CFR 5.630]

*Overview*

If the PHA establishes a minimum rent greater than zero, the PHA must grant an exemption from the minimum rent if a family is unable to pay the minimum rent because of financial hardship.

The financial hardship exemption applies only to families required to pay the minimum rent. If a family’s TTP is higher than the minimum rent, the family is not eligible for a hardship exemption. If the PHA determines that a hardship exists, the family share is the highest of the remaining components of the family’s calculated TTP.

**HUD-Defined Financial Hardship**

Financial hardship includes the following situations:

(1) The family has lost eligibility for or is awaiting an eligibility determination for a federal, state, or local assistance program. This includes a family member who is a noncitizen lawfully admitted for permanent residence under the Immigration and Nationality Act who would be entitled to public benefits but for Title IV of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act of 1996.
CHA Policy
A hardship will be considered to exist only if the loss of eligibility has an impact on the family’s ability to pay the minimum rent.

For a family waiting for a determination of eligibility, the hardship period will end as of the first of the month following: (1) implementation of assistance, if approved, or (2) the decision to deny assistance. A family whose request for assistance is denied may request a hardship exemption based upon one of the other allowable hardship circumstances.

(2) The family would be evicted because it is unable to pay the minimum rent.

CHA Policy
For a family to qualify under this provision, the cause of the potential eviction must be the family’s failure to pay rent to the owner or tenant-paid utilities.

(3) Family income has decreased because of changed family circumstances, including the loss of employment.

(4) A death has occurred in the family.

CHA Policy
In order to qualify under this provision, a family must describe how the death has created a financial hardship (e.g., because of funeral-related expenses or the loss of the family member’s income).

(5) The family has experienced other circumstances determined by the PHA.

CHA Policy
The CHA has not established any additional hardship criteria.

Implementation of Hardship Exemption

Determination of Hardship
When a family requests a financial hardship exemption, the PHA must suspend the minimum rent requirement beginning the first of the month following the family’s request.

The PHA then determines whether the financial hardship exists and whether the hardship is temporary or long-term.

CHA Policy
The CHA defines temporary hardship as a hardship expected to last 90 calendar days or less. Long-term hardship is defined as a hardship expected to last more than 90 calendar days.

When the minimum rent is suspended, the family share reverts to the highest of the remaining components of the calculated TTP. The example below demonstrates the effect of the minimum rent exemption.

Example: Impact of Minimum Rent Exemption
Assume the PHA has established a minimum rent of $35.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family Share – No Hardship</th>
<th>Family Share – With Hardship</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$0 30% of monthly adjusted income</td>
<td>$0 30% of monthly adjusted income</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CHA Policy
To qualify for a hardship exemption, a family must submit a request for a hardship exemption in writing. The request must explain the nature of the hardship and how the hardship has affected the family’s ability to pay the minimum rent.

The CHA will make the determination of hardship within 30 calendar days.

No Financial Hardship
If the PHA determines there is no financial hardship, the PHA will reinstate the minimum rent and require the family to repay the amounts suspended.

CHA Policy
The CHA will require the family to repay the suspended amount within 30 calendar days of the CHA’s notice that a hardship exemption has not been granted.

Temporary Hardship
If the PHA determines that a qualifying financial hardship is temporary, the PHA must suspend the minimum rent for the 90-day period beginning the first of the month following the date of the family’s request for a hardship exemption.

At the end of the 90-day suspension period, the family must resume payment of the minimum rent and must repay the PHA the amounts suspended. HUD requires the PHA to offer a reasonable repayment agreement, on terms and conditions established by the PHA. The PHA also may determine that circumstances have changed and the hardship is now a long-term hardship.

CHA Policy
The CHA will enter into a repayment agreement in accordance with the procedures found in Chapter 16- Program Administration.

Long-Term Hardship
If the PHA determines that the financial hardship is long-term, the PHA must exempt the family from the minimum rent requirement for so long as the hardship continues. The exemption will apply from the first of the month following the family’s request until the end of the qualifying hardship. When the financial hardship has been determined to be long-term, the family is not required to repay the minimum rent.

CHA Policy
The hardship period ends when any of the following circumstances apply:

1. At an interim or regular reexamination, the family’s calculated TTP is greater than the minimum rent.

2. For hardship conditions based on loss of income, the hardship condition will continue to be recognized until new sources of income are received that are at least equal to the amount lost. For example, if a hardship is approved because a family no longer receives a $60/month child support payment, the
hardship will continue to exist until the family receives at least $60/month in income from another source or once again begins to receive the child support.

(3) For hardship conditions based upon hardship-related expenses, the minimum rent exemption will continue to be recognized until the cumulative amount exempted is equal to the expense incurred.

6-III.C. Applying Payment Standards

**Overview**

The PHA’s schedule of payment standards is used to calculate housing assistance payments for HCV families. This section covers the application of the PHA’s payment standards. The establishment and revision of the PHA’s payment standard schedule are covered in Chapter 16- Program Administration.

*Payment standard* is defined as “the maximum monthly assistance payment for a family assisted in the voucher program (before deducting the total tenant payment by the family)” [24 CFR 982.4(b)].

The payment standard for a family is the lower of (1) the payment standard for the family unit size, which is defined as the appropriate number of bedrooms for the family under the PHA’s subsidy standards [24 CFR 982.4(b)], or (2) the payment standard for the size of the dwelling unit rented by the family.

If the PHA has established an exception payment standard for a designated part of an FMR area and a family’s unit is located in the exception area, the PHA must use the appropriate payment standard for the exception area.

The PHA is required to pay a monthly housing assistance payment (HAP) for a family that is the lower of (1) the payment standard for the family minus the family’s TTP or (2) the gross rent for the family’s unit minus the TTP.

If during the term of the HAP contract for a family’s unit, the owner lowers the rent, the PHA will recalculate the HAP using the lower of the initial payment standard or the gross rent for the unit [Housing Choice Voucher Guidebook, Chapter 7: Payment Standards].

**Changes in Payment Standards**

When the PHA revises its payment standards during the term of the HAP contract for a family’s unit, it will apply the new payment standards in accordance with HUD regulations.

*Decreases*

Families under a HAP contract at the time of a decrease in the payment standard will continue to use the higher payment standard as long as they continue to receive voucher assistance in that unit.

*Increases*

If the payment standard is increased during the term of the HAP contract, the increased payment standard will be used to calculate the monthly housing assistance payment for the family beginning on the effective date of the family’s first regular reexamination on or after the effective date of the increase in the payment standard.

Families requiring or requesting interim reexaminations will not have their HAP payments calculated using the higher payment standard until their next regular reexamination [Housing Choice Voucher Guidebook: Chapter 7: Payment Standards].

*Changes in Family Unit Size*

Irrespective of any increase or decrease in the payment standard, if the family unit size increases or decreases during the HAP contract term, the new family unit size must be used to determine the payment standard for the family beginning at the family’s first regular reexamination following the change in family unit size.
Reasonable Accommodation
If a family requires a higher payment standard as a reasonable accommodation for a family member who is a person with disabilities, the PHA is allowed to establish a higher payment standard for the family within the basic range.

6-III.D. Applying Utility Allowances
[24 CFR 982.517]

Overview
A PHA-established utility allowance schedule is used in determining family share and PHA subsidy. The PHA must use the utility allowance for the lesser of the size of dwelling unit actually leased and the voucher unit size for which the family qualifies using the PHA subsidy standards. See Chapter 5- Briefings and Voucher Issuance for information on the PHA’s subsidy standards.

For policies on establishing and updating utility allowances, see Chapter 16- Program Administration.

Reasonable Accommodation
HCV program regulations require PHAs to approve a utility allowance amount higher than shown on the PHA’s schedule if a higher allowance is needed as a reasonable accommodation for a family member with a disability. For example, if a family member with a disability requires such an accommodation, the PHA will approve an allowance for air-conditioning, even if the PHA has determined that an allowance for air-conditioning generally is not needed.

The family must request the higher allowance and provide the PHA with an explanation of the need for the reasonable accommodation and information about the amount of additional allowance required [Housing Choice Voucher Guidebook, Chapter 18: Allowances for Utilities and Other Services).

Utility Allowance Revisions
At reexamination, the PHA must use the PHA current utility allowance schedule [24 CFR 982.517(d)(2)].

CHA Policy
Revised utility allowances will be applied to a family’s rent and subsidy calculations at the first regular reexamination that is effective after the allowance is adopted.

6-III.E. Prorated Assistance for Mixed Families
[24 CFR 5.520]

HUD regulations prohibit assistance to ineligible family members. A mixed family is one that includes at least one U.S. citizen or eligible immigrant and any number of ineligible family members. The PHA must prorate the assistance provided to a mixed family. The PHA will first determine assistance as if all family members were eligible and then prorate the assistance based upon the percentage of family members that actually are eligible. For example, if the PHA subsidy for a family is calculated at $500 and two of four family members are ineligible, the PHA subsidy would be reduced to $250.

HHS Definition of Assistance
45 CFR: General Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

260.31 What does the term “assistance” mean?
(1) The term “assistance” includes cash, payments, vouchers, and other forms of benefits designed to meet a family’s ongoing basic needs (i.e., for food, clothing, shelter, utilities, household goods, personal care items, and general incidental expenses).

(2) It includes such benefits even when they are:

(i) Provided in the form of payments by a TANF agency, or other agency on its behalf, to individual recipients; and

(ii) Conditioned on participation in work experience or community service (or any other work activity under 261.30 of this chapter).

(3) Except where excluded under paragraph (b) of this section, it also includes supportive services such as transportation and child care provided to families who are not employed.

(b) [The definition of “assistance”] excludes: (1) Non-recurrent, short-term benefits that:

(i) Are designed to deal with a specific crisis situation or episode of need;

(ii) Are not intended to meet recurrent or ongoing needs; and

(iii) Will not extend beyond four months.

(4) Work subsidies (i.e., payments to employers or third parties to help cover the costs of employee wages, benefits, supervision, and training);

(5) Supportive services such as child care and transportation provided to families who are employed;

(6) Refundable earned income tax credits;

(7) Contributions to, and distributions from, Individual Development Accounts;

(8) Services such as counseling, case management, peer support, child care information and referral, transitional services, job retention, job advancement, and other employment-related services that do not provide basic income support; and

(9) Transportation benefits provided under a Job Access or Reverse Commute project, pursuant to section 404(k) of [the Social Security] Act, to an individual who is not otherwise receiving assistance.
Chapter 7-Verification


Introduction
The PHA must verify all information that is used to establish the family’s eligibility and level of assistance and is required to obtain the family’s consent to collect the information. Applicants and program participants must cooperate with the verification process as a condition of receiving assistance. The PHA must not pass on the cost of verification to the family.

The PHA will follow the verification guidance provided by HUD in PIH Notice 2010-3, Verification of Social Security and Supplemental Security Income Benefits, PIH Notice 2010-19, Administrative Guidance for Effective and Mandated Use of the Enterprise Income Verification System and any subsequent guidance issued by HUD. This chapter summarizes those requirements and provides supplementary PHA policies.

Part I: General Verification Requirements describes the general verification process. More detailed requirements related to individual factors are provided in subsequent parts including family information (Part II: Verifying Family Information), income and assets (Part III: Verifying Income), and mandatory deductions (Part IV: Verifying Mandatory Deductions).

Verification policies, rules and procedures will be modified as needed to accommodate persons with disabilities. All information obtained through the verification process will be handled in accordance with the records management policies of the PHA.

Part I: General Verification Requirements

7-I.A. Family Consent to Release of Information
24 CFR 982.516 and 982.551, 24 CFR 5.230

The family must supply any information that the PHA or HUD determines is necessary to the administration of the program and must consent to PHA verification of that information [24 CFR 982.551].

Consent Forms
It is required that all adult applicants and participants sign form HUD-9886, Authorization for Release of Information. The purpose of form HUD-9886 is to facilitate automated data collection and computer matching from specific sources and provides the family’s consent only for the specific purposes listed on the form. HUD and the PHA may collect information from State Wage Information Collection Agencies (SWICAs) and current and former employers of adult family members. Only HUD is authorized to collect information directly from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and the Social Security Administration (SSA). Adult family members must sign other consent forms as needed to collect information relevant to the family’s eligibility and level of assistance.

CHA Policy
The CHA will use the HUD-9886: Authorization for the Release of Information/Privacy Act Notice and an Addendum to the HUD-9886 in order to implement biennial and triennial reexaminations under its MTW Plan.

Penalties for Failing to Consent
24 CFR 5.232
If any family member who is required to sign a consent form fails to do so, the PHA will deny admission to
applicants and terminate assistance of participants. The family may request an informal review (applicants) or informal hearing (participants) in accordance with the PHA procedures.

7-I.B. Overview of Verification Requirements

HUD’s Verification Hierarchy

HUD authorizes the PHA to use five methods to verify family information and specifies the circumstances in which each method will be used. In general HUD requires the PHA to use the most reliable form of verification that is available and to document the reasons when the PHA uses a lesser form of verification.

**CHA Policy**

In order of priority, the forms of verification that the CHA will use are:

- Up-front Income Verification (UIV)
- Review of Documents
- Third-party Written Verification
- Third Party Oral Verification
- Self-Certification

Each of the verification methods is discussed in subsequent sections below. Exhibit 7-1: Summary of Documentation Requirements for Noncitizens contains an excerpt from the notice that provides guidance with respect to how each method may be used.

Requirements for Acceptable Documents

**CHA Policy**

Any documents used for verification must be the original (not photocopies) and generally must be dated within 120 calendar days of the date they are provided to the CHA. The documents must not be damaged, altered or in any way illegible.

The CHA will accept documents dated up to six months before the effective date of the family’s reexamination if the document represents the most recent scheduled report from a source. For example, if the holder of a pension annuity provides semi-annual reports, the CHA would accept the most recent report.

The CHA will accept the Social Security Administration Award Letter if issued within last 12 months.

Print-outs from web pages are considered original documents.

The CHA staff member who views the original document will make a photocopy of the document for the CHA files.

Any family self-certifications must be made in a format acceptable to the CHA and must be signed in the presence of a CHA representative.

File Documentation

The PHA must document in the file how the figures used in income and rent calculations were determined. All verification attempts, information obtained, and decisions reached during the verification process will be recorded in the family’s file in sufficient detail to demonstrate that the PHA has followed all of the verification policies set forth in this plan. The record should be sufficient to enable a staff member or HUD reviewer to
understand the process followed and conclusions reached.

CHA Policy
The CHA will document, in the family file, the following:
- Reported family annual income
- Expenses related to deductions from annual income
- Other factors influencing the adjusted income or income-based rent determination

When the PHA is unable to obtain third party verification, the PHA will document in the family file the reason that third-party verification was not available and will place a photocopy of any original document(s) in the family file. [24 CFR 960.259(c)(1), [Verification Guidance, page 15]

7-I.C. Up-Front Income Verification (UIV)
Up-front income verification (UIV) refers to the PHA’s use of the verification tools available from independent sources that maintain computerized information about income and benefits. UIV will be used to the extent that these systems are available to the PHA.

CHA Policy
The CHA will inform all applicants and participants of its use of the following UIV resources during the admission and reexamination process:
- HUD’s EIV system
- Department of Human Services
- Child Support

The CHA may use other non-governmental sources such as the Work Number.

There may be legitimate differences between the information provided by the family and UIV-generated information. No adverse action can be taken against a family until the PHA has independently verified the UIV information and the family has been granted an opportunity to contest any adverse findings through the informal review/hearing process of the PHA.

See Chapter 6 for the CHA’s policy on the use of UIV/EIV to project annual income.

Use of HUD’s Enterprise Income Verification (EIV) System
HUD’s EIV system contains data showing earned income, unemployment benefits, and social security benefits and SSI benefits for participant families. HUD requires the PHA to use the EIV system in its entirety. The following policies will apply to the use of HUD’s EIV system.

The EIV system contains two main components: tenant income data reports and “exceeds threshold” reports.

Tenant Income Data (TID) Reports
The data shown on TID reports is updated quarterly. Data may be between three and six months old at the time reports are generated.
CHA Policy
The CHA will obtain TID reports for regular reexaminations on a monthly basis as part of the regular reexamination process.

TID reports will be compared to family-provided information as part of the regular reexamination process. TID reports may be used in the verification of annual income, as described in Chapter 6.I.C. Anticipating Annual Income. TID reports may also be used to meet the regulatory requirement for third party verification, as described above. Policies for resolving discrepancies between TID reports and family-provided information will be resolved as described in Chapter 6.I.C. Anticipating Annual Income and in this chapter.

TID reports will be used in interim reexaminations when it is necessary to verify and calculate earned income, unemployment benefits, Social Security and/or SSI benefits, and to verify that adult household members claiming zero income are not receiving income from any of these sources.

TID reports will be retained in participant files with the applicable regular or interim reexamination documents.

When the CHA determines through TID reports and third-party verification that a family has concealed or under-reported income, corrective action will be taken pursuant to the policies in Chapter 14- Program Integrity, Program Integrity.

Income Discrepancy Reports (IDRs)
The IDR is a tool for identifying families who may have concealed or under-reported income. Data in the IDR represents income for past reporting periods and may be between six months and 30 months old at the time IDRs are generated.

Families who have not concealed or under-reported income may appear on the IDR in some circumstances, such as loss of a job or addition of new family members.

CHA Policy
The CHA will generate and review IDRs periodically. The IDR threshold percentage will be adjusted as necessary based on the findings in the IDRs.

In reviewing IDRs, the CHA will begin with the largest discrepancies.

When the CHA determines that a participant appearing on the IDR has not concealed or under-reported income, the participant’s name will be placed on a list of “false positive” reviews. To avoid multiple reviews in this situation, participants appearing on this list will be eliminated from IDR processing until a subsequent interim or regular reexamination has been completed.

When it appears that a family may have concealed or under-reported income, the CHA will request third-party written verification of the income in question.

When the CHA determines through IDR review and third-party verification that a family has concealed or under-reported income, corrective action will be taken pursuant to the policies in Chapter 14- Program Integrity.
**EIV Identity Verification**
The EIV system verifies tenant identities against SSA records. These records are compared to PIC data for a match on social security number, name, and date of birth.

PHAs are required to use EIV’s *Identity Verification Report* on a monthly basis to improve the availability of income information in EIV [Notice PIH 2010-3].

When identity verification for a participant fails, a message will be displayed within the EIV system and no income information will be displayed.

*CHA Policy*
The CHA will identify participants whose identity verification has failed by reviewing EIV’s *Identity Verification Report* on a monthly basis.

The CHA will attempt to resolve PIC/SSA discrepancies by obtaining appropriate documentation from the tenant, updating section 3 of the form HUD-50058, and transmitting a revised form HUD-50058 into PIC. When the CHA determines that discrepancies exist due to CHA errors such as spelling errors or incorrect birth dates, the errors will be corrected promptly.

*Note:* The availability of certain income information in the EIV system, such as that pertaining to SS and SSI benefits, depends on the quality of PHA data and the timely submission of form HUD-50058 in the PIC system. The PHA must submit form HUD-50058 electronically, and ensure that data entered in section 3 of the form is complete and accurate. If a family’s form is not successfully submitted to PIC, income information will not be available in PIC [Notice PIH 2010-3].

To avoid duplicate subsidy, CHA staff checks the Existing Tenant Search in EIV for all household members prior to initial lease up as well as before adding any individual to a voucher. If a household member is found to have an existing subsidy, the new lease up or interim to add the household member should be denied until the potential multiple subsidy issue is resolved.

**7-I.D. Review of Documents**

*Using Review of Documents as Verification*

*CHA Policy*
The CHA will use documents provided by the family as verification.

The CHA may also review documents when necessary to help clarify information provided by third parties. In such cases the CHA will document in the file how the CHA arrived at a final conclusion about the income or expense to include in its calculations.

**7-I.E. Third-Party Written and Oral Verification**

*Reasonable Effort and Timing*

Unless third-party verification is not required as described below, HUD requires the PHA to make at least two unsuccessful attempts to obtain third-party verification before using another form of verification [Verification Guidance, page 15].

*CHA Policy*
The CHA will diligently seek third-party verification using a combination of written and oral requests to verification sources. Information received orally from third parties may be used either to clarify information provided in writing by the third party or as independent verification when written third-party verification is not received in a timely fashion.

The CHA may mail, fax, e-mail, or hand deliver third-party written verification requests and will accept third-party responses using any of these methods. The CHA will send a written request for verification to each required source and give the source 10 calendar days to respond in writing. If a response has not been received by the 11th calendar day, the CHA may request third-party oral verification.

The CHA will make two attempts to obtain third-party verification. A record of each attempt to contact the third-party source (including no-answer calls) and all contacts with the source will be documented in the file.

When any source responds verbally to the initial written request for verification the CHA will accept the verbal response but will also request that the source complete and return any verification forms that were provided.

If a third party agrees to confirm in writing the information provided orally, the CHA will wait no more than seven calendar days for the information to be provided. If the information is not provided by the eighth calendar day, the CHA will use any information provided orally in combination with the information provided by the family.

The CHA will use a SSA benefit verification letter provided by the family or an EIV income report that displays the social security benefit amount as the third-party verification. No additional verification will be conducted by the CHA.

In the case of applicants, the CHA will request that the applicant provide a benefit verification letter dated within the last 60 calendar days for each family member that receives social security and/or supplemental security income. If the family does not have a current benefit letter:

- The CHA will assist the applicant in obtaining a proof of income for all applicable family members from the SSA website, Social Security Online at www.socialsecurity.gov, or

- The CHA will ask the applicant to provide proof of income for all applicable family members from the SSA toll free number (800-772-1213).

When Third-Party Information is Late

When third-party verification has been requested and the timeframes for submission have been exceeded, the PHA will use the information from documents on a provisional basis. If the PHA later receives third-party verification that differs from the amounts used in income and rent determinations and it is past the deadline for processing the reexamination, the PHA will conduct an interim reexamination to adjust the figures used for the reexamination.

**CHA Policy**

The CHA will use third-party verification that is received late and is past the deadline for processing the reexamination to conduct an interim reexamination to adjust the income amounts used for the reexamination only for zero income household members and in cases where there is reason to believe that the family engaged in deliberate fraud or program abuse.
When Third-Party Verification is Not Required

*Primary Documents*
Third-party verification is not required when legal documents are the primary source, such as a birth certificate or other legal documentation of birth.

*Certain Expenses*
The PHA will determine that third-party verification is not available if the expense involves an insignificant amount, making it not cost-effective or reasonable to obtain third-party verification [Verification Guidance, page 15].

*CHA Policy*
The CHA will use review of documents in lieu of requesting third-party verification when the amount of an individual expense is less than $500 annually and the family has original documents that support the declared amount.

*Certain Income and Expense Sources*
The PHA will determine that third-party verification is not available when it is known that an income source does not have the ability to provide written or oral third-party verification [Verification Guidance, page 15]. For example, the PHA will rely upon review of documents when the PHA determines that a third party’s privacy rules prohibit the source from disclosing information.

*CHA Policy*
The CHA also will determine that third-party verification is not available when there is a service charge for verifying an expense and the family has original documents that provide the necessary information.

The CHA will document in the family file the reason that the third-party verification was not available and will place a photocopy of the original document(s) in the family file. [Verification Guidance, page 15].

7-I.F. Self-Certification

*CHA Policy*
When information cannot be verified by a third party or by review of documents, family members will be required to submit self-certifications attesting to the accuracy of the information they have provided to the CHA.

The CHA may require a family to certify that a family member does not receive a particular type of income or benefit.

The self-certification must be made in a format acceptable to the CHA and must be signed by the family member whose information or status is being verified. All self-certifications must be signed in the presence of a CHA representative.

See also Section 7-III.E. Assets and Income from Asset.
7-I.G. EIV Request Requirements
[Notice PIH 2010-19]

For each new admission or historical adjustment, the PHA is required to review the EIV Income Report to confirm/validate family-reported income within 120 days of the PIC submission date.

For each interim reexamination of family composition or income, the PHA is required to have the following documentation in file:

- ICN Page when there is no household income discrepancy noted on the household’s Income Discrepancy Report tab or Income Discrepancy Report.
- EIV Income Report when there is an income discrepancy noted on the household’s Income Discrepancy Report tab or Income Discrepancy Report.

For each regular reexamination of family income and composition, the PHA is required to have the following documentation in the tenant file:

- No Dispute of EIV Information: EIV Income Report, current acceptable tenant-provided documentation, and if necessary (as determined by the PHA), traditional third-party verification form(s).
- Disputed EIV Information: EIV Income report, current acceptable tenant-provided documentation, and/or traditional third-party verification form(s) for disputed information.
- Tenant-reported income not verifiable through EIV system: Current tenant-provided documents, and if necessary (as determined by the PHA), traditional third-party verification form(s).

Part II: Verifying Family Information

7-II.A. Verification of Legal Identity

CHA Policy
The CHA will require families to furnish verification of legal identity for each household member.

Family members who declare citizenship or national status will not be required to provide additional documentation for verification purposes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Verification of Legal Identity for Adults</th>
<th>Verification of Legal Identity for Children</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Certificate of birth, naturalization papers</td>
<td>Certificate of birth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church issued baptismal certificate</td>
<td>Adoption papers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current, valid driver’s license or Department of Motor Vehicles Identification card</td>
<td>Custody Agreement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. Military ID</td>
<td>Health and Human Services ID</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. military discharge (DD 214)</td>
<td>School records</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Picture ID issued by a government agency</td>
<td>Court-issued emancipation documentation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. Passport</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employer identification card</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
If a document submitted by a family is illegible or otherwise questionable, more than one of these documents may be required.

If, as a result of a national disaster or other uncontrollable circumstances none of these documents can be provided and at the CHA’s discretion and on a case-by-case basis, a third party who knows the person may attest to the person’s identity. The certification must be provided in a format acceptable to the CHA and be signed in the presence of a CHA representative or notary public. The certification will be accepted on a temporary basis until proper documentation is received.

Legal identity will be verified on an as needed basis.

7-II.B. Social Security Numbers

[24 CFR 5.216 and Notice PIH 2010-3]

The family must provide documentation of a valid social security number (SSN) for each member of the household, with the exception of individuals who do not contend eligible immigration status. Exemptions also include, existing program participants as of January 31, 2010, who have either previously disclosed social security numbers that HUD has determined to be valid or are 62 years of age or older and had not previously disclosed a SSN.

CHA Policy

The CHA will consider the following documentation as acceptable evidence of the social security number:

- An original SSN card issued by the Social Security Administration (SSA)
- An original SSA-issued document, which contains the name and SSN of the individual
- An original document issued by a federal, state, or local government agency, which contains the name and SSN of the individual, along with other identifying information of the individual
- Such other evidence of the SSN as HUD may prescribe in administrative instructions

The PHA may only reject documentation of a SSN provided by an applicant or participant if the document is not an original document, if the original document has been altered, mutilated, or is not legible, or if the document appears to be forged.

CHA Policy

The CHA will explain to the applicant or participant the reasons the document is not acceptable and request that the individual obtain and submit acceptable documentation of the SSN to the CHA within 90 calendar days.

If the PHA determines that an applicant family is otherwise eligible to participate in the program, the family may retain its place on the waiting list, but assistance cannot be provided to the family until all SSN documentation requirements are met.

CHA Policy

The CHA will allow the family to retain its place on the waiting list for 180 calendar days while the disclosure and documentation of social security numbers are pending.

If not all household members have disclosed their SSNs at the next time the CHA is issuing vouchers, the CHA
will offer assistance to the next eligible applicant family on the waiting list.

When a participant requests to add a new household member who is under the age of 6 and has not been assigned a SSN, the participant must provide the SSN assigned to each new child and the required documentation within 90 calendar days of the child being added to the household. A 90-day extension will be granted if the PHA determines that the participant’s failure to comply was due to unforeseen circumstances and was outside of the participant’s control. During the period the PHA is awaiting documentation of the SSN, the child will be counted as part of the assisted household.

**CHA Policy**
The CHA will grant one additional 90-day extension if needed for reasons beyond the participant’s control such as delayed processing of the SSN application by the SSA, natural disaster, fire, death in the family, or other emergency approved by the CHA.

Social security numbers must be verified only once during continuously-assisted occupancy.

The social security numbers of household members, such as live-in aides, must be verified for the purpose of conducting criminal background checks.

**CHA Policy**
The CHA will verify each disclosed SSN by:

- Obtaining documentation from applicants and participant that is acceptable as evidence of social security numbers
- Making a copy of the original documentation submitted, returning it to the individual, and retaining a copy in the file folder
- For participants, recording the SSN on line 3n of the form [HUD-50058](https://example.com), and transmitting the form within 30 days of completion

HUD, via its computer matching program with the Social Security Administration, will validate the SSN against the SSA’s database, and EIV will report the verification status on the household summary report. The PHA is required to retain the EIV summary report or income report in each family file as confirmation of compliance with the disclosure, documentation, and verification requirements.

Once the individual’s verification status is classified as “verified,” the PHA should remove and destroy copies of documentation it accepted as evidence of social security numbers by no later than the next reexamination.

**CHA Policy**
CHA may retain SSN records as proof of compliance. However, ultimate validation will be based on EIV supporting documentation.

### 7-II.C. Documentation of Age
A birth certificate or other official record of birth is the preferred form of age verification for all family members. For elderly family members an original document that provides evidence of the receipt of social security retirement benefits is acceptable.
CHA Policy
If an official record of birth or evidence of social security retirement benefits cannot be provided, the CHA will require the family to submit other documents that support the reported age of the family member (e.g., school records, driver’s license if birth year is recorded) and to provide a self-certification.

Age must be verified only once during continuously-assisted occupancy.

7-II.D. Family Relationships
Applicants and program participants are required to identify the relationship of each household member to the head of household. Definitions of the primary household relationships are provided in the Eligibility chapter.

CHA Policy
Family relationships are verified only to the extent necessary to determine a family’s eligibility and level of assistance. Certification by the head of household normally is sufficient verification of family relationships.

Marriage
CHA Policy
Certification by the head of household is normally sufficient verification. If the CHA has reasonable doubts about a marital relationship, the CHA will require the family to document the marriage.

A marriage certificate generally is required to verify that a couple is married.

Separation or Divorce
CHA Policy
Certification by the head of household is normally sufficient verification. If the CHA has reasonable doubts about a separation or divorce, the CHA will require the family to document the divorce, or separation.

A certified copy of a divorce decree, signed by a court officer, is required to document that a couple is divorced.

A copy of a court-ordered maintenance or other court record is required to document a separation. If no court document is available, documentation from a community-based agency will be accepted.

Foster Children and Foster Adults
CHA Policy
Third-party verification from the state or local government agency responsible for the placement of the individual with the family is required.

7-II.E. Verification of Student Status
General Requirements
CHA Policy
The CHA requires families to provide information about the student status of all students who are 18 years of age or older. This information will be verified only if:

- The family reports full-time student status for an adult other than the head, spouse, or co-head.
- The family reports child care expenses to enable a family member to further his or her education.
• The family includes a student enrolled in an institution of higher education.

Restrictions on Assistance to Students Enrolled in Institutions of Higher Education

This section applies only to students who are seeking assistance on their own, separately from their parents. It does not apply to students residing with parents who are seeking or receiving HCV assistance.

CHA Policy

In accordance with the verification hierarchy described in Section 7.1.B. Overview of Verification Requirements, the CHA will determine whether the student is exempt from the restrictions in 24 CFR 5.612 by verifying any one of the following exemption criteria:

• The student is enrolled at an educational institution that does not meet the definition of institution of higher education in the Higher Education Act of 1965.
• The student is at least 24 years old.
• The student is a veteran, as defined in Section 3-II.E. Students Enrolled in Institutions of Higher Education
• The student is married.
• The student has at least one dependent child, as defined in Section 3-II.E. Students Enrolled in Institutions of Higher Education
• The student has disabilities and was receiving assistance under section 8 of the 1937 Act as of November 30, 2005

If the CHA cannot verify at least one of these exemption criteria, the CHA will conclude that the student is subject to the restrictions on assistance at 24 CFR 5.612. In addition to verifying the student’s income eligibility, the CHA will then proceed to verify either the student’s parents’ income eligibility (see Section 7-III.J. Student Financial Assistance) or the student’s independence from his/her parents (see below).

Independent Student

CHA Policy

The CHA will verify a student’s independence from his/her parents to determine that the student’s parental income is not relevant for determining the student’s eligibility based on the following:

• Both reviewing and verifying previous address information to determine whether the student has established a household separate from his/her parents for at least one year or reviewing and verifying documentation relevant to determining whether the student meets the U.S. Department of Education’s definition of independent student (see Section 3-II.E. Students Enrolled in Institutions of Higher Education)
• Reviewing a copy of the student’s Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
• Reviewing prior year income tax returns to verify whether a parent has claimed the student as a dependent
• Requesting and obtaining written certification directly from the student’s parents identifying the amount of support they will be providing to the student, even if the amount of support is $0.
7-II.F. Documentation of Disability

The PHA must verify the existence of a disability in order to allow certain income disallowances and deductions from income. The PHA is not permitted to inquire about the nature or extent of a person’s disability [24 CFR 100.202(c)]. The PHA may not inquire about a person’s diagnosis or details of treatment for a disability or medical condition. If the PHA receives a verification document that provides such information, the PHA will not place this information in the tenant file. Under no circumstances will the PHA request a participant’s medical record(s). For more information on health care privacy laws, see the Department of Health and Human Services’ website at www.hhs.gov.

- The above cited regulation does not prohibit the following inquiries, provided these inquiries are made of all applicants, whether or not they are persons with disabilities.
- Inquiry into an applicant’s ability to meet the requirements of ownership or tenancy
- Inquiry to determine whether an applicant is qualified for a dwelling available only to persons with disabilities or to persons with a particular type of disability
- Inquiry to determine whether an applicant for a dwelling is qualified for a priority available to persons with disabilities or to persons with a particular type of disability
- Inquiring whether an applicant for a dwelling is a current illegal abuser or addict of a controlled substance
- Inquiring whether an applicant has been convicted of the illegal manufacture or distribution of a controlled substance

Family Members Receiving SSA Disability Benefits

Verification of the receipt of disability benefits from the Social Security Administration (SSA) is sufficient verification of disability for the purpose of qualifying for waiting list preferences (if applicable) or certain income disallowances and deductions.

**CHA Policy**

For family members claiming disability who receive disability benefits from the SSA, the CHA will attempt to obtain information about disability benefits through the HUD Enterprise Income Verification (EIV) system. If documentation from HUD’s EIV System is not available, the CHA will request a current (dated within the last 60 days) SSA benefit verification letter from each family member claiming disability status. If the family is unable to provide the document(s), the CHA will ask the family to request a benefit verification letter by either calling SSA at 1-800-772-1213, or by requesting it from www.ssa.gov. Once the applicant or participant receives the benefit verification letter they will be required to provide it to the CHA.

**Family Members Not Receiving SSA Disability Benefits**

Receipt of veteran’s disability benefits, worker’s compensation, or other non-SSA benefits based on the individual’s claimed disability are not sufficient verification that the individual meets HUD’s definition of disability in 24 CFR 5.603.

**CHA Policy**

For family members claiming disability who do not receive disability benefits from the SSA, a knowledgeable professional must provide third-party verification that the family member meets the HUD definition of disability. See the Eligibility chapter for the HUD definition of disability.
The knowledgeable professional will verify whether the family member does or does not meet the HUD’s definition.

7-II.G. Citizenship or Eligible Immigration Status

Overview

Housing assistance is not available to persons who are not citizens, nationals, or eligible immigrants. Prorated assistance is provided for “mixed families” containing both eligible and ineligible persons. A detailed discussion of eligibility requirements is in the Eligibility chapter. This chapter discusses HUD and PHA verification requirements related to citizenship status.

The family must provide a certification that identifies each family member as a U.S. citizen, a U.S. national, an eligible noncitizen or an ineligible noncitizen and submit the documents discussed below for each family member. Once eligibility to receive assistance has been verified for an individual it need not be collected or verified again during continuously-assisted occupancy. [24 CFR 5.508(g)(5)]

U.S. Citizens and Nationals

HUD requires a declaration for each family member who claims to be a U.S. citizen or national. The declaration must be signed personally by any family member 18 or older and by a guardian for minors.

The PHA may request verification of the declaration by requiring presentation of a birth certificate, United States passport or other appropriate documentation.

CHA Policy

Family members who claim U.S. citizenship or national status will not be required to provide additional documentation unless the CHA receives information indicating that an individual’s declaration may not be accurate.

Eligible Immigrants

Documents Required

All family members claiming eligible immigration status must declare their status in the same manner as U.S. citizens and nationals.

The documentation required for eligible noncitizens varies depending upon factors such as the date the person entered the U.S., the conditions under which eligible immigration status has been granted, age, and the date on which the family began receiving HUD-funded assistance. Exhibit 7-2.1: Summary of Documentation Requirements for Noncitizens at the end of this chapter summarizes documents family members must provide.

PHA Verification

For family members age 62 or older who claim to be eligible immigrants, proof of age is required in the manner described in Section 7-II.C. Documentation of Age of this plan. No further verification of eligible immigration status is required.

For family members under the age of 62 who claim to be eligible immigrants, the PHA must verify immigration status with the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).
The PHA will follow all USCIS protocols for verification of eligible immigration status.

7-II.H. Verification of Preference Status
The PHA must verify any preferences claimed by an applicant.

CHA Policy
The CHA will verify eligibility for local preferences as follows:

- For families that are victims of a federally declared natural disaster affecting the city of Chicago:
  - The CHA will verify this preference with the Federal or state agency responsible for administering the disaster relief efforts in Chicago.

- For families residing in the CHA public housing developments that are participating in the CHA’s Victim Assistance Program:
  - The CHA will verify that the family is eligible under the CHA Victim Assistance Program criteria.

- For families that are actively participating in a Witness Protection Program:
  - The CHA will verify this preference with the applicable Federal or state law enforcement agency. The law enforcement agency must certify that the family is a victim or witness of a violent crime, is in a life threatening situation, and the family needs assistance to move in order to ensure their continued protection.

- For families living in a CHA public housing unit which must be rehabilitated to meet ADA/504 requirements and for whom alternate the CHA public housing units are not available:
  - The CHA will verify the family’s preference eligibility with the CHA’s 504/ADA Coordinator.

- For families that have been terminated from the CHA’s HCV program due to insufficient program funding:
  - The CHA will verify this preference using the CHA’s termination records.

- For families with persons with disabilities who have Medicaid Home and Community Based Services Waivers under
  - Referral to the CHA by the Medical Waiver Service Provider (i.e., Access Living) is considered verification that the family is eligible for this preference.

- For over housed or under housed families living in a CHA Section 8 moderate rehabilitation project
  - The CHA will verify that the family is either over housed or under housed and that no appropriate size Section 8 moderate rehabilitation units are available in the project.

- For families who were applicants for public housing properties that were being converted to senior housing under the CHA’s 2005 Senior Designated Housing Plan:
  - The CHA will verify that the family was on the CHA 2005 Senior Designated Housing Waiting List.

- For families under a CHA public housing lease who are fully compliant with the Public Housing Program may participate in the CHA’s Housing Choice Voucher Homeownership Program. The CHA will verify family’s eligibility according to the Homeownership Program criteria.

- For families referred through the determined process from the City of Chicago, State of Illinois, and others including the Chicago Continuum of Care:
  - The CHA must receive a written referral by the designated agency and case manager in permanent supportive housing units who are no longer in need of the intensive supportive services provided by the supportive housing program.
See [Chapter 17: Property Rental Assistance Program](#) for the procedures the CHA will use to verify the preferences under the property-based voucher program.

### Part III: Verifying Income

[Chapter 6, Part I: Annual Income](#) of this plan describes in detail the types of income that are included and excluded. Any income reported by the family must be verified. This part provides the PHA policies that supplement the general verification procedures specified in Part I of this chapter.

#### 7-III.A. Earned Income

**Tips**

*CHA Policy*

Unless tip income is included in a family member’s W-2 by the employer, persons who work in industries where tips are standard will be required to sign a certified estimate of tips received for the prior year and tips anticipated to be received in the coming year.

#### 7-III.B. Business and Self Employment Income

*CHA Policy*

Business owners and self-employed persons will be required to provide:

- An audited financial statement for the previous fiscal year if an audit was conducted. If an audit was not conducted, a statement of income and expenses must be submitted and the business owner or self-employed person must certify its accuracy.
- All schedules completed for filing federal and local taxes in the preceding year.
- If accelerated depreciation was used on the tax return or financial statement, an accountant's calculation of depreciation expense, computed using straight-line depreciation rules.

The CHA will provide a format for any person who is unable to provide such a statement to record income and expenses for the coming year. The business owner/self-employed person will be required to submit the information requested and to certify to its accuracy at all future reexaminations.

At any reexamination the CHA may request documents that support submitted financial statements such as manifests, appointment books, cash books, or bank statements.

If a family member has been self-employed less than three (3) months, the CHA may accept the family member's certified estimate of income and schedule an interim reexamination within three (3) months.

#### 7-III.C. Periodic Payments and Payments in Lieu of Earnings

**Social Security/SSI Benefits**

*CHA Policy*

To verify the SS/SSI benefits of applicants, the CHA will request a current (dated within the last 60 days) SSA benefit verification letter from each family member that receives social security benefits. If the family is unable to provide the document(s), the CHA will ask the family to request a benefit verification letter by either calling SSA at 1-800-772-1213, or by requesting it from [http://www.socialsecurity.gov/](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/). Once the applicant has received the benefit verification letter they will be required to provide it to the CHA.
To verify the SS/SSI benefits of participants and household members, the CHA will obtain information about social security/SSI benefits through the HUD EIV System and confirm with the participant that the current listed benefit amount is correct. If the participant disputes the EIV reported benefit amount, or if benefit information is not available in HUD systems, the CHA will request a current SSA benefit verification letter from each family member that receives social security benefits. If the family is unable to provide the document(s) the CHA will help the participant request a benefit verification letter from SSA’s web site at www.socialsecurity.gov or ask the family to request one by calling the SSA at 1-800-772-1213. Once the participant has received the benefit verification letter they will be required to provide it to the CHA.

7-III.D. Alimony or Child Support
CHA Policy
The way the CHA will seek verification for alimony and child support differs depending on whether the family declares that it receives regular payments.

If the family declares that it receives regular payments, verification will be sought in the following order.

- If payments are made through a state or local entity, the CHA will request a record of payments for the past 12 months and request that the entity disclose any known information about the likelihood of future payments.
- Third-party verification from the person paying the support
- Copy of a separation or settlement agreement or a divorce decree stating amount and type of support and payment schedules
- Copy of the latest check and/or payment stubs, or, in the case of electronic deposit, a print-out of payments and disbursements
- Family’s self-certification of amount received and of the likelihood of support payments being received in the future, or that support payments are not being received.

If the family declares that it receives irregular or no payments, in addition to the verification process listed above, the family must provide evidence that it has taken all reasonable efforts to collect amounts due. This may include:

- A statement from any agency responsible for enforcing payment that shows the family has requested enforcement and is cooperating with all enforcement efforts
- If the family has made independent efforts at collection, a written statement from the attorney or other collection entity that has assisted the family in these efforts

Note: Families are not required to undertake independent enforcement action.

7-III.E. Assets and Income from Assets
At admission, third party verification is only needed for assets over $50,000 and anything under $50,000 is disregarded. After admission into the HCV program, participants are not required to disclose or submit any asset information to CHA. At the subsequent re-examination, assets will not be included in calculating income.

Assets Disposed of for Less than Fair Market Value
HUD requires that the family must certify whether any assets have been disposed of for less than fair market value in the preceding two years.
The CHA will accept a self-certification from a family as verification of assets disposed of for less than fair market value. The family must certify whether any assets have been disposed of for less than fair market value in the preceding two years. The CHA needs to verify only those certifications that warrant documentation. The CHA will verify the value of assets disposed of only if a reasonable estimation of value cannot be made from previously collected information, or the amount reported by the family in the certification appear obviously in error.

Net Income from Rental Property
The family must provide:
- A current executed lease for the property that shows the rental amount or certification from the current tenant
- A self-certification from the family members engaged in the rental of property providing an estimate of expenses for the coming year and the most recent IRS Form 1040 with Schedule E (Rental Income). If schedule E was not prepared, the CHA will require the family members involved in the rental of property to provide a self-certification of income and expenses for the previous year and may request documentation to support the statement including: tax statements, insurance invoices, bills for reasonable maintenance and utilities, and bank statements or amortization schedules showing monthly interest expense.

Retirement Accounts
When third-party verification is not available the type of original document that will be accepted depends upon the family member’s retirement status.

Before retirement, the CHA will accept an original document from the entity holding the account with a date that shows it is the most recently scheduled statement for the account but in no case earlier than six months from the effective date of the examination.

Upon retirement, the CHA will accept an original document from the entity holding the account that reflects any distributions of the account balance, any lump sums taken and any regular payments.

After retirement, the CHA will accept an original document from the entity holding the account dated no earlier than 12 months before that reflects any distributions of the account balance, any lump sums taken and any regular payments.

7-III.H. Income from Excluded Sources
A detailed discussion of excluded income is provided in Chapter 6, Part I: Annual Income.

The PHA must obtain verification for income exclusions only if, without verification, the PHA would not be able to determine whether the income is to be excluded. For example: If a family’s 16 year old has a job at a fast food restaurant, the PHA will confirm that the PHA records verify the child’s age but will not send a verification request to the restaurant. However, if a family claims the earned income disallowance for a source of income, both the source and the income must be verified.

CHA will reconcile differences in amounts reported by the third-party verification and the family only when the excluded amount is used to calculate the family share (as is the case with the earned income disallowance and earned income of full-time students over the age of 18). CHA will not verify fully excluded income nor report it.
7-III.I. Zero Annual Income Status

*CHA Policy*

The CHA will check UIV sources and/or request information from third-party sources to verify that certain forms of income such as unemployment benefits, TANF, SSI, etc., are not being received by adults claiming to have zero annual income.

7-III.J. Student Financial Assistance

Any financial assistance, in excess of amounts received for tuition, that a person attending an institution of higher education receives under the *Higher Education Act of 1965*, from private sources, or from an institution of higher education must be considered income unless the student is over the age of 23 with dependent children or is residing with parents who are seeking or receiving HCV assistance [24 CFR 5.609(b)(9) and FR 4/10/06].

For students over the age of 23 with dependent children or students residing with parents who are seeking or receiving HCV assistance, the full amount of student financial assistance is excluded from annual income [24 CFR 5.609(c)(6)]. The full amount of student financial assistance is also excluded for students attending schools that do not qualify as institutions of higher education. Excluded amounts are verified only if, without verification, the PHA would not be able to determine whether or to what extent the income is to be excluded (see *Section 7-III. H. Income from Excluded Sources*).

*CHA Policy*

For a student subject to having a portion of his/her student financial assistance included in annual income in accordance with 24 CFR 5.609(b)(9), the CHA will request third-party written verification of both the source and the amount from the educational institution attended by the student as well as from any other person or entity providing such assistance, as reported by the student.

In addition, the CHA will request written verification from the institution of higher education regarding the student’s tuition amount.

If the CHA is unable to obtain third-party written verification of the requested information, the CHA will pursue other forms of verification following the verification hierarchy in *Section 7-I.B. Overview of Verification Requirements*.

7-III.K. Parental Income of Students Subject to Eligibility Restrictions

If a student enrolled at an institution of higher education is under the age of 24, is not a veteran, is not married, and does not have a dependent child, the income of the student’s parents must be considered when determining income eligibility, unless the student is determined independent from his or her parents in accordance with PHA policy [24 CFR 5.612 and FR 4/10/06, p. 18146].

This provision does not apply to students residing with parents who are seeking or receiving HCV assistance. It is limited to students who are seeking or receiving assistance on their own, separately from their parents.

*CHA Policy*
If the CHA is required to determine the income eligibility of a student’s parents, the CHA will request an income declaration and certification of income from the appropriate parent(s) (as determined in Section 3-II.E, Students Enrolled in Institutions of Higher Education). The CHA will send the request directly to the parents, who will be required to certify their income under penalty of perjury. The parents will be required to submit the information directly to the CHA. The required information must be submitted (postmarked) within 10 calendar days of the date of the CHA’s request or within any extended timeframe approved by the CHA.

The CHA reserves the right to request and review supporting documentation at any time if it questions the declaration or certification. Supporting documentation may include, but is not limited to, Internal Revenue Service (IRS) tax returns, consecutive and original pay stubs, bank statements, pension benefit statements, benefit award letters, and other official and authentic documents from a federal, state, or local agency.

Part IV: Verifying Mandatory Deductions

7-IV.A. Dependent and Elderly/Disabled Household Deductions
The dependent and elderly/disabled family deductions require only that the PHA verify that the family members identified as dependents or elderly/disabled persons meet the statutory definitions. No further verifications are required.

Dependent Deduction
See Section 6-II.B. Dependent Deduction for a full discussion of this deduction. The PHA must verify that:

- Any person under the age of 18 for whom the dependent deduction is claimed is not the head, spouse, or co-head of the family and is not a foster child
- Any person age 18 or older for whom the dependent deduction is claimed is not a foster adult or live-in aide, and is a person with a disability or a full-time student

Elderly/Disabled Family Deduction
See Eligibility chapter for a definition of elderly and disabled families and Section 6-II.C. Elderly or Disabled Family Deduction for a discussion of the deduction. The PHA must verify that the head, spouse, or co-head is 62 years of age or older or a person with disabilities.

7-IV.B. Medical Expense Deduction
Policies related to medical expenses are found in Section 6-II.D. Medical Expenses Deduction. The amount of the deduction will be verified following the standard verification procedures described in Part I.

Amount of Expense

CHA Policy

Medical expenses will be verified through:

- Copies of cancelled checks used to make medical expense payments and/or printouts or receipts from the source will be used.

In addition, the PHA must verify that:

- The household is eligible for the deduction.
- The costs to be deducted are qualified medical expenses.
- The expenses are not paid for or reimbursed by any other source.
• Costs incurred in past years are counted only once.

Eligible Household
The medical expense deduction is permitted only for households in which the head, spouse, or co-head is at least 62, or a person with disabilities. The PHA must verify that the family meets the definition of an elderly or disabled family provided in the Eligibility chapter and as described in Section 7-IV.A. Dependent and Elderly/Disabled Household Deductions) of this plan.

Qualified Expenses
To be eligible for the medical expenses deduction, the costs must qualify as medical expenses. See Section 6-II.D. Medical Expenses Deduction) for the PHA’s policy on what counts as a medical expense.

Unreimbursed Expenses
To be eligible for the medical expenses deduction, the costs must not be reimbursed by another source.

CHA Policy
The family will be required to certify that the medical expenses are not paid or reimbursed to the family from any source.

Expenses Incurred in Past Years
CHA Policy
When anticipated costs are related to on-going payment of medical bills incurred in past years, the CHA will verify:
• The anticipated repayment schedule
• The amounts paid in the past, and
• Whether the amounts to be repaid have been deducted from the family’s annual income in past year

7-IV.C. Disability Assistance Expenses
Policies related to disability assistance expenses are found in Section 6-II.E. Disability Assistance Expenses Deduction) The amount of the deduction will be verified following the standard verification procedures described in Part I: General Verification Requirements.

Amount of Expense
Attendant Care
CHA Policy
The CHA will provide a third-party verification form directly to the care provider requesting the needed information.

Expenses for attendant care will be verified through:
• Third-party verification form signed by the provider, when possible
• If third-party is not possible, copies of cancelled checks used to make attendant care payments and/or receipts from care source
• If third-party or document review is not possible, written family certification as to costs anticipated to be incurred for the upcoming 12 months

Auxiliary Apparatus
CHA Policy
Expenses for auxiliary apparatus will be verified through:
- Third-party verification of anticipated purchase costs of auxiliary apparatus
- If third-party is not possible, a billing statement for purchase of auxiliary apparatus, or other evidence of monthly payments or total payments that will be due for the apparatus during the upcoming 12 months
- If third-party or document review is not possible, written family certification of estimated apparatus costs for the upcoming 12 months

In addition, the PHA must verify that:
- The family member for whom the expense is incurred is a person with disabilities (as described in Section 7-II.F. Documentation of Disability above).
- The expense permits a family member, or members, to work (as described in Section 6-II.E. Disability Assistance Expense Deduction).
- The expense is not reimbursed from another source (as described in Section 6-II.E. Disability Assistance Expense Deduction).

Family Member is a Person with Disabilities
To be eligible for the disability assistance expense deduction, the costs must be incurred for attendant care or auxiliary apparatus expense associated with a person with disabilities. The PHA will verify that the expense is incurred for a person with disabilities (See Section 7-II.F. Documentation of Disability).

Family Member(s) Permitted to Work
The PHA must verify that the expenses claimed actually enable a family member, or members, (including the person with disabilities) to work.

CHA Policy
The CHA will seek third-party verification from a Rehabilitation Agency or knowledgeable medical professional indicating that the person with disabilities requires attendant care or an auxiliary apparatus to be employed, or that the attendant care or auxiliary apparatus enables another family member, or members, to work (See Section 6-II.E. Disability Assistance Expense Deduction).

If third-party and document review verification has been attempted and is either unavailable or proves unsuccessful, the family must certify that the disability assistance expense frees a family member, or members (possibly including the family member receiving the assistance), to work.

Unreimbursed Expenses
To be eligible for the disability expenses deduction, the costs must not be reimbursed by another source.

CHA Policy
An attendant care provider will be asked to certify that, to the best of the provider’s knowledge, the expenses are not paid by or reimbursed to the family from any source.

The family will be required to certify that attendant care or auxiliary apparatus expenses are not paid by or reimbursed to the family from any source.

7-IV.D. Child Care Expenses
Policies related to child care expenses are found in Section 6-II.F. Child Care Expense Deduction. The amount
of the deduction will be verified following the standard verification procedures described in Part I: General Verification Requirements. In addition, the PHA must verify that:

- The child is eligible for care.
- The costs claimed are not reimbursed.
- The costs enable a family member to pursue an eligible activity.
- The costs are for an allowable type of child care.
- The costs are reasonable.

Eligible Child
To be eligible for the child care deduction, the costs must be incurred for the care of a child under the age of 13. The PHA will verify that the child being cared for (including foster children) is under the age of 13 (See Section 7- II.C. Documentation of Age).

Unreimbursed Expense
To be eligible for the child care deduction, the costs must not be reimbursed by another source.

**CHA Policy**
Child care expenses will be verified through:

- Third-party verification;
- Third-party verification form completed and signed by the provided;
- Third-party written;
- Original or authentic child care agency print outs of payments made by the family that identify the child for which services were provided;
- Family Declaration.

If third-party or document review is not possible, written family certification as to costs anticipated to be incurred for the upcoming 12 months, identifying the child for which services will be provided.

Third-party verification form is the highest verification requirement for child care expenses as the child care provider will also be asked to certify that, to the best of the provider’s knowledge, the child care expenses are not paid by or reimbursed to the family from any source.

The family will be required to certify that the child care expenses are not paid by or reimbursed to the family from any source.

**Pursuing an Eligible Activity**
The PHA must verify that the family member(s) that the family has identified as being enabled to seek work, pursue education, or be gainfully employed, are actually pursuing those activities.

**CHA Policy**

*Information to be Gathered*
The CHA will verify information about how the schedule for the claimed activity relates to the hours of care provided, the time required for transportation, the time required for study (for students), the relationship of the family member(s) to the child, and any special needs of the child that might help determine which family member is enabled to pursue an eligible activity as a result of the paid child care.
Seeking Work
Whenever possible the CHA will first require the family to provide original or authentic documentation from a state or local agency that monitors work-related requirements (e.g., welfare or unemployment). In such cases where documents are not available, or do not provide adequate information for determination that the child care is essential, the CHA will request verification from the agency of the member’s job seeking efforts to date and require the family to submit to the CHA any reports provided to the other agency.

In the event third-party verification is not available, the CHA will provide the family with a form on which the family member must record job search efforts. The CHA will review this information at each subsequent reexamination for which this deduction is claimed.

Furthering Education
The CHA will ask that the academic or vocational educational institution verify that the person permitted to further his or her education by the child care is enrolled and provide information about the timing of classes for which the person is registered.

Gainful Employment
The CHA will seek verification from the employer of the work schedule of the person who is permitted to work by the child care. In cases in which two or more family members could be permitted to work, the work schedules for all relevant family members may be verified.

Allowable Type of Child Care
The type of care to be provided is determined by the family, but must fall within certain guidelines, as discussed in Chapter 6.

CHA Policy
The CHA will verify that the type of child care selected by the family is allowable, as described in Section 6-11.F. Child Care Expense Deduction).

The CHA will verify that the fees paid to the child care provider cover only child care costs (e.g., no housekeeping services or personal services) and are paid only for the care of an eligible child (e.g., prorate costs if some of the care is provided for ineligible family members).

The CHA will verify that the child care provider is not a member of the assisted family. Verification will be made through the head of household’s declaration of family members who are expected to reside in the unit.

Reasonableness of Expenses
Only reasonable child care costs can be deducted.

CHA Policy
The actual costs the family incurs will be compared with the CHA’s established standards of reasonableness for the type of care in the locality to ensure that the costs are reasonable.

If the family presents a justification for costs that exceed typical costs in the area, the CHA will request additional documentation, as required, to support a determination that the higher cost is appropriate.

For detailed information on HUD verification guidance, see PIH Notice 2010-19.
Exhibit 7-1: Summary of Documentation Requirements for Noncitizens

[HCV GB, pp. 5-9 and 5-10 Housing Choice Voucher Program Guidebook, Chapter 5: Eligibility and Denial of Assistance.]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All noncitizens claiming eligible status</td>
<td>All noncitizens claiming eligible status must sign a declaration of eligible immigrant status on a form acceptable to the PHA.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Except for persons 62 or older, all noncitizens must sign a verification consent form.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Additional documents are required based upon the person’s status.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elderly Noncitizens</td>
<td>A person 62 years of age or older who claims eligible immigration status also must provide proof of age such as birth certificate, passport, or documents showing receipt of SS old-age benefits.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All other Noncitizens</td>
<td>Noncitizens that claim eligible immigration status also must present the applicable USCIS document.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Acceptable USCIS documents are listed below.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Form I-551 Alien Registration Receipt Card (for permanent resident aliens)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Form I-94 Arrival-Departure Record annotated with one of the following:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>“Admitted as a Refugee Pursuant to Section 207”</td>
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<td></td>
<td>“Section 208” or “Asylum”</td>
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<td></td>
<td>“Section 243(h)” or “Deportation stayed by Attorney General”</td>
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<tr>
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<td>“Paroled Pursuant to Section 221 (d)(5) of the USCIS”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Form I-688 Temporary Resident Card annotated “Section 245A” or Section 210”</td>
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<td>Form I-94 Arrival-Departure Record with no annotation accompanied by:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>A final court decision granting asylum (but only if no appeal is taken);</td>
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<td>A letter from a USCIS asylum officer granting asylum (if application is filed on or after 10/1/90) or from a USCIS district director granting asylum (application filed before 10/1/90);</td>
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<td>A court decision granting withholding of deportation; or</td>
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<td>A letter from an asylum officer granting withholding or deportation (if application filed on or after 10/1/90).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Form I-688B Employment Authorization Card annotated “Provision of Law 274a. 12(11)” or “Provision of Law 274a.12”.</td>
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<tr>
<td>A receipt issued by the USCIS indicating that an application for issuance of a replacement document in one of the above listed categories has been made and the applicant’s entitlement to the document has been verified; or</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other acceptable evidence. If other documents are determined by the USCIS to constitute acceptable evidence of eligible immigration status, they will be announced by notice published in the Federal Register</td>
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Chapter 8-Housing Quality Standards and Rent Reasonableness Determinations

[Introduction]

HUD requires that all units occupied by families receiving Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) assistance meet HUD's Housing Quality Standards (HQS) and permits the PHA to establish additional requirements. The use of the term "HQS" in this plan refers to the combination of both HUD and PHA-established requirements. HQS inspections are required before the Housing Assistance Payments (HAP) Contract is signed and at least biennially, during the term of the contract.

HUD also requires the PHA to determine that units rented by families assisted under the HCV program have rents that are reasonable when compared to comparable unassisted units in the market area.

This chapter explains HUD and PHA requirements related to housing quality and rent reasonableness as follows:

**Part I. Physical Standards.** This part discusses the physical standards required of units occupied by HCV-assisted families and identifies decisions about the acceptability of the unit that may be made by the family based upon the family's preference. It also identifies life-threatening conditions that must be addressed on an expedited basis.

**Part II. The Inspection Process.** This part describes the types of inspections the PHA will make and the steps that will be taken when units do not meet HQS.

**Part III. Rent Reasonableness Determinations.** This part discusses the policies the PHA will use to make rent reasonableness determinations.

Special HQS requirements for homeownership and other special housing types are discussed in [Chapter 15-Special Housing Types](#) to the extent that they apply in this jurisdiction.

**Part I: Physical Standards**

8-I.A. General HUD Requirements

**HUD Performance and Acceptability Standards**

HUD's performance and acceptability standards for HCV-assisted housing are provided in [24 CFR 982.401](#). These standards cover the following areas:

- Sanitary facilities
- Food preparation and refuse disposal
- Space and Security
- Thermal Environment
- Illumination and electricity
- Structure and materials
- Interior Air Quality
- Water Supply
- Lead-based paint
- Access
- Site and neighborhood
Chicago Housing Authority - Housing Choice Voucher Program

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- Sanitary condition
- Smoke Detectors

A summary of HUD performance criteria is provided in Attachment 8-1. Additional guidance on these requirements is found in the following HUD resources:

- Housing Choice Voucher Guidebook, Chapter 10: Housing Quality Standards
- HUD Housing Inspection Manual for Section 8 Housing
- HUD Inspection Form, form HUD-52580 (3/01) and Inspection Checklist, form HUD-52580-A (9/00)

Tenant Preference Items

HUD requires the PHA to enforce minimum HQS but also requires that certain judgments about acceptability be left to the family. For example, the PHA must ensure that the unit contains the required sanitary facilities, but the family decides whether the cosmetic condition of the facilities is acceptable. Attachment 8-2 summarizes those items that are considered tenant preferences.

Modifications to Provide Accessibility

Under the Fair Housing Act of 1988 an owner must not refuse the request of a family that contains a person with a disability to make necessary and reasonable modifications to the unit. Such modifications are at the family's expense. The owner may require restoration of the unit to its original condition if the modification would interfere with the owner or next occupant's full enjoyment of the premises. The owner may not increase a customarily required security deposit. However, the owner/property manager may negotiate a restoration agreement that requires the family to restore the unit and, if necessary to ensure the likelihood of restoration, may require the tenant to pay a reasonable amount into an interest bearing escrow account over a reasonable period of time. The interest in any such account accrues to the benefit of the tenant. The owner may also require reasonable assurances that the quality of the work will be acceptable and that any required building permits will be obtained.[24 CFR 100.203; Notice 2003-31].

Modifications to units to provide access for a person with a disability must meet all applicable HQS requirements and conform to the design, construction, or alteration of facilities contained in the UFAS and the ADA Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) [28 CFR 35.151(c) and Notice 2003-31] See Chapter 2- Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity for additional information on reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities.

CHA Policy

Any owner that intends to negotiate a restoration agreement or require an escrow account must submit the agreement(s) to the CHA for review.

8-I.B. Additional Local Requirements

The PHA may impose additional quality standards as long as the additional criteria are not likely to adversely affect the health or safety of participant families or severely restrict housing choice. HUD approval is required if more stringent standards are imposed. HUD approval is not required if the PHA additions are clarifications of HUD's acceptability criteria or performance standards [24 CFR 982.401(a)(4)].

Thermal Environment

The PHA must define a “healthy living environment” for the local climate. This may be done by establishing a temperature that the heating system must be capable of maintaining, that is appropriate for the local climate.
CHA Policy

The heating system must be capable of maintaining a minimum interior temperature of 68 degrees Fahrenheit in all interior rooms used for living between September 15th and June 1st.

If the heating systems of a building with four or more dwelling units has been subject to a CHA HQS inspection within the preceding 12 months of the current inspection and such inspection passed, or was found to be in compliance, and documentation is on file and available for review by the inspector demonstrating current compliance with HQS requirements, then the boiler room or other common heating systems may be considered HQS compliant without further inspection being necessary.

CHA will inspect the heating plant for an HCV assisted unit where the HCV participant has forwarded a complaint about insufficient heat, regardless of whether the heating system was previously inspected and approved by CHA.

Clarifications of HUD Requirements

CHA Policy

As permitted by HUD, the CHA has adopted the following specific requirements that elaborate on HUD standards:

Windows and Doors

Windows and doors are required to be weather-tight.

Bedrooms

The following minimum standard must be met:

Square Footage

Every bedroom shall contain at least 70 square feet of floor space.

Ceiling Height

Three-quarters (75 percent) of every bedroom must have a floor-to-ceiling height of seven feet or above.

Carbon Monoxide Detectors

In concurrence with the 2008 Chicago Building Code Requirement, carbon monoxide detectors must be located within 15 feet of a fossil fuel burning system and within 15 feet of any area used for sleeping purposes.

Smoke Detectors

At least one smoke detector must be installed on every level that contains a habitable room or a heating plant. In addition, a smoke detector must be installed within 15 feet of any area used for sleeping purposes.

Entrance Door Locks

The CHA has adopted the Chicago Building Code Requirement for deadbolt locks on every dwelling unit entrance door. Double-keyed deadbolts are not allowed.

Locks operated with skeleton keys are not allowed on any dwelling unit or building entrance or exit door.

All dwelling unit entrance and exit doors must have a single cylinder deadbolt (a deadbolt that does not require a key to be operated from the interior of the unit).

8-I.C. Life Threatening Conditions

HUD requires the PHA to define life threatening conditions and to notify the owner or the family (whichever is responsible) of the corrections required. The responsible party must correct life threatening conditions within 24
hours of the PHA notification date. (See 8-II.F. Inspection Results and Re-inspections for Units Under HAP Contract)

**CHA Policy**

The following are considered emergency fail items because of life threatening conditions:

- Any property determined uninhabitable by a city agency, including uninhabitable units due to fire, flood, or other natural disasters
- Any condition that jeopardizes the security of the unit (e.g., missing or broken locks on exterior doors)
- Major plumbing leaks, waterlogged ceiling, or floor in imminent danger of falling
- Natural or LP gas leaks or fuel oil leaks
- Any electrical problem or condition that could result in shock or fire
- Absence of a heating system capable of maintaining a minimum of 55 degrees Fahrenheit between September 15th and June 1st.
- Utilities (i.e., gas, electric, or water) not in service
- Conditions that present the imminent likelihood of injury
- Unmovable obstacles that prevent safe entrance or exit from the unit
- Absence of a functioning toilet in the unit
- Backed up sewer system in the unit
- Lack of at least one working smoke detector on each level of the unit.
- Lack of a working carbon monoxide detector in an area with fossil fuel burning system and on each level used for sleeping; and
- Fuel burning water heater or heating, ventilation, or cooling system with missing, damaged, improper, or misaligned chimney or venting.

If an owner fails to correct life threatening conditions as required by the CHA, the housing assistance payment will be abated and the HAP contract will be terminated according to Section 8-II.G. Enforcing Owner Compliance.

If a family fails to correct a family caused life threatening condition as required by the CHA, the CHA may terminate the family’s assistance according to Section 8-II.H. Enforcing Family Compliance with HQS.

8-I.D. Owner and Family Responsibilities

[24 CFR 982.404]

**Family Responsibilities**

The family is responsible for correcting the following HQS deficiencies:

- Tenant-paid utilities not in service
- Failure to provide or maintain family-supplied appliances
- Damage to the unit or premises caused by a household member or guest beyond normal wear and tear. "Normal wear and tear" is defined as items which the owner could not assess against the tenant's security deposit under state law or court practice.

**Owner Responsibilities**

The owner is responsible for all HQS violations not listed as a family responsibility above, even if the violation is caused by the family's living habits (e.g., vermin infestation).
8-I.E. Special Requirements for Children with Elevated Blood Lead Levels

[24 CFR 35.1225]

If a PHA is notified by a public health department or other medical health care provider, or verifies information from a source other than a public health department or medical health care provider, that a child of less than 6 years of age, living in an HCV-assisted unit has been identified as having an elevated blood lead level the PHA must complete an environmental investigation of the dwelling unit. The environmental investigation must be completed in accordance with program requirements, and the results must be immediately provided to the owner of the dwelling unit and the participant. In cases where the owner and/or participant does not allow access to the unit for a lead inspection on two instances, the HAP must be abated, using the same no-show procedures for non-lead inspections. In cases where the public health department has already completed an evaluation of the unit, this information must be provided to the owner.

Within 30 days after receiving the results, the owner is required to complete the reduction of identified lead-based paint hazards in accordance with the lead-based paint regulations [24 CFR 35.1325 and 35.1330]. If the owner does not complete the “hazard reduction” as required, the dwelling unit is in violation of HQS and the PHA will take action in accordance with Section 8-II.G. Enforcing Owner Compliance. Extensions will only be granted for exterior deficiencies if needed due to weather related issues.

Below are CHA’s procedures in regards to identifying children under the age of six with elevated blood lead levels and ensuring the lead risk is abated.

1. Monthly, CHA prepares a list of children in HCV program who are under the age of six with their full address to the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH)

2. CDPH matches that list against theirs and will produce two different reports, 1) includes all addresses that match CDPH records of addresses that have been inspected in the last two years with the address, results of the inspection, and the resolution or lack thereof. The second report includes all HCV children with an incident (i.e. for the first time in their life) blood lead level of 5+ mcg/dl, and the child’s address from HCV and the child’s address from their blood lead test record.

3. CDPH confirms the accuracy of the inspection info and determines if homes of the children on the list have had an inspection after their blood draw and prior to the date of review. CDPH will make any necessary corrections to both lists, describe the inspection date and results, and add the date and time window for the child’s inspection. This information is sent to CHA.

4. CHA confirms that lead release forms are on file for the appropriate families.

5. CHA sends letters to both owners and tenants who are on the list of children informing them of date and time of the of the CDPH inspection and the relevant deadlines that apply to them.

6. CDPH ensures the inspection is conducted and within a few business days sends CHA the full inspection report.

7. CHA sends a letter to the tenant and owner informing them of the results of the inspection and deadlines for complying.

8. If the inspection shows lead based paint present that needs to be abated, CHA enters a special inspection as “Desk Fail” for an Elevated Blood Lead Level.

9. CDPH will send owner and tenant a letter informing them of the inspection result and required next steps. The owner will have 30 days to comply with the inspection. CHA will follow the inspection process outlined in Chapter 8- Housing Quality Standards and Rent Reasonableness Determinations for the re-inspection and enforcement.
10. If the lead is abated, CDPH will send the certificate of compliance to CHA and CHA will pass the “Desk Fail.” If the owner does not complete the lead abatement within the timeframe CHA will stop payment to the owner and if payment has been stopped for 60 days, the HAP contract will be terminated. Once we stop payment the participant is eligible to move, but not required. After the HAP contract is terminated they are required to move.

11. The failed inspections and follow up passes will be recorded on CHA’s internal SharePoint system.

The PHA reporting requirements, and data collection and record keeping responsibilities related to children with an environmental intervention blood lead level are discussed in Chapter 16- Program Administration.

8-I.F. Violation of HQS Space Standards
[24 CFR 982.403]

If the PHA determines that a unit does not meet the HQS space standards because of an increase in family size or a change in family composition, the PHA will issue the family a new voucher, and the family and the PHA must try to find an acceptable unit as soon as possible. If an acceptable unit is available for rental by the family, the PHA must terminate the HAP contract in accordance with its terms.

City of Chicago Building Code
If the CHA is notified by the City of Chicago that a property leased under the HCV program does not meet the local building code, the CHA will consider the unit as failing HQS. In such cases, the owner will be notified to make the necessary repairs in accordance with the provisions of this chapter. Owner failure to make the necessary repairs will result in termination of the HAP Contract.

Part II: The Inspection Process

8-II.A. Overview
[24 CFR 982.405]

Types of Inspections
The PHA conducts the following types of inspections as needed. Each type of inspection is discussed in the paragraphs that follow.

- **Initial Inspections.** The PHA conducts initial inspections in response to a request from the family to approve a unit for participation in the HCV program. The unit must pass the HQS inspection before the effective date of the HAP Contract.

- **Regular Inspections.** HUD requires the PHA to inspect each unit under lease at least biennially to confirm that the unit still meets HQS.

- **Special Inspections.** A special inspection may be requested by the owner, the family, or a third party as a result of problems identified with a unit between annual inspections.

- **Quality Control Inspections.** HUD requires that a sample of units be re-inspected by a supervisor or other qualified individual to ensure that HQS are being enforced correctly and uniformly by all inspectors.

Inspection of PHA-owned Units
[24 CFR 982.352(b)]

The PHA must obtain the services of an independent entity to perform all HQS inspections in cases where an HCV family is receiving assistance in a PHA-owned unit. A PHA-owned unit is defined as a unit that is owned by the PHA (including a unit owned by an entity substantially controlled by the PHA). The independent agency must
communicate the results of each inspection to the family and the PHA. The independent agency must be approved by HUD, and may be the unit of general local government for the PHA jurisdiction.

Inspection Costs
The PHA may not charge the family or owner for initial inspection or re-inspection of the unit [24 CFR 982.405(e)]. In the case of inspections of PHA-owned units, the PHA may compensate the independent agency from ongoing administrative fee for inspections performed. The PHA and the independent agency may not charge the family any fee or charge for the inspection [24 CFR.982.352(b)].

Notice and Scheduling
The family must allow the PHA to inspect the unit at reasonable times with reasonable notice [24 CFR 982.551(d)].

CHA Policy
Both the family and the owner will be given reasonable notice of all inspections. Except in the case of a life threatening emergency, reasonable notice is considered to be not less than 48 hours. Inspections may be scheduled between 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Generally inspections will be conducted on business days only. In the case of a life threatening emergency, the CHA will give as much notice as possible, given the nature of the emergency.

Owner and Family Inspection Attendance
The CHA requires family presence during certain types of inspections and owner presence during certain types of inspections as discussed below in this section. Housing Choice Voucher Guidebook, Chapter 10: Housing Quality Standards.

When a family occupies the unit at the time of inspection an adult must be present for the inspection. The presence of the owner or the owner's representative is required during annual inspection and/or during an owner-initiated Special inspection. At initial inspection of a vacant unit, the CHA will inspect the unit in the presence of the owner or owner's representative. The presence of a family representative is permitted, but is not required.

8-II.B. Initial HQS Inspection
[24 CFR 982.401(a)]

Timing of Initial Inspections
HUD requires the unit to pass HQS before the effective date of the lease and HAP Contract. For PHAs, such as CHA, with 1,250 or more budgeted units, to the extent practicable, the initial inspection and suitability determination must be completed within 15 days. The 15-day period is suspended for any period during which the unit is not available for inspection [982.305(b)[2]].

CHA Policy
To the extent practicable, the CHA will complete the initial inspection, determine whether the unit satisfies HQS, and notify the owner and the family of the determination within 15 calendar days after both of the following conditions are met:

- The CHA receives the completed Request for Tenancy Approval (RFTA)
- The property is available and ready for inspection

Cases where the CHA is not able to complete the inspection within these guidelines will be documented as to the reason it was not practicable.
The CHA, upon receiving MTW Authority and in accordance with the CHA HQS Guidebook, may utilize a passed HQS inspection for the same unit within the last 90 days (including a passed annual inspection) to move a family into the unit.

If an Initial Inspection passes, but the voucher holder does not move into the unit, the owner may use that passed inspection for another family, if the subsequent RTA is submitted within 30 days of the pass date. However, this cannot be done if the original inspection was done for a family who did not have a child under the age of six and the subsequent family does.

Inspection Results and Re-inspections

**CHA Policy**

The CHA will notify the owner in writing of any deficiencies identified during an inspection within seven calendar days. When the deficiencies are corrected, the owner will contact CHA by phone to schedule a re-inspection. Only the owner can request an Initial re-inspection. CHA will conduct this re-inspection within seven calendar days of the owner’s request.

If the owner does not schedule a re-inspection for any 14-calendar day period during the inspection phase, the CHA will terminate the inspection process and issue new moving papers to the tenant. Exceptions to the termination of the inspection process may be granted for reasonable accommodation for a person with a disability and Public Housing relocation purposes. The CHA will notify the owner and the family in writing that the unit has been rejected.

Utilities

Generally, at initial lease-up the owner is responsible for demonstrating that all utilities are in working order including those utilities that the family will be responsible for paying.

**CHA Policy**

All utilities must be in service to conduct an initial inspection.

Appliances

**CHA Policy**

If the family is responsible for supplying the stove and/or refrigerator, the CHA will allow the stove and refrigerator to be placed in the unit after the initial inspection met all other HQS requirements. The required appliances must be in place before executing the HAP contract.

8-II.C. Regular HQS Inspections

[24 CFR 982.405(a)]

Scheduling the Annual/Biennial Inspection

Each unit under HAP contract must have an inspection completed at least biennially during assisted occupancy, and at other times as needed, to determine if the unit meets the HQS (CFR 982.405).

CHA policy stipulates that an inspection for compliance with HQS must be conducted biennially before the end of the calendar month in which the initial or last regular inspection was completed. Currently, CHA conducts an inspection biennially in the same month of the initial or last completed regular inspection. If an adult and/or owner cannot be present on the scheduled date, the family should request that the CHA reschedule the inspection. The CHA allows the family to reschedule a regular inspection one time for up to seven calendar days after the originally scheduled inspection.
If the family fails to ensure that an adult attends the first scheduled appointment or a rescheduled inspection, the CHA will automatically schedule a second attempt inspection. If the family misses two scheduled inspections without the CHA approval, the CHA will consider the family in violation of its obligation to make the unit available for inspection and will issue the family an Intent to Terminate (ITT) notice. Additionally, an ITT will also be issued if the first inspection is a fail (owner or tenant) and the reinspection is a no show. This may result in termination of the family’s assistance in accordance with Chapter 12- Termination of Assistance and Tenancy.

Units that have children under the age of six will be conducted annually as well as units owned by those on the Do Not Lease List.

8-II.D. Special/Complaint Inspections

Owners participating in the program or voucher program participants may request that the CHA or its contractor conduct a complaint inspection.

CHA Policy

All requests for complaint inspections shall be scheduled without regard for whether or not the complaint pertains to an item of an emergency nature. The CHA or its contractor will not schedule or perform a complaint inspection unless the party that requests the complaint inspection (owner, owner’s agent, or the voucher program participant) is present for the inspection. The CHA or its contractor will not perform a follow up inspection after a missed complaint inspection appointment. If the family requests an inspection and is not present due to unavoidable circumstances, the family may request another inspection. The CHA or its contractor will evaluate the circumstances and determine on a case-by-case basis whether to schedule a new complaint inspection.

During a complaint inspection, the CHA or its contractor will inspect only those fail items that were reported. Complaint inspections that include an emergency fail items will be conducted within 24 hours.

If the caller states that the utilities are not turned on, the inspector will inquire as to who is responsible for the utility. If the owner is responsible for the utility, the inspections staff will contact the owner and notify the owner that the unit fails HQS. If the family is responsible for the utility, it will be treated as a family-caused HQS fail. The inspection staff will call the complaining party within one day to determine if the utilities are on. If the utility is not on and the utility is the responsibility of the owner, the CHA will abate the HAP for the unit. If the utility is the responsibility of the tenant, the CHA will treat it as a family-caused HQS fail and begin termination of assistance procedures.

If the caller identified lack of heat as the complaint item and the utility has not been turned off, an emergency fail item inspection will be conducted.

If based on the complaint inspection the unit does not meet the HQS, the CHA staff or its contractor must notify the owner that the unit failed the inspection and is not eligible for continued assistance unless specific repairs are made within 24 hours of the notification date by the CHA staff or its contractor for emergency fail items.

The CHA staff or its contractor must provide the owner with a copy of the inspection form or notification with the failed items listed that identifies the reasons that the unit failed, establishes a date for the CHA staff or its contractor to re-inspect the unit, and advises the owner that if the owner does not make the necessary repairs.
within 24 hours of the notification date by the CHA staff or its contractor, the CHA will stop payment to the owner on the first of the month following the end of the repair period deadline.

8-II.E. Quality Control Inspections

HUD requires a PHA supervisor or other qualified person to conduct quality control inspections of a sample of units to ensure that each inspector is conducting accurate and complete inspections and that there is consistency in the application of the HQS.

The unit sample must include only units that have been inspected within the preceding 3 months. The selected sample will include (1) each type of inspection (initial, annual, and special), (2) inspections completed by each inspector, and (3) units from a cross-section of neighborhoods.

8-II.F. Inspection Results and Re-inspections for Units Under HAP Contract

Notification of Corrective Actions

The owner and the family will be notified in writing of the results of all inspections. When an inspection identifies HQS failures, the PHA will determine (1) whether or not the failure is a life threatening condition and (2) whether the family or owner is responsible.

CHA Policy

When life threatening conditions are identified, the CHA will immediately notify both parties by telephone, facsimile, or email. The notice will specify who is responsible for correcting the violation. The corrective actions must be taken within 24 hours of the date of the CHA’s notice.

When failures that are not life threatening are identified, the CHA will send the owner and the family a written notification of the inspection results within seven calendar days of the inspection. The written notice will specify who is responsible for correcting the violation, and the time frame within which the failure must be corrected. Generally, 30 calendar days from the date of the inspection that identifies the failures are allowed for the correction.

The notice of inspection results will inform the owner that if life threatening conditions are not corrected within 24 hours and non-life threatening conditions are not corrected within the specified time frame (or any CHA-approved extension), the owner’s HAP will be abated in accordance with the CHA policy (see Section 8-II.G. Enforcing Owner Compliance). Likewise, in the case of family caused deficiencies, the notice will inform the family that if corrections are not made within the specified time frame (or any CHA-approved extension, if applicable) the family’s assistance will be terminated in accordance with the CHA policy (see Chapter 12- Termination of Assistance and Tenancy).

For non-life threatening emergencies, the CHA may accept written certification by use of the Self-Certification of HQS Compliance form, in lieu of performing a re-inspection, as proof that the required repairs have been made. The form must be signed by both the owner and the participant. Parameters for the use of a Self-Certification HQS form shall be in accordance with the CHA HQS Guidebook. CHA reserves the right to conduct an inspection, notwithstanding the owner or landlord’s or tenant’s certification, where the family forwards a written certification that the corrective action was not completed as required by CHA.

Extensions

For conditions that are life-threatening, the PHA cannot grant an extension to the 24 hour corrective action period. For conditions that are not life-threatening or lead-based paint, the PHA may grant an exception to the
required time frames for correcting the violation, if the PHA determines that an extension is appropriate [24 CFR 982.404].

CHA Policy
Extensions will be granted in cases where the CHA has determined that the owner has made a good faith effort to correct the deficiencies and is unable to for reasons beyond the owner’s control. The owner’s request for an extension must be made in writing to the CHA. Reasons may include, but are not limited to:

- A repair cannot be completed because required parts or services are not available.
- A repair cannot be completed because of weather conditions (weather related extensions will only be accepted November 1st through March 15th)
- A reasonable accommodation is needed because the family includes a person with disabilities.

The length of the extension will be determined on a case by case basis, but will not exceed 30 calendar days, except in the case of delays caused by weather conditions. In the case of weather conditions, extensions may be continued until the weather has improved sufficiently to make repairs possible. The necessary repairs must be made within 15 calendar days after the weather conditions have subsided.

Re-inspections
CHA Policy
To confirm HQS repairs, the CHA conducts re-inspections. For repairs that are the owner’s responsibility, the owner must notify the CHA of repairs that have been completed. If such repairs have not been made or if the re-inspection cannot be completed before the end of the correction period, for any reason, the CHA will make the abatement effective the first of the month following the expiration of the CHA specified correction period (including any extension). No new fail items will be added at annual or initial re-inspection unless it is a life threatening deficiency.

In the case of family caused violations, if the repairs have not been made, CHA will send an Intent to Terminate (ITT) notice to the family. If the CHA is unable to gain entry to the unit in order to conduct the scheduled re-inspection, regardless of owner or family responsibility, HAP will be abated after the corrections period and the CHA will consider the family to have violated its obligation to make the unit available for inspection and will issue the family an Intent to Terminate (ITT) notice. This notice will be sent to the family within five business days of the attempted inspection date. This may result in termination of the family’s assistance in accordance with Chapter 12- Termination of Assistance and Tenancy.

Where inspection deficiencies are the owner’s responsibility, the CHA will charge the owner a $75 fee for conducting a second re-inspection. The $75 must be paid to the CHA prior to scheduling the second re-inspection by using the designated PayPal link via the Owner Portal and CHA website. The CHA requires that owner or an authorized representative of the owner participate in such re-inspections. A $75 fee is not charged if the fail items are the family’s responsibility. If there is reasonable evidence to suggest that the owner corrected the deficiency but the participant did not adhere to their responsibility by allowing the inspector into the unit, at its discretion, CHA will return the $75 fee to the owner. Additionally, it may be refunded if the fail item was incorrectly deemed the responsibility of the owner or if the property owner was not properly notified of a previous inspection. The CHA will schedule the first re-inspection.

8-II.G. Enforcing Owner Compliance
If the owner fails to maintain the dwelling unit in accordance with HQS, the PHA must take prompt and vigorous action to enforce the owner obligations.
HAP Abatement
If an owner fails to correct HQS deficiencies by the time specified by the PHA, HUD requires the PHA to abate housing assistance payments no later than the first of the month following the specified correction period (including any approved extension) [24 CFR 985.3(f)]. No retroactive payments will be made to the owner for the period of time the rent was abated. Owner rents are not abated as a result of HQS failures that are the family's responsibility.

CHA Policy
The CHA will make all HAP abatements effective the first of the month following the expiration of the CHA specified correction period (including any extension).

The CHA will inspect abated units within seven calendar days of the owner's notification that the work has been completed. This inspection will not take place if the HAP Contract has been terminated. HAP will resume effective on the date the CHA is able to verify the repairs have been made (either through a re-inspection or acceptable documentation of repairs). If the owner pays the $75 fee for another re-inspection, and the unit passes the re-inspection, the abatement will be lifted retroactive to the date the fee was paid.

During any abatement period the family continues to be responsible for its share of the rent. The owner must not seek payment from the family for abated amounts and may not use the abatement as cause for eviction.

After the abatement period begins, the CHA issues the participant moving papers. If the unit subsequently passes inspection prior to HAP contract termination, the CHA will not rescind the participant’s moving papers unless the participant is currently under a valid lease agreement. If the lease is not on file, staff must request it from the owner to ensure it is valid, and if so, CHA will rescind the moving papers.

If the unit passes inspection prior to HAP contract termination, and the participant wishes to remain in the unit, they are not required to move.

HAP Contract Termination
The PHA must decide how long any abatement period will continue before the HAP contract will be terminated. The PHA should not terminate the contract until the family finds another unit, provided the family does so in a reasonable time [HCV GB p. 10-29] and must give the owner reasonable notice of the termination. The PHA will issue a voucher to permit the family to move to another unit as described in Chapter 10- Moving with Continued Assistance and Portability.

CHA Policy
The maximum length of time that a HAP may be abated is 60 calendar days. However, if the owner completes corrections and notifies the CHA before the termination date of the HAP contract, the CHA may rescind the termination notice if (1) the family still resides in the unit and wishes to remain in the unit and (2) the unit passes inspection. The family will not be required to remain in the unit if the family has already been issued a voucher and RTA and still wishes to move.

Reasonable notice of HAP contract termination by the CHA is 30 calendar days.

If the owner does not make the necessary corrections by the end of the abatement period, the CHA will send a notice of HAP termination to the owner and a notice to the family that the HAP contract is being terminated. Once the termination goes into effect, the CHA will not rescind it.

The abatement shall be lifted effective the date the CHA is able to verify the repairs have been made. If an owner provides acceptable documentation of the date of the repairs, the abatement can be lifted effective the date the
repairs were made. If the owner pays the re-inspection fee, and the unit passes its re-inspection, the abatement can be lifted retroactive to the date the fee was paid.

If an owner has a history or practice of non-compliance with their obligations, the CHA may impose consequences, up to and including terminating the owner’s participation in the program. See Section 13-I.F. Owner Do Not Lease List for more details.

8-II.H. Enforcing Family Compliance with HQS [24 CFR 982.404(b)]

Families are responsible for correcting any HQS violations listed in paragraph Section 8.I.D. Owner and Family Responsibilities. If the family fails to correct a violation within the period allowed by the PHA (and any extensions), the PHA will terminate the family’s assistance, according to the policies described in Chapter 12-Termination of Assistance and Tenancy. In the case of family caused violations, the family has 30 days to repair the deficiencies or 24 hours in cases of emergency. If such repairs have not been made or if the re-inspection cannot be completed before the end of the correction period, for any reason, the family will be sent an ITT notice no later than five business days after the correction period. If the CHA is unable to gain entry to the unit, regardless of owner or family responsibility, the CHA will consider the family to have violated its obligation to make the unit available for inspection and will issue the family an ITT notice. Notice to the family must be sent within five business days from the date of the no-show inspection. The ITT may be rescinded if the family reschedules and passes the re-inspection.

If the owner carries out a repair for which the family is responsible under the lease, the owner may bill the family for the cost of the repair.

8-II.I. Bribing Inspectors

Any and all bribes or attempts to bribe an HCV inspector by a property owner or any party must immediately be reported to CHA’s Office of Inspector General (OIG). Inspectors are instructed to not accept any bribes in the course of their duties. All inspectors must report any and all information regarding the bribe or attempted bribe. If any money or gift is given to the inspector involuntarily, the inspector must report this information directly to the OIG’s Office and should only inform his/her supervisor of the bribe or attempted bribe after contacting the OIG’s Office.


8-III.A. Overview

The PHA cannot approve a HAP contract until the PHA has determined that the rent for the unit is reasonable. The purpose of the rent reasonableness test is to ensure that the PHA pays a fair rent is paid for each property in the unit rented under the HCV program.

HUD regulations define a reasonable rent as one that does not exceed the rent charged for comparable, unassisted units in the same market area. The tenant rent portion (rent plus utilities) must not exceed 40 percent of the participant’s AMI at new admission, a portability move-in, and change of unit. HUD also requires that owners not charge more for assisted units than for comparable units on the premises. This part explains the method used to determine whether a unit’s rent is reasonable.

Note: An assisted unit is a unit that is assisted under a federal, state, or local government program.
PHA-owned Units

[24 CFR 982.352(b)]

In cases where an HCV family is receiving assistance in a PHA-owned unit, the PHA must obtain the services of an independent entity to determine rent reasonableness in accordance with program requirements, and to assist the family in negotiating the contract rent when the family requests assistance. A PHA-owned unit is defined as a unit that is owned by the PHA (including a unit owned by an entity substantially controlled by the PHA). The independent agency must communicate the results of the rent reasonableness determination to the family and the PHA. The independent agency must be approved by HUD, and may be the unit of general local government for the PHA jurisdiction.

8-III.B. When Rent Reasonableness Determinations Are Required

Owner-Initiated Rent Determinations

The PHA must make a rent reasonableness determination at initial occupancy and whenever the owner requests a rent adjustment.

The owner and family first negotiate the rent for a unit. The PHA (or independent agency in the case of PHA-owned units) will assist the family with the negotiations upon request. At initial occupancy the PHA must determine whether the proposed rent is reasonable before a HAP Contract is signed. The owner must not change the rent during the initial lease term. Subsequent requests for rent adjustments must be consistent with the lease between the owner and the family. Rent increases will not be approved unless any failed items identified by the most recent HQS inspection have been corrected.

CHA Policy

After the initial occupancy period, the owner may request a rent adjustment in accordance with the owner’s lease but may only request a rent increase once in a calendar year. For rent increase requests after initial lease-up, the CHA may request owners to provide information about the rents charged for other units on the premises, if the premises include more than four units. In evaluating the proposed rents in comparison to other units on the premises the CHA will consider any rent setting policies by the owner for existing tenants, in addition to unit size and length of tenancy in the other units.

Rent increases will not be approved if any failed items identified by the most recent HQS inspection haven’t been corrected or if the inspection is due prior to the effective date of the rent increase and hasn’t passed. In the year that there is no HQS Inspection conducted, staff must proceed with the rent increase as long as there are no open inspection issues.

The CHA will determine whether the requested increase is reasonable within 10 calendar days of receiving the request from the owner. The owner will be notified of the determination in writing.

All rents adjustments will become effective on the later of the following dates: the first of the month that begins 60 or more calendar days after the CHA receives the owner’s request or on the date specified by the owner.

To dispute the market comparability analysis of a rent determination request the owner may appeal the rent reasonableness determination by submitting any additional market data to the CHA within 30 calendar days of the date of the results notification letter.

The CHA will verify the accuracy of this data and, if applicable, recalculate the rent reasonableness determination. The CHA will notify the owner of the results of this rent reasonableness determination within 15 calendar days after receiving the additional data.
PHA- and HUD- Initiated Rent Reasonableness Determinations

HUD requires the PHA to make a determination of rent reasonableness (even if the owner has not requested a change) if there is a five percent decrease in the Fair Market Rent that goes into effect at least 60 days before the contract anniversary date. The PHA must re-determine the reasonable rent if directed by HUD. In addition, the PHA may also re-determine the reasonable rent at any other time.

**CHA Policy**

In addition to the instances described above, the CHA will make a determine of rent reasonableness at any time after the initial occupancy period, if: (1) the CHA determines that the initial rent reasonableness determination was in error or (2) the CHA determines that the information provided by the owner about the unit or other units on the same premises was incorrect.

### 8-III.C. Establishing Comparability

**Factors to Consider**

HUD requires PHAs to take into consideration the factors listed below when determining rent comparability. The PHA may use these factors to make upward or downward adjustments to the rents of comparison units when the comparison units are not identical to the HCV-assisted unit.

- Location and age;
- Unit size including the number of rooms and square footage of units;
- The type of unit including construction type (e.g., single family, duplex, garden, low-rise, high-rise) ‘
- The quality of the units including the quality of the original construction, maintenance, and improvements made; and
- Amenities, services, and utilities included in the rent.

**Units that May Not Be Used as Comparable**

Comparable units must represent unrestricted market rents. Therefore, units that receive some form of federal, state, or local assistance that impose rent restrictions cannot be considered comparable units. These include units assisted by HUD through any of the following programs:

- Section 8 property-based assistance,
- Section 236 and Section 221(d)(3) Below Market Interest Rate (BMIR) projects
- HOME or Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program-assisted units in which the rents are subsidized
- Units subsidized through federal, state, or local tax credits
- Units subsidized by the Department of Agriculture rural housing programs
- Units that are rent-controlled by local ordinance.

**Rents Charged for Other Units on the Premises**

The Request for Tenancy Approval (HUD-52517) requires owners to provide information, on the form itself about the rent charged for other unassisted comparable units on the premises if the premises include more than four (4) units.

As in the case of some housing conversion actions, units for which an owner has decided to charge rents that are below what other tenants are charged and what the market might actually bear are not “assisted” units for the purposes of rent reasonableness determinations. These units must be taken into consideration as unassisted comparable units on the premises [Notice PIH 2009-51].

In addition, the PHA must take into consideration any actions that reduce the true value of rents charged by the owner for unassisted comparable units on the premises when determining rent reasonableness, including “rent back,” free rent for some months, or other types of subsidy from the owner.
In the case of a family moving into a multifamily property, the PHA may choose to only consider the most recent rentals in determining the rents that the owner is charging for comparable unassisted units.

*CHA Policy*

In the case of a family moving into a multifamily property, the CHA will only consider units leased within the past year in determining the rents that the owner is charging for comparable unassisted units.

By accepting the PHA payment each month the owner certifies that the rent is not more than the rent charged for comparable unassisted units on the premises. If asked to do so, the owner must give the PHA information regarding rents charged for other units on the premises.

8-III.D Rent Reasonableness Determination Methodology

Overview

*CHA Policy*

According to HUD, the objective of the rent reasonableness program is to ensure that program rents do not exceed unassisted rental values for the City of Chicago housing market.

To meet this objective, the CHA employs the unit-to-unit comparison method to make rent reasonableness determinations, taking into consideration unit age, location, condition, market area, structure type, and amenities. A unit-to-unit comparison is similar to the real estate appraisal method, in which the program unit rent is directly compared to the rents for one or more unassisted units selected as comparables. The CHA may also make adjustments based on a property’s curb appeal.

Rent Reasonableness Procedures

When conducting rent reasonableness, staff must run the comparables through Yardi. Prior to conducting rent reasonableness through Yardi, staff must click the “Display all Program Information” button and then the “Save” button in the unit information screen.

If the requested rent is not supported by comps, staff may run the comps manually (with the ability to add/remove units). This will be done by the supervisor or other designated staff who has access to this function. In these cases, staff should notate “Comps defaulted through Yardi do not support requested rent, forwarded to supervisor for a more in-depth analysis.” Staff must ensure the utilities listed are correct, and if the Refrigerator and Range are provided by the owner, they must be listed in the “Amenities” section. The Housing Specialist signature or e-signature and the appropriate tenant name, and ID need to be on the document.

When running manually, supervisors may use any comparables (including those that appear when selecting “View More Comps” listed if they meet the criteria listed below. In addition, when running for units located in a Mobility Areas, Above Average, must be selected for Condition and for units located in a Non-Mobility Area, Unknown or Average must be used. Comparable units outside of the city of Chicago are acceptable.

- Both the Credibility and Similarity Scores are over 80% for Mobility Area units (for Non-Mobility Area units, the scores must both be above 90%); and
- The comparable units must be within 1.5 miles of the subject unit for units located in Mobility Areas and 1.0 for Non-Mobility.

In cases where following the procedures described above would result in the offered rent being lower than the requested amount, and the area is sparsely populated with a limited number of comps within one mile (1.5 for those in Mobility Areas), the supervisor may expand the search and use units outside the parameters described above, as long as they are reasonable. The file should be notated that this was done.
In cases where following the procedures described above would result in the offered rent being lower than the requested amount, and the area is sparsely populated with a limited number of comps within one mile (1.5 for those in Mobility Areas), the supervisor may expand the search and use units outside the parameters described above, as long as they are reasonable. The file should be notated that this was done.

If the rent reasonableness created in Yardi was used, and an Exception Payment Standard is needed, the rent approved on the rent reasonableness document must be amended. Staff must modify the document to the appropriate rent amount, notate Yardi explaining why this was done, and discard the HAP calculation sheet attached to the rent reasonableness.

In cases where the default comps need to be overridden due to the situations listed below, the supervisor must override those comps manually, and they must meet the criteria listed above. Additionally, the file should be notated that this was done.

- One or more of the units is over 1.5 miles from the subject unit;
- One of the comps is the same as the subject unit (including unit #); or
- Two of the comps used have the same address (including unit #); units that do not explicitly state they are the same unit can be used.

For rent increase requests, the average rent in Go Section 8 will be used to determine if a rent increase is allowable. If one of the three comparable rents support the current rent, the rent increase will be denied but the contract rent will not be reduced.

If there are no comparables to support the current rent, the rent must be reduced and the owner and tenant must be provided with at least 60 days’ notice of the reduction. The rent can be reduced to the closest comparable.

For Quality Control correction files where the average of the comparables would cause a decrease in rent, staff will not decrease the rent if there is at least one unit where the rent comparable meets or exceeds the current contract rent. Staff will instead, maintain the current rent on the unit and replace the missing Rent Reasonableness document. If there are no current comparables to support the current rent, the rent must be reduced to the highest comparable and the owner and tenant are provided with at least 60 days’ notice of the rent reduction.

8-III.E. Required Rent Determination Documentation

PHAs are required to maintain copies of key documents in the participant files. The documents relevant to the process of determining rent reasonableness include:

- Request for Tenancy Approval (HUD-52517)
- Written request by owner for rent increase
- The PHA’s rent reasonableness certification form including staff signature(s) and date
- Appropriate Utility Allowance Schedule (HUD-52667 or facsimile) for the subject unit
- HAP Contracts and Unit Leases and amendments
- Form HUD-50058 or facsimile
- Copies of correspondence and file notes
- HQS (Housing Quality Standards) inspection report (HUD-52580)

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1 If unable to run comps through Yardi due to technical issue, the supervisor must run manually and use comps that meet the criteria listed above. The file should be notated that this was done.
Exhibit 8-1: Summary of Tenant Preference Areas Related to Housing Quality

Note: This document provides an overview of unit and site characteristics and conditions for which the family determines acceptability. For more detailed information see the following documents:

- [Housing Choice Voucher Guidebook, Chapter 10 Housing Choice Voucher Guidebook, Chapter 10: Housing Quality Standards](https://example.com)
- HUD Housing Inspection Manual for Section 8 Housing
- [HUD Inspection Form, form HUD-52580 (3/01)](https://example.com) and [Inspection Checklist, form HUD-52580-A (9/00)](https://example.com)

Provided the minimum housing quality standards have been met, HUD permits the family to determine whether the unit is acceptable with regard to the following characteristics.

- **Sanitary Facilities.** The family may determine the adequacy of the cosmetic condition and quality of the sanitary facilities, including the size of the lavatory, tub, or shower; the location of the sanitary facilities within the unit; and the adequacy of the water heater.

- **Food Preparation and Refuse Disposal.** The family selects size and type of equipment it finds acceptable. When the family is responsible for supplying cooking appliances, the family may choose to use a microwave oven in place of a conventional oven, stove, or range. When the owner is responsible for providing cooking appliances, the owner may offer a microwave oven in place of an oven, stove, or range only if other subsidized and unsubsidized units on the premises are furnished with microwave ovens only. The adequacy of the amount and type of storage space, the cosmetic conditions of all equipment, and the size and location of the kitchen are all determined by the family.

- **Space and Security.** The family may determine the adequacy of room sizes and room locations. The family is also responsible for deciding the acceptability of the type of door and window locks.

- **Energy conservation items.** The family may determine whether the amount of insulation, presence of absence of storm doors and windows and other energy conservation items are acceptable.

- **Illumination and Electricity.** The family may determine whether the location and the number of outlets and fixtures (over and above those required to meet HQS standards) are acceptable or if the amount of electrical service is adequate for the use of appliances, computers, or stereo equipment.

- **Structure and Materials.** Families may determine whether minor defects, such as lack of paint, or worn flooring or carpeting will affect the livability of the unit.

- **Indoor Air.** Families may determine whether window and door screens, filters, fans, or other devices for proper ventilation are adequate to meet the family’s needs. However, if screens are present they must be in good condition.

- **Sanitary Conditions.** The family determines whether the sanitary conditions in the unit, including minor infestations, are acceptable.

- **Neighborhood conditions.** Families may determine whether neighborhood conditions such as the presence of drug activity, commercial enterprises, and convenience to shopping will affect the livability of the unit.

Families have no discretion with respect to lead-based paint standards and smoke detector
Chapter 9-Leasing

Introduction
This chapter covers the lease-up process from the family's submission of a Request for Tenancy Approval to execution of the HAP contract.

In order for the PHA to assist a family in a particular dwelling unit, or execute a Housing Assistance Payments (HAP) contract with the owner of a dwelling unit, the PHA must determine that all the following program requirements are met:

- The unit itself must qualify as an eligible unit [24 CFR 982.305(a)]
- The unit must be inspected by the PHA and meet the Housing Quality Standards (HQS) [24 CFR 982.305(a)]
- The lease offered by the owner must be approvable and must include the required Tenancy Addendum [24 CFR 982.305(a)]
- The rent to be charged by the owner for the unit must be reasonable [24 CFR 982.305(a)]
- The owner must be an eligible owner, approvable by the PHA, with no conflicts of interest [24 CFR 982.306 and 24 CFR 982.161]
- For families initially leasing a unit only: Where the gross rent of the unit exceeds the applicable payment standard for the family, the share of rent to be paid by the family cannot exceed 40 percent of the family’s monthly adjusted income [24 CFR 982.305(a)]

9-I.A. Tenant Screening
The PHA has no liability or responsibility to the owner or other persons for the family’s behavior or suitability for tenancy [24 CFR 982.307(a)(1)].

The PHA may elect to screen applicants for family behavior or suitability for tenancy. See Chapter 3- Eligibility for a discussion of the PHA’s policies with regard to screening applicant families for program eligibility [24 CFR 982.307(a)(1)].

The owner is responsible for screening and selection of the family to occupy the owner's unit. At or before PHA approval of the tenancy, the PHA must inform the owner that screening and selection for tenancy is the responsibility of the owner [24 CFR 982.307(a)(2)]. The PHA must also inform the owner or manager of their responsibility to comply with VAWA. [Pub.L. 109-162]

The PHA must provide the owner with the family's current and prior address (as shown in the PHA records); and the name and address (if known to the PHA) of the owner/property manager at the family's current and prior address. [24 CFR 982.307 (b)(1)].

The PHA is permitted, but not required, to offer the owner other information in the PHA’s possession about the family’s tenancy [24 CFR 982.307(b)(2)].

The PHA’s policy on providing information to the owner must be included in the family’s briefing packet [24 CFR 982.307(b)(3)].

CHA Policy
The CHA will not screen applicants for family behavior or suitability for tenancy on behalf of the owner. The determination on whether an assisted family meets the tenancy requirements is the owner’s responsibility.
The CHA will not provide additional screening information to the owner. The CHA will inform owners of their responsibility to screen prospective tenants, and will provide owners with the required known name and address information, at the time of the initial HQS inspection or before.

9-I.B. Requesting Tenancy Approval

After the family is issued a voucher, the family must locate an eligible unit. Once a family finds a suitable unit, the owner and the family must request the PHA to approve the assisted tenancy in the selected unit.

The owner and the family must submit to the PHA the completed Request for Tenancy Approval (RTA) – Form HUD-52517.

The RTA contains important information about the rental unit selected by the family, including the unit address, number of bedrooms, structure type, year constructed, utilities included in the rent, and the requested beginning date of the lease, necessary for the PHA to determine whether to approve the assisted tenancy in this unit.

Owners must certify that they are not the parent, child, grandparent, grandchild, sister or brother of any member of the family, unless the PHA has granted a request for reasonable accommodation for a person with disabilities who is a member of the tenant household.

For units constructed prior to 1978, owners must either 1) certify that the unit, common areas, and exterior have been found to be free of lead-based paint by a certified inspector; or 2) attach a lead-based paint disclosure statement.

The RTA must be submitted no later than the expiration date stated on the voucher.

CHA Policy

The RTA must be signed by both the family and the owner and the owner may submit it on behalf of the family.

The family may not submit, and the CHA will not process, more than one (1) RTA at a time.

When the family submits the RTA the CHA will review the RTA for completeness.

If the RTA is incomplete (including lack of signature by family, owner, or both), the CHA will notify the family and the owner of the deficiencies.

Due to the time sensitive nature of the tenancy approval process, the CHA will attempt to communicate with the owner and family by phone, fax, or email. The CHA will use mail when the parties cannot be reached by phone, fax, or email.

9-I.C. Owner Participation

The PHA does not formally approve an owner to participate in the HCV program. However, there are a number of criteria where the PHA may deny approval of an assisted tenancy based on past owner behavior, property tax delinquency conflict of interest, or other owner-related issues. No owner has a right to participate in the HCV program [24 CFR 982.306(e)]

See Chapter 13- Owners for a full discussion of owner qualification to participate in the HCV program.

9-I.D. Eligible Units

There are a number of criteria that a dwelling unit must meet in order to be eligible for assistance under the voucher program. Generally, a voucher-holder family may choose any available rental dwelling unit on the market in the PHA’s jurisdiction. This includes the dwelling unit they are currently occupying.
Ineligible Units

[24 CFR 982.352(a)]

The PHA may not assist a unit under the voucher program if the unit is a public housing or Indian housing unit; a unit receiving property-based assistance under section 8 of the 1937 Act (42 U.S.C. 1437f); nursing homes, board and care homes, or facilities providing continual psychiatric, medical, or nursing services; college or other school dormitories; units on the grounds of penal, reformatory, medical, mental, and similar public or private institutions; a unit occupied by its owner or by a person with any interest in the unit.

CHA Policy

The CHA may limit the amount of subsidy provided to a single property in the CHA mixed-income properties so that the total number of subsidized units does not exceed 40 percent. The 40 percent cap applies to the CHA’s mixed-income developments that include public housing units and properties under a CHA project-based voucher contract. Senior and supportive housing developments are exempt from this provision.

PHA-Owned Units

[24 CFR 982.352(b)]

Otherwise eligible units that are owned or substantially controlled by the PHA may also be leased in the voucher program. In order for a PHA-owned unit to be leased under the voucher program, the unit must not be ineligible housing and the PHA must inform the family, both orally and in writing, that the family has the right to select any eligible unit available for lease and that the family is free to select a PHA-owned unit without any pressure or steering by the PHA.

CHA Policy

The CHA has eligible CHA-owned units available for leasing under the voucher program.

The CHA will inform the family of this housing at the time of the briefing. The CHA will also inform the family, both orally and in writing, that the family has the right to select any eligible unit available for lease and that the family is free to select a CHA-owned unit without any pressure or steering by the CHA.

Special Housing Types

[24 CFR 982 Subpart M]

HUD regulations permit, but do not generally require, the PHA to permit families to use voucher assistance in a number of special housing types in accordance with the specific requirements applicable to those programs. These special housing types include single room occupancy (SRO) housing, congregate housing, group home, shared housing, manufactured home space (where the family owns the manufactured home and leases only the space), cooperative housing and homeownership option. See Chapter 15- Special Housing Types for specific information and policies on any of these housing types that the PHA has chosen to allow.

The regulations do require the PHA to permit use of any special housing type if needed as a reasonable accommodation so that the program is readily accessible to and usable by persons with disabilities.

Duplicative Assistance

[24 CFR 982.352(c)]

A family may not receive the benefit of HCV tenant-based assistance while receiving the benefit of any of the following forms of other housing subsidy, for the same unit or for a different unit:

- Public or Indian housing assistance;
- Other Section 8 assistance (including other tenant-based assistance);
- Assistance under former Section 23 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (before amendment by the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974);
- Section 101 rent supplements;
- Section 236 rental assistance payments;
- Tenant-based assistance under the HOME Program;
- Rental assistance payments under Section 521 of the Housing Act of 1949 (a program of the Rural Development Administration);
- Any local or State rent subsidy;
- Section 202 supportive housing for the elderly;
- Section 811 supportive housing for persons with disabilities; (11) Section 202 projects for non-elderly persons with disabilities (Section 162 assistance); or
- Any other duplicative federal, State, or local housing subsidy, as determined by HUD. For this purpose, 'housing subsidy' does not include the housing component of a welfare payment, a social security payment received by the family, or a rent reduction because of a tax credit.

Housing Quality Standards (HQS)

[24 CFR 982.305 and 24 CFR 982.401]

In order to be eligible, the dwelling unit must be in decent, safe and sanitary condition. This determination is made using HUD’s Housing Quality Standards (HQS) and/or equivalent state or local standards approved by HUD. See Chapter 8 for a full discussion of the HQS standards, as well as the process for HQS inspection at initial lease-up.

Unit Size

In order to be eligible, the dwelling unit must be appropriate for the number of persons in the household. A family must be allowed to lease an otherwise acceptable dwelling unit with fewer bedrooms than the number of bedrooms stated on the voucher issued to the family, provided the unit meets the applicable HQS space requirements [24 CFR 982.402(d)]. The family must be allowed to lease an otherwise acceptable dwelling unit with more bedrooms than the number of bedrooms stated on the voucher issued to the family. See Chapter 5-Briefings and Voucher Issuance for a full discussion of subsidy standards.

Rent Reasonableness

[24 CFR 982.305 and 24 CFR 982.507]

In order to be eligible, the dwelling unit must have a reasonable rent. The rent must be reasonable in relation to comparable unassisted units in the area and must not be in excess of rents charged by the owner for comparable, unassisted units on the premises. See Chapter 8-Housing Quality Standards and Rent Reasonableness Determinations for a full discussion of rent reasonableness and the rent reasonableness determination process.

Rent Burden

[24 CFR 982.508]

Where a family is initially leasing a unit and the gross rent of the unit exceeds the applicable payment standard for the family, the dwelling unit rent must be at a level where the family's share of rent does not exceed 40 percent of the family's monthly adjusted income. See Chapter 6- Income and Subsidy Determinations for a discussion of calculation of gross rent, the use of payment standards, and calculation of family income, family share of rent and HAP.
9-I.E. Lease and Tenancy Addendum
The family and the owner must execute and enter into a written dwelling lease for the assisted unit. This written lease is a contract between the tenant family and the owner; the PHA is not a party to this contract.

The tenant must have legal capacity to enter a lease under State and local law. 'Legal capacity' means that the tenant is bound by the terms of the lease and may enforce the terms of the lease against the owner [24 CFR 982.308(a)].

Lease Form and Tenancy Addendum
[24 CFR 982.308]

If the owner uses a standard lease form for rental to unassisted tenants in the locality or the premises, the lease must be in such standard form. If the owner does not use a standard lease form for rental to unassisted tenants, the owner may use another form of lease. The HAP contract prescribed by HUD contains the owner's certification that if the owner uses a standard lease form for rental to unassisted tenants, the lease is in such standard form.

The CHA is not a party to the lease, but will review it for compliance with all applicable CHA requirements. Property owners may enter into a lease with a participant for a term that is longer than one year, but not to exceed two years only if the property owner uses the same lease terms for voucher holders and market rate tenants. The property owner may not change any of the terms of the two-year lease, including the contract rent amount and utility responsibility at any time during the full length of the lease term. The CHA will not review the lease for compliance with state or local law.

All provisions in the HUD-required Tenancy Addendum must also be added word-for-word to the owner's standard lease form, for use with the assisted family. The Tenancy Addendum includes the tenancy requirements for the program and the composition of the household as approved by the PHA. As a part of the lease, the tenant shall have the right to enforce the Tenancy Addendum against the owner and the terms of the Tenancy Addendum shall prevail over any other provisions of the lease.

CHA Policy
The CHA does not provide a model or standard dwelling lease for owners to use in the HCV program. The CHA encourages owners to use a City of Chicago standard lease form approved by the Chicago Realtor's Association, or other approved form containing the Chicago Residential Landlord and Tenant Ordinance Summary, Chicago Municipal Code 5-12-170 et seq.

Lease Information
[24 CFR 982.308(d)]

The assisted dwelling lease must contain all of the required information as listed below:

- The names of the owner and the tenant;
- The unit rented (address, apartment number, and any other information needed to identify the contract unit);
- The term of the lease (initial term and any provisions for renewal);
- The amount of the monthly rent to owner;
- A specification of what utilities and appliances are to be supplied by the owner, and what utilities and appliances are to be supplied by the family.

The effective date of the lease and corresponding HAP contract for all new lease ups (including new admissions and ports) must be either the 2nd or the 16th of the month.
Term of Assisted Tenancy

The initial term of the assisted dwelling lease must be for at least one year [24 CFR 982.309]. The initial lease term is also stated in the HAP contract. Property owners may enter into a lease with a participant for a term that is longer than one year, but not to exceed two years only if the property owner uses the same lease terms for voucher holders and market rate tenants. As with all leases, the property owners may not change any of the terms of the two-year lease—including the contract rent amount and utility responsibility—at any time during the full length of the lease term.

The HUD program regulations permit the PHA to approve a shorter initial lease term if certain conditions are met.

**CHA Policy**

The CHA will not approve an initial lease term of less than one year and the effective date can be any day of the month other than the 1st.

During the initial term of the lease, the owner may not raise the rent to owner [24 CFR 982.309].

Property owners may enter into a lease with a participant for a term that is longer than one year, but not to exceed two, including the initial and any subsequent leases.

Any provisions for renewal of the dwelling lease will be stated in the dwelling lease [HCV Guidebook, pg. 8-22].

There are no HUD requirements regarding any renewal extension terms, except that they must be in the dwelling lease if they exist.

The PHA may execute the HAP contract even if there is less than one year remaining from the beginning of the initial lease term to the end of the last expiring funding increment under the consolidated ACC [24 CFR 982.309(b)].

**Security Deposit**

[24 CFR 982.313 (a) and (b)]

The owner may collect a security deposit from the tenant. The PHA may prohibit security deposits in excess of private market practice, or in excess of amounts charged by the owner to unassisted tenants. However, if the PHA chooses to do so, language to this effect must be added to Part A of the HAP contract [Form HUD-52641].

**CHA Policy**

The property owner may not collect a security deposit in excess of private market practices.

The security deposit must be in accordance with the Chicago Tenant-Landlord Ordinance.

Separate Non-Lease Agreements between Owner and Tenant

Owners may not demand or accept any rent payment from the family in excess of the rent to the owner minus the PHA’s housing assistance payments to the owner [24 CFR 982.451(b)(4)(ii)].

The owner may not charge the tenant extra amounts for items customarily included in rent in the locality, or provided at no additional cost to unsubsidized tenants in the premises [24 CFR 982.510(c)].

**CHA Policy**

The CHA permits owners and families to execute separate, non-lease agreements for services, appliances (other than range and refrigerator) and other items that are not included in the lease.

Any items, appliances, or other services that are customarily provided to unassisted families as part of the dwelling lease with those families, or are permanently installed in the dwelling unit must be included in the
dwelling lease for the assisted family. These items, appliances or services cannot be placed under a separate non-lease agreement between the owner and family. Side payments for additional rent, or for items, appliances or services customarily provided to unassisted families as part of the dwelling lease for those families, are prohibited.

Any items, appliances, or other services that are not customarily provided to unassisted families as part of the dwelling lease with those families, are not permanently installed in the dwelling unit and where the family has the sole option of not utilizing the item, appliance or service, may be included in a separate non-lease agreement between the owner and the family.

The family is not liable and cannot be held responsible under the terms of the assisted dwelling lease for any charges pursuant to a separate non-lease agreement between the owner and the family. Non-payment of any charges pursuant to a separate non-lease agreement between the owner and the family cannot be a cause for eviction or termination of tenancy under the terms of the assisted dwelling lease.

Separate non-lease agreements that involve additional items, appliances or other services may be considered amenities offered by the owner and may be taken into consideration when determining the reasonableness of the rent for the property.

PHA Review of Lease

The PHA will review the dwelling lease for compliance with all applicable requirements.

CHA Policy

If the dwelling lease is incomplete or incorrect, the CHA will notify the family and the owner of the deficiencies. Missing and corrected lease information will only be accepted as hard copies, in-person, by mail, fax, email or the online Owner Portal. Because the initial leasing process is time-sensitive, the CHA will attempt to communicate with the owner and family by phone, fax, or email. The CHA will use mail when the parties cannot be reached by phone, fax, or email.

The PHA is permitted, but is not required, to review the lease to determine if the lease complies with State and local law and is permitted to decline to approve the tenancy if the PHA determines that the lease does not comply with State or local law [24 CFR 982.308(c)]

CHA Policy

The CHA will not review the owner’s lease for compliance with state/local law. It is the owner’s responsibility to comply with state/local law when leasing units on the owner’s property.

9-I.F. Tenancy Approval

[24 CFR 982.305]

After receiving the family’s Request for Tenancy Approval, with proposed dwelling lease, the PHA must promptly notify the family and owner whether the assisted tenancy is approved.

Prior to approving the assisted tenancy and execution of a HAP contract, the PHA must ensure that all required actions and determinations, discussed in Part I of this chapter have been completed.

These actions include ensuring that the unit is eligible; the unit has been inspected by the PHA and meets the Housing Quality Standards (HQS); the lease offered by the owner is approvable and includes the required Tenancy Addendum; the rent to be charged by the owner for the unit must is reasonable; where the family is initially leasing a unit and the gross rent of the unit exceeds the applicable payment standard for the family, the share of rent to be paid by the family does not exceed 40 percent of the family’s monthly adjusted income [24 CFR 982.305(a)]; the owner is an eligible owner, not disapproved by the PHA, with no conflicts of interest [24 CFR
the family and the owner have executed the lease, including the Tenancy Addendum, and the lead-based paint disclosure information [24 CFR 982.305(b)].

CHA Policy

The CHA will complete its determination within 10 calendar days of receiving all required information.

If the terms of the RTA are changed for any reason, including but not limited to negotiation with the CHA, the CHA will obtain corrected copies of the RTA signed by the family and the owner.

Corrections to the RTA will only be accepted as hard copies, in-person, by mail, fax, email or the online Owner Portal.

If the CHA determines that the tenancy cannot be approved for any reason, the owner and the family will be notified in writing and given the opportunity to address any reasons for disapproval. The CHA will instruct the owner and family of the steps that are necessary to approve the tenancy.

Where the tenancy is not approvable because the unit is not approvable, the family must continue to search for eligible housing within the timeframe of the issued voucher.

If the tenancy is not approvable due to rent affordability (including rent burden and rent reasonableness), the CHA will attempt to negotiate the rent with the owner. If a new, approvable rent is negotiated, the tenancy will be approved. If the owner is not willing to negotiate an approvable rent, the family must continue to search for eligible housing within the timeframe of the issued voucher.

9-I.G. HAP Contract Execution [24 CFR 982.305]

The HAP contract is a written agreement between the PHA and the owner of the dwelling unit occupied by a housing choice voucher assisted family. Under the HAP contract, the PHA agrees to make housing assistance payments to the owner on behalf of a specific family occupying a specific unit and obliges the owner to comply with all program requirements.

For participants who meet the specified criteria for demonstration programs, the CHA will allow the voucher holder to move into the unit prior to passing the HQS, as long as there are no life-threatening deficiencies. Below are the procedures.

The HAP contract format is prescribed by HUD.

If the PHA has given approval for the family of the assisted tenancy, the owner and the PHA execute the HAP contract.

The term of the HAP contract must be the same as the term of the lease [24 CFR 982.451(a)(2)].

The PHA is permitted to execute a HAP contract even if the funding currently available does not extend for the full term of the HAP contract.

The PHA must make a best effort to ensure that the HAP contract is executed before the beginning of the lease term. Regardless, the HAP contract must be executed no later than 60 calendar days from the beginning of the lease term.

The PHA may not pay any housing assistance payment to the owner until the HAP contract has been executed. If the HAP contract is executed during the period of 60 calendar days from the beginning of the lease term, the PHA will pay housing assistance payments after execution of the HAP contract (in accordance with the terms of the
HAP contract), to cover the portion of the lease term before execution of the HAP contract (a maximum of 60 days).

Any HAP contract executed after the 60 day period is void, and the PHA may not pay any housing assistance payment to the owner.

**CHA Policy**

Owners who have not previously participated in the HCV program must attend a meeting with the CHA in which the terms of the Tenancy Addendum and the HAP contract will be explained. The CHA may waive this requirement on a case-by-case basis, if it determines that the owner is sufficiently familiar with the requirements and responsibilities under the HCV program.

The owner and the assisted family will execute the dwelling lease and the owner must provide a copy to the CHA. The CHA will ensure that both the owner and the assisted family receive copies of the dwelling lease.

The owner and the CHA will execute the HAP contract. The CHA will not execute the HAP contract until the owner has submitted IRS form W-9, the direct deposit form, and the owner’s email address. The CHA will ensure that the owner receives a copy of the executed HAP contract.

The CHA will not enter into a new HAP contract if the participant/applicant is covering the entire rent portion and CHA is not providing any subsidy. In these cases, staff must explain this policy to both the owner and the applicant/participant and send them a Notice of HAP Contract Denial.

See [Chapter 13- Owners](#) for a discussion of the HAP contract and contract provisions.

9-I.H. Changes in Lease or Rent

[24 CFR 982.308](#)

If the tenant and the owner agree to any changes in the lease, such changes must be in writing, and the owner must immediately give the PHA a copy of such changes. Any lease changes proposed by either the tenant or the owner that require execution of a new HAP contract, as specified below, cannot take effect until a new HAP contract is executed by the PHA and the owner.

The lease, including any changes, must remain in accordance with the requirements of this chapter.

Generally, the PHA approval of tenancy and execution of a new HAP contract are not required for changes in the lease. However, under certain circumstances, voucher assistance in the unit shall not be continued unless the PHA has approved a new tenancy in accordance with program requirements and has executed a new HAP contract with the owner. These circumstances include:

- Changes in lease requirements governing tenant or owner responsibilities for utilities or appliances
- Changes in lease provisions governing the term of the lease
- The family moves to a new unit, even if the unit is in the same building or complex

In these cases, if the HCV assistance is to continue, the family must submit a new Request for Tenancy Approval (RTA) along with a new dwelling lease containing the altered terms. A new tenancy must then be approved in accordance with this chapter.

Where the owner is changing the amount of rent, the owner must notify the PHA of any changes in the amount of the rent to owner at least 60 days before any such changes go into effect [24 CFR 982.308(g)(4)]. The PHA will agree to such an increase only if the amount of the rent to owner is considered reasonable according to the rent reasonableness standards discussed in [Chapter 8- Housing Quality Standards and Rent Reasonableness](#).
Determinations. If the requested rent is not found to be reasonable, the owner must either reduce the requested rent increase, or give the family notice in accordance with the terms of the lease.

No rent increase is permitted during the initial term of the lease [24 CFR 982.309(a)(3)].

CHA Policy

Where the owner is requesting a rent increase, the CHA will determine whether the requested increase is reasonable within 10 calendar days of receiving the request from the owner. The owner will be notified of the determination in writing.

Rent increases will go into effect on the first of the month following the 60 day period after the owner notifies the CHA of the rent change or on the date specified by the owner, whichever is later.
Chapter 10-Moving with Continued Assistance and Portability

Introduction

Freedom of choice is a hallmark of the housing choice voucher (HCV) program. In general, therefore, HUD regulations impose few restrictions on where families may live or move with HCV assistance. This chapter sets forth HUD regulations and PHA policies governing moves within or outside the PHA’s jurisdiction in two parts:

Part I: Moving with Continued Assistance. This part covers the general rules that apply to all moves by a family assisted under the PHA’s HCV program, whether the family moves to another unit within the PHA’s jurisdiction or to a unit outside the PHA’s jurisdiction under portability.

Part II: Portability. This part covers the special rules that apply to moves by a family under portability, whether the family moves out of or into the PHA’s jurisdiction. This part also covers the special responsibilities that the PHA has under portability regulations and procedures.

Part I: Moving with Continued Assistance

10-I.A. Allowable Moves

HUD lists five regulatory conditions and the statutory condition under VAWA in which an assisted family is allowed to move to a new unit with continued assistance. Permission to move is subject to the restrictions set forth in section 10-I.B.

- A family may move to a new unit if they have given a notice of termination to the owner (for the owner’s breach or otherwise) in accordance with the lease [24 CFR 982.314(b)(3)]. If the family terminates the lease on notice to the owner, the family must give the PHA a copy of the notice at the same time [24 CFR 982.314(d)(1)].

- The Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 provides that “a family may receive a voucher from a public housing agency and move to another jurisdiction under the tenant-based assistance program if the family has complied with all other obligations of the section 8 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 a victim of domestic violence, sexual violence, dating violence, sexual assault 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.” For specific policies and procedures that relate to these cases, see our Emergency Transfer Plan. The CHA will use a confidential database (only available to a limited number of staff) to track the number Emergency Transfer requests and their results.

- A family may move to a new unit if the lease for the family’s unit has been terminated by mutual agreement of the owner and the family [24 CFR 982.314(b)(1)(ii)].

CHA Policy

If the family and the owner mutually agree to terminate the lease for the family’s unit, the family must give the CHA a copy of the termination agreement within 10 calendar days of the execution of the agreement and prior to the termination date of the lease.

- The owner has given the family a notice to vacate, has commenced an action to evict the family, or has obtained a court judgment or other process allowing the owner to evict the family [24 CFR 982.314(b)(2)]. The family must give the PHA a copy of any owner eviction notice [24 CFR 982.551(g)] within 10 calendar days of the receipt of the eviction notice.
The PHA has terminated the assisted lease for the family’s unit for the owner’s breach [24 CFR 982.314(b)(1)(i)].

The PHA determines that the family’s current unit does not meet the HQS space standards because of an increase in family size or a change in family composition. In such cases, the PHA must issue the family a new voucher, and the family must try to find an acceptable unit as soon as possible. If an acceptable unit is available for the family, the PHA must terminate the HAP contract for the family’s old unit in accordance with the HAP contract terms and must notify both the family and the owner of the termination. The HAP contract terminates at the end of the calendar month that follows the calendar month in which the PHA gives notice to the owner. [24 CFR 982.403(a) and (c)]

10-I.B. Restrictions on Moves
A family’s right to move is generally contingent upon the family’s compliance with program requirements [24 CFR 982.1(b)(2)]. HUD specifies two conditions under which the PHA may deny a family permission to move and two ways in which the PHA may restrict moves by a family.

Denial of Moves
HUD regulations permit the PHA to deny a family permission to move under the following conditions:

Insufficient Funding
The PHA may deny a family permission to move if the PHA does not have sufficient funding for continued assistance [24 CFR 982.314(e)(1)].

CHA Policy
The CHA will deny a family permission to move on grounds that the CHA does not have sufficient funding for continued assistance. if (a) the move is initiated by the family, not the owner or the CHA; (b) the CHA can demonstrate that the move will, in fact, result in higher subsidy costs; and (c) the CHA can demonstrate, in accordance with the policies in Part VIII: Determination of Insufficient Funding of Chapter 16, that it does not have sufficient funding in its annual budget to accommodate the higher subsidy costs. Families will be notified of this policy in writing at the time the move is denied. This policy applies to moves within the CHA’s jurisdiction as well as to moves outside it under portability.

The CHA, prior to denying a portability move because it does not have sufficient funding, will contact the receiving PHA and confirm that the receiving PHA will not absorb the family. If the receiving PHA will absorb the family, the CHA will approve the move under portability.

If the CHA denies a move under portability because it does not have sufficient funding, the CHA will promptly notify the family in writing (assuming the family is still a participant in the CHA HCV program) once there is sufficient funding to support the family’s move. A family’s request to move will remain open for consideration for 30 days.

Grounds for Denial or Termination of Assistance
The PHA has grounds for denying or terminating the family’s assistance [24 CFR 982.314(e)(2)]. VAWA allows an exception to these grounds for denying or terminating assistance for families who are otherwise in compliance with program obligations, but have moved to protect the health or safety of an individual who is or has been a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking, and who reasonably believed he or she was imminently threatened by harm from further violence if they remained in the unit. [Pub.L. 109-162]
CHA Policy

In determining whether to deny permission to move, the CHA will consider the criteria under federal regulations at 24 CFR 982.552(c)(1). These include:

- The family has violated any family obligations under the program.
- Any member of the family has been evicted from federally assisted housing in the last three years.
- A PHA has ever terminated assistance under the program for any member of the family.
- Any member of the family has committed fraud, bribery, or any other corrupt or criminal act in connection with any federal housing program (see also 24 CFR 982.553(a)(1)).
- The family currently owes rent or other amounts to the CHA or to another PHA in connection with subsidized housing, including Section 8 or public housing assistance under the 1937 U.S. Housing Act.
- 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.
- The family breaches an agreement with the CHA to pay amounts owed to a PHA or amounts paid to an owner by a PHA. (The CHA, at its discretion, may offer a family the opportunity to enter an agreement to pay amounts owed to a PHA or amounts paid to an owner by a PHA. The CHA may prescribe the terms of the agreement.)
- The family has engaged in or threatened abusive or violent behavior toward CHA personnel, its agents and/or contractors.
- The family has been engaged in criminal activity or alcohol abuse as described in 24 CFR 982.553 and more specifically described in Section 3-III C. Other Permitted Reasons for Denial of Assistance.
- Any member of the family is or becomes subject to a registration requirement under any State sexual offender registration program in the state where the housing is located and in other states where the household is known to have lived, including the 10 year Illinois State Sex-Offender Registration Statute.

The CHA may also consider the same extenuating circumstances as would be considered when determining whether to deny or terminate assistance under 24 CFR 982.552(c)(2). These include:

The CHA 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, and the effects of denial or termination of assistance on other family members who were not involved in the action or failure.

The CHA 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. The CHA may permit the other members of a participant family to continue receiving assistance.

In determining whether to deny a move for illegal use of drugs or alcohol abuse by a household member who is no longer engaged in such behavior, the CHA will 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 (42 U.S.C. 13661). For this purpose, the CHA may require the applicant or tenant 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 CHA’s decision concerning such action is subject to consideration of reasonable accommodation in accordance with 24 CFR 8.

The CHA’s admission and eviction actions must be consistent with fair housing and equal opportunity provisions of 24 CFR 5.105.
Restrictions on Elective Moves

HUD regulations permit the PHA to prohibit any elective move by a participant family during the family’s initial lease term. They also permit the PHA to prohibit more than one elective move by a participant family during any 12-month period.

**CHA Policy**

The CHA will deny a family permission to make an elective move for the following reasons.

- The family is currently in their initial lease term (this policy applies to moves within the CHA’s jurisdiction or outside it under portability)
- Have received moving papers within the last 12 months
- Have renewed the current lease or there’s over 60 days remaining on their lease
- Are within 120 days of your Re-Examination effective date

Families will not be denied permission to move due to an Intent to Terminate (ITT) being issued. However, a family’s continued participation in the HCV Program is subject to the final outcome of any termination notice issued regardless of the timing of the termination notice. Any further processing or granting of participant requests, including but not limited to a request for moving papers, shall not void, restrict or waive the CHA’s right to terminate the family’s participation based on any violations whether known or unknown at the time of the request.

The CHA will consider exceptions to these policies for the following reasons: to protect the health or safety of a family member (e.g., domestic violence, sexual violence, witness protection programs) or to address an emergency situation over which a family has no control.

In addition, the CHA will allow exceptions to these policies for purposes of reasonable accommodation of a family member who is a person with disabilities (see Chapter 2- Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity).

10-I.C. Moving Process

**Notification**

If a family wishes to move to a new unit, the family must notify the PHA and the owner before moving out of the old unit or terminating the lease on notice to the owner [24 CFR 982.314(d)(2)]. If the family wishes to move to a unit outside the PHA’s jurisdiction under portability, the notice to the PHA must specify the area where the family wishes to move [24 CFR 982.314(d)(2), Notice PIH 2004-12]. The notices must be in writing [24 CFR 982.5].

**Approval**

Upon receipt of a family’s notification that it wishes to move, the CHA will determine whether the move is approvable in accordance with the regulations and policies set forth in Section 10-I.A. Allowable Moves and Section 10-I.B. Restrictions on Moves. The CHA will notify the family in writing of its determination.

The CHA may deny a family permission to make an elective move if the family’s next regularly scheduled reexamination is within 120 days. The family may be required to complete the reexamination process before the move is approved.

**Re-examination of Family Income and Composition**

For families approved to move to a new unit within the CHA’s jurisdiction, the CHA will not perform a new regular reexamination.
For families moving into or families approved to move out of the CHA’s jurisdiction under portability, the CHA will follow the policies set forth in Part II: Portability.

Voucher Issuance and Briefing
Families approved to move to a new unit within the CHA’s jurisdiction are not required to attend a briefing, however CHA provides an option for those who want to attend one. In addition, CHA also offers an online briefing. Families porting out of Chicago must attend an in-person briefing or self-certify they have watched the online version. The CHA will follow the policies set forth in Chapter 5- Briefings and Voucher Issuances on voucher term, extension, and expiration. If a family does not locate a new unit within the term of the voucher and any extensions, the family may remain in its current unit with continued voucher assistance if the owner agrees and the CHA approves. Otherwise, the family will lose its assistance.

For families moving into or families approved to move out of the CHA’s jurisdiction under portability, the CHA will follow the policies set forth in Part II: Portability.

Prior to granting approval to move to a new unit, whether within or outside of the CHA’s jurisdiction, the CHA will conduct a criminal background check for each family member age 18 and older.

Housing Assistance Payments
[24 CFR 982.311(d)]

When a family moves out of an assisted unit, the PHA may not make any housing assistance payment to the owner for any month after the month the family moves out. The owner may keep the housing assistance payment for the month when the family moves out of the unit.

CHA Policy
CHA will not make any housing assistance payment to the owner for any month after the month the family moves out except in the case of families that were public housing relocatees. If the family was a public housing relocatee that moved out of the unit without providing the owner proper notice as specified in the lease, the CHA will make a housing assistance payment to the owner for the month after the month that the family moved out of the unit.

If a participant family moves from an assisted unit with continued tenant-based assistance, the term of the assisted lease for the new assisted unit may begin during the month the family moves out of the first assisted unit. Overlap of the last housing assistance payment (for the month when the family moves out of the old unit) and the first assistance payment for the new unit, is not considered to constitute a duplicative housing subsidy.

Part II: Portability
10-II.A. Overview
Within the limitations of the regulations and this plan, a participant family or an applicant family that has been issued a voucher has the right to use tenant-based voucher assistance to lease a unit anywhere in the United States providing that the unit is located within the jurisdiction of a PHA administering a tenant-based voucher program [24 CFR 982.353(b)]. The process by which a family obtains a voucher from one PHA and uses it to lease a unit in the jurisdiction of another PHA is known as portability. The first PHA is called the initial PHA. The second is called the receiving PHA.

The receiving PHA has the option of administering the family’s voucher for the initial PHA or absorbing the family into its own program. Under the first option, the receiving PHA bills the initial PHA for the family’s housing assistance payments and the fees for administering the family’s voucher. Under the second option, the receiving
PHA pays for the family’s assistance out of its own program funds, and the initial PHA has no further relationship with the family.

The same PHA commonly acts as the initial PHA for some families and as the receiving PHA for others. Each role involves different responsibilities. The PHA will follow the rules and policies in section 10-II.B when it is acting as the initial PHA for a family. It will follow the rules and policies in section 10-II.C when it is acting as the receiving PHA for a family.

10-II.B. Initial PHA Role

Allowable Moves under Portability

A family may move with voucher assistance only to an area where there is at least one PHA administering a voucher program [24 CFR 982.353(b)]. If there is more than one PHA in the area, the initial PHA may choose the receiving PHA [24 CFR 982.355(b)].

Applicant families that have been issued vouchers as well as participant families may qualify to lease a unit outside the PHA’s jurisdiction under portability. The initial PHA, in accordance with HUD regulations and PHA policy, determines whether a family qualifies.

Applicant Families

Under HUD regulations, most applicant families qualify to lease a unit outside the PHA’s jurisdiction under portability. However, HUD gives the PHA discretion to deny a portability move by an applicant family for the same two reasons that it may deny any move by a participant family: insufficient funding and grounds for denial or termination of assistance.

CHA Policy

In determining whether or not to deny an applicant family permission to move under portability because the CHA lacks sufficient funding or has grounds for denying assistance to the family, the CHA will follow the policies established in Section 10-I.B. Restrictions on Moves.

In addition, the PHA may establish a policy denying the right to portability to nonresident applicants during the first 12 months after they are admitted to the program [24 CFR 982.353(c)].

CHA Policy

If neither the head of household nor the spouse/co-head of an applicant family had a domicile (legal residence) in the CHA’s jurisdiction at the time the family’s application for assistance was submitted, the family will be allowed to move to an area outside the CHA’s jurisdiction under portability providing that the receiving PHA agrees to accept the family [24 CFR 982.353(c)(3)].

Participant Families

The Initial PHA must not provide portable assistance for a participant if a family has moved out of its assisted unit in violation of the lease [24 CFR 982.353(b)]. VAWA creates an exception to this prohibition for families who are otherwise in compliance with program obligations but have moved to protect the health or safety of an individual who is or has been a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking and who reasonably believed he or she was imminently threatened by harm from further violence if they remained in the unit.

CHA Policy

The CHA will determine whether a participant family may move out of the CHA’s jurisdiction with continued assistance in accordance with the regulations and policies set forth here and in Section 10-I.A. Allowable Moves and Section 10-I.B. Restrictions on Moves of this chapter. The CHA will notify the family of its determination in
accordance with the approval policy set forth in Section 10-I.C. Moving Process of this chapter. Families will not be denied permission to move out of the CHA’s jurisdiction due to an Intent to Terminate (ITT) being issued.

Families relocating to the CHA’s jurisdiction under portability who are participants in the Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) program should see the CHA’s FSS Action Plan.

Determining Income Eligibility

**Applicant Families**

An applicant family may lease a unit in a particular area under portability only if the family is income eligible for admission to the voucher program in that area [24 CFR 982.353(d)(3)]. The family must specify the area to which the family wishes to move [Notice PIH 2004-12].

The initial PHA is responsible for determining whether the family is income eligible in the area to which the family wishes to move [24 CFR 982.355(c)(1)]. If the applicant family is not income eligible in that area, the initial PHA must inform the family that it may not move there and receive voucher assistance [Notice PIH 2004-12].

**Participant Families**

The income eligibility of a participant family is not re-determined if the family moves to a new jurisdiction under portability [24 CFR 982.353(d)(2), 24 CFR 982.355(c)(1)].

Re-examination of Family Income and Composition

No new reexamination of family income and composition is required for an applicant family.

**CHA Policy**

For a participant family moving out of its jurisdiction under portability, the CHA generally will conduct a reexamination of family income and composition only if the family’s regular reexamination must be completed before 30 days following the initial billing deadline specified on form HUD-52665, Family Portability Information.

The CHA will make any exceptions to this policy, documented in writing, necessary to remain in compliance with HUD regulations.

Prior to granting approval to a participant family to move out of its jurisdiction under portability, the CHA will conduct a criminal background check for each family member age 18 and older.

**Briefing**

The regulations and policies on briefings set forth in Chapter 5- Briefings and Voucher Issuance of this plan require the initial PHA to provide information on portability to all applicant families that qualify to lease a unit outside the initial PHA’s jurisdiction under the portability procedures. Therefore, no special briefing is required for these families.

**CHA Policy**

A formal briefing will be required for a participant family wishing to move outside the CHA’s jurisdiction under portability. The CHA will provide the family with the same oral and written explanation of portability that it provides to applicant families selected for admission to the program (see Chapter 5- Briefings and Voucher Issuance). The CHA will provide the name, address, and phone of the contact for the PHA in the jurisdiction to which they wish to move. The CHA will advise the family that they will be under the receiving PHA’s policies and procedures, including subsidy standards and voucher extension policies.
Voucher Issuance and Term
An applicant family has no right to portability until after the family has been issued a voucher [24 CFR 982.353(b)]. In issuing vouchers to applicant families, the PHA will follow the regulations and procedures set forth in Chapter 5-Briefings and Voucher Issuance. A new voucher is not required for portability purposes.

CHA Policy
For families approved to move under portability, the CHA will issue a new voucher to the family upon the CHA’s written approval to move.

The initial term of the voucher will be 120 days.

Voucher Extensions and Expiration

CHA Policy
The CHA will approve no extensions to a voucher issued to an applicant or participant family porting out of the CHA’s jurisdiction except under the following circumstances: (a) the initial term of the voucher will expire before the portable family will be issued a voucher by the receiving PHA, (b) the family decides to return to the CHA’s jurisdiction and search for a unit there, or (c) the family decides to search for a unit in a third PHA’s jurisdiction.

In such cases, the policies on voucher extensions set forth in Section 5-II.E. Voucher Term and Extensions, of this plan will apply, including the requirement that the family apply for an extension in writing prior to the expiration of the initial voucher term.

To receive or continue receiving assistance under the CHA’s voucher program, a family that moves to another PHA’s jurisdiction under portability must be under HAP contract in the receiving PHA’s jurisdiction within 60 days following the expiration date of the CHA’s voucher term (including any extensions). (See below under “Initial Billing Deadline” for one exception to this policy.)

Initial Contact with the Receiving PHA
After approving a family’s request to move under portability, the initial PHA must promptly notify the receiving PHA to expect the family [24 CFR 982.355(c)(2)]. This means that the initial PHA must contact the receiving PHA directly on the family’s behalf [Notice PIH 2004-12]. The initial PHA must also advise the family how to contact and request assistance from the receiving PHA [24 CFR 982.355(c)(2)].

CHA Policy
Because the portability process is time-sensitive, the CHA will notify the receiving PHA by phone, fax, or e-mail to expect the family. The CHA will also ask the receiving PHA to provide any information the family may need upon arrival, including the name, fax, and e-mail and telephone number of the staff person responsible for business with incoming portable families and procedures related to appointments for voucher issuance. The CHA will pass this information along to the family. The CHA will also ask for the name, address, telephone number, fax and email of the person responsible for processing the billing information.

Sending Documentation to the Receiving PHA
The initial PHA is required to send the receiving PHA the following documents:

- **Form HUD-52665**, Family Portability Information, with Part I filled out [Notice PIH 2004-12]
- A copy of the family’s voucher [Notice PIH 2004-12]
- A copy of the family’s most recent form HUD-50058, Family Report, or, if necessary in the case of an applicant family, family and income information in a format similar to that of form HUD-50058 [24 CFR 982.355(c)(4), Notice PIH 2004-12]

- Copies of the income verifications backing up the form HUD-50058 [24 CFR 982.355(c)(4), Notice PIH 2004-12]

**CHA Policy**

In addition to these documents, the CHA will provide the following information, if available, to the receiving PHA:

- Social security numbers (SSNs)
- Documentation of SSNs for all household members, with the exception of those listed by HUD as exempt from this requirement
- Documentation of legal identity
- Documentation of citizenship or eligible immigration status
- Documentation of participation in the earned income disallowance (EID) benefit
- Documentation of participation in a family self-sufficiency (FSS) program

The CHA will notify the family in writing regarding any information provided to the receiving PHA [Housing Choice Voucher Guidebook, Chapter 13: Portability].

If a participant ports out to another PHA and successfully leases up a Port Out (Code 5) must be processed. These households must be transferred to the ‘portprop’ property code utilizing the ‘portunit’ unit number.

**Initial Billing Deadline**

[Notice PIH 2004-12]

When the initial PHA sends form HUD-52665 to the receiving PHA, it specifies in Part I the deadline by which it must receive the initial billing notice from the receiving PHA. This deadline is 60 days following the expiration date of the voucher issued to the family by the initial PHA. If the initial PHA does not receive a billing notice by the deadline and does not intend to honor a late billing submission, it must contact the receiving PHA to determine the status of the family. If the receiving PHA reports that the family is not yet under HAP contract, the initial PHA may refuse to accept a late billing submission. If the receiving PHA reports that the family is under HAP contract and the receiving PHA cannot absorb the family, the initial PHA must accept a late billing submission; however, it may report to HUD the receiving PHA’s failure to comply with the deadline.

**CHA Policy**

If the CHA has not received an initial billing notice from the receiving PHA by the deadline specified on form HUD-52665, it will contact the receiving PHA by phone, fax, or e-mail on the next business day. If the receiving PHA reports that the family is not yet under HAP contract, the CHA will inform the receiving PHA that it will not honor a late billing submission and will return any subsequent billings that it receives on behalf of the family. The CHA will send the receiving PHA a written confirmation of its decision by mail.

The CHA will allow an exception to this policy if the family includes a person with disabilities and the late billing is a result of a reasonable accommodation granted to the family by the receiving PHA.

**Monthly Billing Payments**

[24 CFR 982.355(e), Notice PIH 2004-12]

If the receiving PHA is administering the family’s voucher, the initial PHA is responsible for making billing payments in a timely manner. The first billing amount is due within 30 calendar days after the initial PHA receives Part II of form HUD-52665 from the receiving PHA. Subsequent payments must be received by the receiving PHA no later
than the seventh calendar day of each month. The payments must be provided in a form and manner that the receiving PHA is able and willing to accept.

The initial PHA may not terminate or delay making payments under existing portability billing arrangements as a result of over leasing or funding shortfalls. The initial PHA must manage its tenant-based program in a manner that ensures that it has the financial ability to provide assistance for families that move out of its jurisdiction under portability and are not absorbed by receiving PHAs as well as for families that remain within its jurisdiction.

**CHA Policy**

The CHA will utilize direct deposit to ensure that the payment is received by the deadline unless the receiving PHA notifies the CHA that direct deposit is not acceptable to them.

**Annual Updates of Form HUD-50058**

If the initial PHA is being billed on behalf of a portable family, it should receive an updated form HUD-50058 each year from the receiving PHA. If the initial PHA fails to receive an updated 50058 by the family’s regular reexamination date, the initial PHA should contact the receiving PHA to verify the status of the family.

**Subsequent Family Moves**

*Within the Receiving PHA’s Jurisdiction*  
[24 CFR 982.314(e)(1), Notice PIH 2005-1]

The initial PHA has the authority to deny subsequent moves by portable families whom it is assisting under portability billing arrangements if it does not have sufficient funding for continued assistance.

**CHA Policy**

If the CHA determines that it must deny moves on the grounds that it lacks sufficient funding (see Section 10-I.B, Restrictions on Moves), it will notify all receiving PHAs with which it has entered into portability billing arrangements that they, too, must deny moves to higher cost units by portable families from the CHA’s jurisdiction.

The CHA will allow exceptions to this policy for purposes of reasonable accommodation of a family member who is a person with disabilities and families eligible under VAWA.

**Outside the Receiving PHA’s Jurisdiction**  
[Notice PIH 2004-12]

If the initial PHA is assisting a portable family under a billing arrangement and the family subsequently decides to move out of the receiving PHA’s jurisdiction, the initial PHA is responsible for issuing the family a voucher while the family is either being assisted or has a voucher from the receiving PHA and, if the family wishes to port to another jurisdiction, sending form HUD-52665 and supporting documentation to the new receiving PHA. Any extensions of the initial PHA voucher necessary to allow the family additional search-time to return to the initial PHA’s jurisdiction or to move to another jurisdiction would be at the discretion of the initial PHA.

**Denial or Termination of Assistance**  
[24 CFR 982.355(c)(9)]

If the initial PHA has grounds for denying or terminating assistance for a portable family that has not been absorbed by the receiving PHA, the initial PHA may act on those grounds at any time. (For PHA policies on denial and termination, see Chapters 3- Eligibility and Chapter 12- Termination of Assistance and Tenancy, respectively.)
10-II.C. Receiving PHA Role

If a family has a right to lease a unit in the receiving PHA’s jurisdiction under portability, the receiving PHA must provide assistance for the family [24 CFR 982.355(10)].

The receiving PHA’s procedures and preferences for selection among eligible applicants do not apply, and the receiving PHA’s waiting list is not used [24 CFR 982.355(10)]. However, the family’s unit, or voucher, size is determined in accordance with the subsidy standards of the receiving PHA [24 CFR 982.355(7)], and the amount of the family’s housing assistance payment is determined in the same manner as for other families in the receiving PHA’s voucher program [24 CFR 982.355(e)(2)].

Initial Contact with Family

When a family moves into the receiving PHA’s jurisdiction under portability, the family is responsible for promptly contacting the receiving PHA and complying with the receiving PHA’s procedures for incoming portable families [24 CFR 982.355(c)(3)].

If the voucher issued to the family by the initial PHA has expired, the receiving PHA does not process the family’s paperwork but instead refers the family back to the initial PHA [Notice PIH 2004-12].

When a portable family requests assistance from the receiving PHA, the receiving PHA must promptly inform the initial PHA whether the receiving PHA will bill the initial PHA for assistance on behalf of the portable family or will absorb the family into its own program [24 CFR 982.355(c)(5)]. If the receiving PHA initially bills the initial PHA for the family’s assistance, it may later decide to absorb the family into its own program [Notice PIH 2004-12]. (See later under “Absorbing a Portable Family” for more on this topic.)

**CHA Policy**

Within 10 calendar days after a portable family requests assistance, the CHA will notify the initial PHA whether it intends to bill the initial PHA on behalf of the portable family or absorb the family into its own program.

If for any reason the receiving PHA refuses to process or provide assistance to a family under the portability procedures, the family must be given the opportunity for an informal review or hearing [Notice PIH 2004-12]. (For more on this topic, see later under “Denial or Termination of Assistance.”)

**Briefing**

HUD allows the receiving PHA to require a briefing for an incoming portable family as long as the requirement does not unduly delay the family’s search [Notice PIH 2004-12].

**CHA Policy**

The CHA will require the family to attend a briefing. The CHA will provide the family with a briefing packet (as described in Chapter 5- Briefings and Voucher Issuance) and, in an individual briefing, will orally inform the family about the CHA’s payment and subsidy standards, procedures for requesting approval of a unit, the unit inspection process, and the leasing process. The CHA will accept reasonable accommodation requests with regards to the mandatory briefing with families.

**Income Eligibility and Reexamination**

HUD allows the receiving PHA to conduct its own income reexamination of a portable family [24 CFR 982.355(c)(4)]. However, the receiving PHA may not delay voucher issuance or unit approval until the reexamination process is complete unless the reexamination is necessary to determine that an applicant family is income eligible for admission to the program in the area where the family wishes to lease a unit [Notice PIH 2004-12].
The receiving PHA does not re-determine income eligibility for a portable family that was already receiving assistance in the initial PHA’s voucher program [24 CFR 982.355(c)(1)].

**CHA Policy**

The CHA will rely upon the income information provided by the initial PHA and will not conduct a new reexamination of income and composition for incoming portable families. Post lease up, families may request an interim to be conducted if there has been a change in family composition or income.

For any family moving into its jurisdiction under portability, the CHA will conduct a criminal background check for each family member age 18 and older. The CHA will not conduct a criminal background check of an applicant family moving into the jurisdiction unless the jurisdiction from which the family is porting did not conduct a criminal background screening or the criminal background screening is over 120 days old. The criminal background screening will be conducted in accordance with the applicant screening procedures for CHA.

**Voucher Issuance**

When a family moves into its jurisdiction under portability, the receiving PHA is required to issue the family a voucher [24 CFR 982.355(c)(6)]. The family must submit a request for tenancy approval to the receiving PHA during the term of the receiving PHA’s voucher [24 CFR 982.355(c)(6)]

**Timing of Voucher Issuance**

HUD expects the receiving PHA to issue the voucher within two weeks after receiving the family’s paperwork from the initial PHA if the information is in order, the family has contacted the receiving PHA, and the family complies with the receiving PHA’s procedures [Notice PIH 2004-12].

**CHA Policy**

When a family ports into its jurisdiction, the CHA will issue the family a voucher based on the paperwork provided by the initial PHA unless the family’s paperwork from the initial PHA is incomplete, the family’s voucher from the initial PHA has expired or will expire before 60 calendar days, or the family does not comply with the CHA’s procedures.

**Voucher Term**

The term of the receiving PHA’s voucher may not expire before the term of the initial PHA’s voucher [24 CFR 982.355(c)(6)].

**CHA Policy**

The CHA’s voucher will expire 30 days after the initial PHA’s voucher.

**Voucher Extensions**

[24 CFR 982.355(c)(6), Notice PIH 2004-12]

The receiving PHA may provide additional search time to the family beyond the expiration date of the initial PHA’s voucher; however, if it does so, it must inform the initial PHA of the extension. It must also bear in mind the billing deadline provided by the initial PHA. Unless willing and able to absorb the family, the receiving PHA should ensure that any voucher expiration date would leave sufficient time to process a request for tenancy approval, execute a HAP contract, and deliver the initial billing to the initial PHA.

**CHA Policy**

The CHA generally will not extend the term of the voucher that it issues to an incoming portable family unless the CHA plans to absorb the family into its own program, in which case it will follow the policies on voucher extension set forth in Section 5-II.E. Voucher Term and Extensions.
The CHA will consider an exception to this policy as a reasonable accommodation to a person with disabilities (see Chapter 2- Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity) and families eligible under VAWA.

Notifying the Initial PHA

The receiving PHA must promptly notify the initial PHA if the family has leased an eligible unit under the program or if the family fails to submit a request for tenancy approval for an eligible unit within the term of the receiving PHA’s voucher [24 CFR 982.355(c)(8)]. The receiving PHA is required to use Part II of form HUD-52665, Family Portability Information, for this purpose [24 CFR 982.355(e)(5), Notice PIH 2004-12]. (For more on this topic and the deadline for notification, see below under “Administering a Portable Family’s Voucher.”).

If an incoming portable family ultimately decides not to lease in the jurisdiction of the receiving PHA but instead wishes to return to the initial PHA’s jurisdiction or to search in another jurisdiction, the receiving PHA must refer the family back to the initial PHA. In such a case the voucher of record for the family is once again the voucher originally issued by the initial PHA. Any extension of search time provided by the receiving PHA’s voucher is only valid for the family’s search in the receiving PHA’s jurisdiction. [Notice PIH 2004-12]

Administering a Portable Family’s Voucher

Initial Billing Deadline

If a portable family’s search for a unit is successful and the receiving PHA intends to administer the family’s voucher, the receiving PHA must submit its initial billing notice (Part II of form HUD-52665) (a) no later than 10 calendar days following the date the receiving PHA executes a HAP contract on behalf of the family and (b) in time that the notice will be received no later than 60 days following the expiration date of the family’s voucher issued by the initial PHA [Notice PIH 2004-12]. A copy of the family’s form HUD-50058, Family Report, completed by the receiving PHA must be attached to the initial billing notice. The receiving PHA may send these documents by mail, fax, or e-mail.

CHA Policy

The CHA will send its initial billing notice by fax or e-mail, if necessary, to meet the billing deadline but will also send the notice by regular mail.

If the receiving PHA fails to send the initial billing within 10 calendar days following the date the HAP contract is executed, it is required to absorb the family into its own program unless (a) the initial PHA is willing to accept the late submission or (b) HUD requires the initial PHA to honor the late submission (e.g., because the receiving PHA is over leased) [Notice PIH 2004-12].

Ongoing Notification Responsibilities

[Notice PIH 2004-12, HUD-52665]

Regular Reexamination

The receiving PHA must send the initial PHA a copy of a portable family’s updated form HUD-50058 after each regular reexamination for the duration of time the receiving PHA is billing the initial PHA on behalf of the family, regardless of whether there is a change in the billing amount.

CHA Policy

The CHA will send a copy of the updated HUD-50058 by regular mail at the same time the CHA and owner are notified of the biennial reexamination results.
Change in Billing Amount

The receiving PHA is required to notify the initial PHA, using form [HUD-52665](#), of any change in the billing amount for the family as a result of:

- A change in the HAP amount (because of a reexamination, a change in the applicable payment standard, a move to another unit, etc.)
- An abatement or subsequent resumption of the HAP payments
- Termination of the HAP contract
- Payment of a damage/vacancy loss claim for the family
- Termination of the family from the program

The timing of the notice of the change in the billing amount should correspond with the notification to the owner and the family in order to provide the initial PHA with advance notice of the change. Under no circumstances should the notification be later than ten (10) calendar days following the effective date of the change in the billing amount.

Late Payments

[Notice PIH 2004-12](#)

If the initial PHA fails to make a monthly payment for a portable family by the seventh calendar day of the month, the receiving PHA must promptly notify the initial PHA in writing of the deficiency. The notice must identify the family, the amount of the billing payment, the date the billing payment was due, and the date the billing payment was received (if it arrived late). The receiving PHA must send a copy of the notification to the Office of Public Housing (OPH) in the HUD area office with jurisdiction over the receiving PHA. If the initial PHA fails to correct the problem by the second month following the notification, the receiving PHA may request by memorandum to the director of the OPH with jurisdiction over the receiving PHA that HUD transfer the unit in question. A copy of the initial notification and any subsequent correspondence between the PHAs on the matter must be attached. The receiving PHA must send a copy of the memorandum to the initial PHA. If the OPH decides to grant the transfer, the billing arrangement on behalf of the family ceases with the transfer, but the initial PHA is still responsible for any outstanding payments due to the receiving PHA.

Overpayments

[Notice PIH 2004-12](#)

In all cases where the receiving PHA has received billing payments for billing arrangements no longer in effect, the receiving PHA is responsible for returning the full amount of the overpayment (including the portion provided for administrative fees) to the initial PHA.

In the event that HUD determines billing payments have continued for at least three months because the receiving PHA failed to notify the initial PHA that the billing arrangement was terminated, the receiving PHA must take the following steps:

- Return the full amount of the overpayment, including the portion provided for administrative fees, to the initial PHA.
- Once full payment has been returned, notify the Office of Public Housing in the HUD area office with jurisdiction over the receiving PHA of the date and the amount of reimbursement to the initial PHA.

At HUD’s discretion, the receiving PHA will be subject to the sanctions spelled out in [Notice PIH 2004-12](#).
Denial or Termination of Assistance
At any time, the receiving PHA may make a determination to deny or terminate assistance to a portable family for family action or inaction [24 CFR 982.355(c)(9), 24 CFR 982.355(c)(10)].

In the case of a termination, the receiving PHA should provide adequate notice of the effective date to the initial PHA to avoid having to return a payment. In no event should the receiving PHA fail to notify the initial PHA later than 10 calendar days following the effective date of the termination of the billing arrangement. [Notice PIH 2004-12].

CHA Policy
If the CHA elects to deny or terminate assistance for a portable family, the CHA will notify the initial PHA within 10 calendar days after the informal review or hearing if the denial or termination is upheld. The CHA will base its denial or termination decision on the policies set forth in Chapter 3- Eligibility or Chapter 12- Termination of Assistance and Tenancy, respectively. The informal review or hearing will be held in accordance with the policies in Chapter 16- Program Administration. The CHA will furnish the initial PHA with a copy of the review or hearing decision.

Absorbing a Portable Family
The receiving PHA may absorb an incoming portable family into its own program when the receiving PHA executes a HAP contract on behalf of the family or at any time thereafter providing that (a) the receiving PHA has funding available under its annual contributions contract (ACC) and (b) absorbing the family will not result in over leasing [24 CFR 982.355(d)(1), Notice PIH 2004-12].

If the receiving PHA absorbs a family from the point of admission, the admission will be counted against the income targeting obligation of the receiving PHA [24 CFR 982.201(b)(2)].

If the receiving PHA absorbs a family after providing assistance for the family under a billing arrangement with the initial PHA, HUD encourages the receiving PHA to provide adequate advance notice to the initial PHA to avoid having to return an overpayment. The receiving PHA must specify the effective date of the absorption of the family. [Notice PIH 2004-12]

CHA Policy
If the CHA decides to absorb a portable family upon the execution of a HAP contract on behalf of the family, the CHA will notify the initial PHA by the initial billing deadline specified on form HUD-52665. The effective date of the HAP contract will be the effective date of the absorption.

If the CHA decides to absorb a family after that, it will provide the initial PHA with 30 calendar days’ advance notice.

Following the absorption of an incoming portable family, the family is assisted with funds available under the consolidated ACC for the receiving PHA’s voucher program [24 CFR 982.355(d)], and the receiving PHA becomes the initial PHA in any subsequent moves by the family under portability.
Chapter 11-Re-examinations

Introduction
In accordance with its MTW Plan, CHA conducts reexaminations on a biennial basis for families. In addition, for families where all members are either elderly and/or disabled and have fixed incomes, the CHA will conduct a triennial reexamination. Interim reexaminations are also needed in certain situations. This chapter discusses both regular (biennial and triennial) and interim reexaminations, and the recalculation of family share and subsidy that occurs as a result. HUD regulations and PHA policies concerning reexaminations are presented in three parts:

Part I: Regular reexaminations. This part discusses the process for conducting regular reexaminations on a biennial and triennial schedule.

Part II: Interim Reexaminations. This part details the requirements for families to report changes in family income and composition between regular reexaminations.

Part III: Recalculating Family Share and Subsidy Amount. This part discusses the recalculation of family share and subsidy amounts based on the results of regular and interim reexaminations.

Policies governing reasonable accommodation, family privacy, required family cooperation, and program abuse, as described elsewhere in this plan, apply to both regular and interim reexaminations.

Part I: Regular Re-examinations

11-I.A. Overview
The CHA will conduct reexaminations of family income and composition on a biennial schedule or on a triennial schedule for households where all members are either elderly and/or disabled and have fixed incomes. Voucher holders on a fixed income who also receive SNAP benefits would be on a triennial reexamination schedule, however, if they receive TANF, they wouldn’t be considered to be on a fixed income and would not be on a triennial schedule. This includes gathering and verifying current information about family composition, income, and expenses.

Based on this updated information, the family’s income and rent must be recalculated. This part discusses the schedule for regular reexaminations, the information to be collected and verified, and regular reexamination effective dates.

11-I.B. Scheduling Regular Re-examinations

CHA Policy
The CHA will ensure that the regular reexamination for each family is completed as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annual</td>
<td>Families participating in the Homeownership program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biennial</td>
<td>All Other</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The CHA will begin the regular reexamination process 90-120 days in advance of its scheduled effective date.

Notification of and Participation in the Regular Re-examination Process
The PHA is required to obtain the information needed to conduct regular reexaminations. How that information will be collected is left to the discretion of the PHA. However, PHAs should give tenants who were not provided the opportunity the option to complete form HUD-92006 at this time [Notice PIH 2009-36].

CHA Policy
Families are required to participate in activities necessary to complete a regular reexamination.

To complete the regular reexamination, the family may be required to attend an in-person interview. If required to attend, all adult members of the household must be present. If participation in an in-person interview poses a hardship because of a family member’s disability, the family should contact the CHA to request a reasonable accommodation (see Chapter 2- Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity).

The CHA will determine that a family is eligible for continued assistance based on information that the CHA received within the 120 day period prior to effective date of the reexamination.

Notification of regular reexamination requirements will be sent by first-class mail and will contain the date, time, and location of any scheduled interview. In addition, it will inform the family of the information and documentation that must be provided.

If the family is unable to attend a scheduled interview, the family should contact the CHA in advance of the interview to schedule a new appointment. If a family does not attend the scheduled interview, the CHA may send a second notification with a new interview appointment time and advise the family if it misses the second appointment, the CHA will issue a notice of termination to the family.

If a family fails to attend two scheduled interviews without the CHA approval, or if the notice is returned by the post office with no forwarding address, a notice of termination (see Chapter 12- Termination of Assistance and Tenancy) will be sent to the family’s address of record, and to any alternate address provided in the family’s file.

An advocate, interpreter, or other assistant may assist the family in the interview process.

11-I.C. Conducting Regular Re-examinations
As part of the regular reexamination process, families are required to provide updated information to the PHA regarding the family’s income, expenses, and composition [24 CFR 982.551(b)].

CHA Policy
Families will be asked to provide all required information (as described in the reexamination notice) within a required time frame. The required information will include a CHA-designated reexamination form, an Authorization for the Release of Information/Privacy Act Notice, the Authorization For Release of Information Addendum, a family consent form allowing the CHA to access information about secondary and post-secondary schools about program participants and members of the family, as well as supporting documentation related to the family’s income, expenses, and family composition. Families that have received a reasonable accommodation for an extra bedroom will not have this information reverified at the regular re-examination.
The CHA will perform criminal background checks for every household member (18 years and older) including Live-in-Aides.

If the family attended an interview, any required documents or information that the family is unable to provide at the time of the interview must be provided within 10 calendar days of the interview. If the family is unable to obtain the information or materials within the required time frame, the family may request an extension.

If the family does not provide the required documents or information within the required time frame (plus any extensions), the family will be sent a notice of termination (See Chapter 12-Termination of Assistance and Tenancy).

When correcting an error, as a result of quality control activity, the CHA will not obtain EIV information for a PHA’s initiated interim re-examination.

The information provided by the family generally must be verified in accordance with the policies in Chapter 7-Verification. Unless the family reports a change, or the agency has reason to believe a change has occurred in information previously reported by the family, certain types of information that are verified at admission typically do not need to be re-verified during the regular re-examination. These include:

- Legal identity
- Age
- Social security numbers
- A person’s disability status
- Citizenship or immigration status

If adding a new family member to the unit causes overcrowding according to the Housing Quality Standards (HQS) (see Chapter 8- Housing Quality Standards and Rent Reasonableness Determinations), the PHA must issue the family a new voucher (so long as eligibility and suitability of the new family member has been established by the PHA in accordance with Chapter 3-Eligibility). The family must try to find an acceptable unit as soon as possible. If an acceptable unit is available for rental by the family, the PHA must terminate the HAP contract in the family’s current unit in accordance with its terms [24 CFR 982.403].

11-I.D. Determining Ongoing Eligibility of Certain Students [24 CFR 982.552(b)(5)]

Section 327 of Public Law 109-115 established new restrictions on the ongoing eligibility of certain students (both part- and full-time) who are enrolled in institutions of higher education.

If a student enrolled in an institution of higher education is under the age of 24, is not a veteran, is not married, and does not have a dependent child, the student’s eligibility must be reexamined along with the income eligibility of the student’s parents during the regular re-examination. In these cases, both the student and the student’s parents must be income eligible for the student to continue to receive HCV assistance. If, however, a student in these circumstances is determined independent from his or her parents in accordance with PHA policy, the income of the student’s parents will not be considered in determining the student’s ongoing eligibility.

Students who reside with parents in an HCV assisted unit are not subject to this provision. It is limited to students who are receiving assistance on their own, separately from their parents.

CHA Policy
During the regular reexamination process, the CHA will determine the ongoing eligibility of each student who is subject to the eligibility restrictions in [24 CFR 5.612] by reviewing the student’s individual income as well as the
income of the student’s parents. If the student has been determined “independent” from his/her parents based on the policies in Sections 3-II.E. Students Enrolled in Institutions of Higher Education and Section 7-II.E. Verification of Student Status, the parents’ income will not be reviewed.

If the student is no longer income eligible based on his/her own income or the income of his/her parents, the CHA will send the student a notice to terminate and the student’s assistance will be terminated in accordance with the policies in Section 12-I.D. Family Obligations.

If the student continues to be income eligible based on his/her own income and the income of his/her parents (if applicable), the CHA will process a reexamination in accordance with the policies in this chapter.

11-I.E. Effective Dates
The PHA must establish policies concerning the effective date of changes that result from a regular reexamination [24 CFR 982.516].

CHA Policy
In general, an increase in the family share of the rent that results from a regular reexamination will take effect on the family’s anniversary date, and the family will be notified at least 30 calendar days in advance. If less than 30 calendar days remain before the scheduled effective date, the increase will take effect on the first of the month following the end of the 30 calendar day notice period.

If a family moves to a new unit within 90-120 calendar days of the regular reexamination, the change will take effect on the effective date of the new lease and HAP contract, and no 30 calendar day notice is required. If the CHA chooses to schedule a regular reexamination for completion prior to the family’s anniversary date for administrative purposes, the effective date will be determined by the CHA, but will always allow for the 30 calendar day notice period.

If the family causes a delay in processing the regular reexamination, increases in the family share of the rent will be applied retroactively, to the scheduled effective date of the regular reexamination. The family will be responsible for any overpaid subsidy and may be offered a repayment agreement in accordance with the policies in Chapter 16- Program Administration.

In general, a decrease in the family share of the rent that results from a regular reexamination will take effect on the family’s anniversary date.

If a family moves to a new unit, the decrease will take effect on the effective date of the new lease and HAP contract.

If the CHA chooses to schedule a regular reexamination for completion prior to the family’s anniversary date for administrative purposes, the effective date will be the first day of the newly rescheduled reexamination month.

If the family causes a delay in processing the regular or rescheduled reexamination, decreases in the family share of the rent will be applied prospectively, from the first day of the month following completion of the reexamination processing.

Delays in reexamination processing are considered to be caused by the family if the family fails to provide information requested by the CHA by the date specified, and this delay prevents the CHA from completing the reexamination as scheduled.
Part II: Interim Re-examinations

11-II.A. Overview

Family circumstances may change throughout the period between regular reexaminations. HUD and PHA policies dictate what kinds of information about changes in family circumstances must be reported, and under what circumstances the PHA must process interim reexaminations to reflect those changes. HUD regulations also permit the PHA to conduct interim reexaminations of income or family composition at any time. When an interim reexamination is conducted, only those factors that have changed are verified and adjusted [Housing Choice Voucher Guidebook, Chapter 12: Reexaminations].

In addition to specifying what information the family must report, HUD regulations permit the family to request an interim determination if other aspects of the family’s income or composition changes. The PHA must complete the interim reexamination within a reasonable time after the family’s request.

This part includes HUD and PHA policies describing what changes families are required to report, what changes families may choose to report, and how the PHA will process both PHA-initiated and family-initiated interim reexaminations.

11-II.B. Changes in Family and Household Composition

The PHA must adopt policies prescribing when and under what conditions the family must report changes in family composition. However, due to family obligations under the program, the PHA has limited discretion in this area.

CHA Policy

The CHA will conduct interim reexaminations to account for any approved additions or removals in household composition that occur between regular reexaminations.

New Family Members Not Requiring Approval

The addition of a family member as a result of birth, adoption, or court-awarded custody does not require PHA approval. However, the family is required to promptly notify the PHA of the addition [24 CFR 982.551(h)(2)]. In addition, CHA will approve new household members in the following circumstances:

- Legal guardianship of a minor granted to a current family member;
- As result of marriage by a current family member;
- As result of a civil union created under any state law by a current family member;
- As a result of a registered domestic partnership under any state law by a current family member (including any individuals who self-certify as a couple with a current family member);
- As a result of a reasonable accommodation for a current disabled family member;
- As a result of a returning family member from active military service;
- As a result of a returning and now disabled family member (including a previously disabled person);
- As a result of a returning child (including spouse and/or children of the returning child);
- As a result of returning or placement of a parent to an existing minor in the family;
- As a result of returning or placement of elderly parents or grandparents to be cared by current family members; or
- As a result of returning or placement of a foster child(ren) or foster adult(s) if their presence would not result in a violation of HQS space standards according to 24 CFR 982.401
**CHA Policy**

The family is required to promptly notify the CHA of the addition of a family member as a result of birth, adoption, or court-awarded custody.

The family must request authorization from the owner to add a family member as a result of birth, adoption or court-awarded custody of a child. In addition, CHA may require the family to provide proof of the owner’s authorization at the family’s next regular reexamination.

**New Family and Household Members Requiring Approval**

Additional household members who join the family as a result of birth, adoption, or court-awarded custody do not need CHA approval, but the family is required to promptly notify the CHA of the addition. For any other additions listed in [Section 3-I.B. Family and Household](#), a family must request PHA approval to add a new family member [24 CFR 982.551(h)(2)] or other household member (live-in aide or foster child) [24 CFR 982.551(h)(4)].

When any new family member is added, the PHA must conduct a reexamination to determine any new income or deductions associated with the additional family member, and to make appropriate adjustments in the family share of the rent and the HAP payment [24 CFR 982.516(e)].

If a change in family size causes a violation of Housing Quality Standards (HQS) space standards (see [Chapter 8-Housing Quality Standards and Rent Reasonableness Determinations](#)), the PHA must issue the family a new voucher, and the family and PHA must try to find an acceptable unit as soon as possible. If an acceptable unit is available for rental by the family, the PHA must terminate the HAP contract in accordance with its terms [24 CFR 982.403].

**CHA Policy**

The family must request in writing and obtain CHA approval before adding any member to the household.

Families must also obtain the owner’s approval to add a new family or household member. This includes any person not on the lease who is expected to stay in the assisted unit for more than a total of 30 consecutive days, and therefore would no longer qualify as a “guest.” CHA may require the family to provide proof of the owner’s authorization at the family’s next regular reexamination.

CHA will not approve the addition of a new family or household member unless the individual meets the CHA’s eligibility criteria (see [Chapter 3-Eligibility](#)).

**Departure of a Household Member**

If a household/family member ceases to reside in the unit, the family must inform the CHA within 30 days.

**11-II.C. Changes Affecting Income or Expenses**

Interim reexaminations can be scheduled either because the PHA has reason to believe that changes in income or expenses may have occurred, or because the family reports a change. When a family reports a change, the PHA may take different actions depending on whether the family reported the change voluntarily, or because it was required to do so.

**PHA-Initiated Interim Reexaminations**

PHA-initiated interim reexaminations are those that are scheduled based on circumstances or criteria defined by the PHA. They are not scheduled because of changes reported by the family.

**CHA Policy**

If the family has reported zero income before any income exclusions, the CHA will check EIV data every six months and, if appropriate, conduct an interim reexamination.
Families with zero income before any income exclusions must report all changes in annual income within 30 calendar days of the change. CHA reserves the right to not process an interim re-certification.

CHA may conduct an interim reexamination at any time in order to correct an error in a previous re-examination, to investigate a tenant fraud complaint or to address a multiple subsidy report.

Family-Initiated Interim Reexaminations
The PHA must adopt policies prescribing when and under what conditions the family must report changes in family income or expenses [24 CFR 982.516(c)]. The CHA permits a family to obtain an interim reexamination anytime the family has experienced a change in circumstances since the last determination as discussed below in this section. [24 CFR 982.516(b)(2)].

CHA Policy
Families with zero income before any income exclusions for the household are required to report all increases in income, including new employment, within 30 calendar days of the date the change takes effect. CHA will process an interim reexamination based on the income reported for these zero income families.

Families with income are not required to report increases in income between regular re-examinations. However, if a family reports an income increase, CHA may, and at its sole discretion, conduct an interim reexamination based on the increased income.

Optional Reporting
The family may request an interim reexamination any time the family has experienced a change in circumstances since the last determination [24 CFR 982.516(b)(2)]. The PHA must process the request if the family reports a change that will result in a reduced family income [Housing Choice Voucher Guidebook, Chapter 12: Reexaminations].

If a family reports a decrease in income from the loss of welfare benefits due to fraud or non-compliance with a welfare agency requirement to participate in an economic self-sufficiency program, the family’s share of the rent will not be reduced [24 CFR 5.615]. For more information regarding the requirement to impute welfare income see Chapter 6- Income and Subsidy Determinations.

CHA Policy
Families may report decreases in income or increases in expenses at any time. The CHA will conduct an interim reexamination if appropriate.

11-II.D. Processing the Interim Re-examination
Method of Reporting
CHA Policy
The family may notify the CHA of changes in writing.

The family normally will not be required to attend an interview for an interim reexamination. However, if the CHA determines that an interview is warranted, the family may be required to attend. Reasonable accommodation may be provided to a family who requests it.

Based on the type of change reported, the CHA will determine the documentation the family will be required to submit. The family must submit any required information or documents to the CHA. The CHA will accept required documentation by mail, by fax, or in person.
Effective Dates
The PHA must establish the time frames in which any changes that result from an interim reexamination will take effect \[24\text{ CFR 982.516(d)}\]. The changes may be applied either retroactively or prospectively, depending on whether there is to be an increase or a decrease in the family share of the rent, and whether the family reported any required information within the required time frames [Housing Choice Voucher Guidebook, Chapter 12: Reexaminations].

CHA Policy
If the family share of the rent is to **increase**:

The increase generally will be effective on the first of the month following 30 calendar days’ notice to the family. If a family fails to report a change within the required time frames, or fails to provide all required information within the required time frames, the increase will be applied retroactively, to the date it would have been effective had the information been provided on a timely basis. The family will be responsible for any overpaid subsidy and may be offered a repayment agreement in accordance with the policies in Chapter 16- Program Administration.

If the family share of the rent is to **decrease**:

The decrease will be effective on the first day of the month following the month in which all required documentation was received. In cases where the change cannot be verified until after the date the change would have become effective, the change will be made retroactively.

Part III: Recalculating Family Share and Subsidy Amount

11-III.A. Overview
After gathering and verifying required information for an regular or interim reexamination, the PHA must recalculate the family share of the rent and the subsidy amount, and notify the family and owner of the changes \[24\text{ CFR 982.516(d)(2)}\]. While the basic policies that govern these calculations are provided in Chapter 6, this part lays out policies that affect these calculations during a regular reexamination.

11-III.B. Changes in Payment Standards and Utility Allowances
In order to calculate the family share of the rent and HAP amount correctly, changes in payment standards, subsidy standards, or utility allowances may need to be updated and included in the PHA’s calculations.

Specific policies governing how subsidy standards, payment standards, and utility allowances are applied are discussed below.

Payment Standards
\[24\text{ CFR 982.505}\]

The family share of the rent and HAP calculations must use the correct payment standard for the family, taking into consideration the family unit size, the size of unit, and the area in which the unit is located. See Chapter 6- Income and Subsidy Determinations for information on how to select the appropriate payment standard.

When the PHA changes its payment standards or the family’s situation changes, new payment standards are applied at the following times:

- If the PHA’s payment standard amount changes during the term of the HAP contract, the date on which the new standard is applied depends on whether the standard has increased or decreased:
  - If the payment standard amount has **increased**, the increased payment standard will be applied at the *first regular reexamination* following the effective date of the increase in the payment standard.
If the payment standard amount has decreased, CHA will not decrease the payment standard and will use the old version as long as the participant remains in the unit.

- If the family moves to a new unit, or a new HAP contract is executed due to changes in the lease (even if the family remains in place) the current payment standard applicable to the family will be used when the new HAP contract is processed.

- Interim Reexaminations for elderly/disabled households and any household receiving a rent increase to ensure those households are not burdened with increasing rent portions before their next reexamination.

Subsidy Standards
[24 CFR 982.505(c)(4)]

If there is a change in the family unit size that would apply to a family during the HAP contract term, either due to a change in family composition, or a change in the PHA’s subsidy standards (see Chapter 5 - Briefings and Voucher Issuance), the new family unit size must be used to determine the payment standard amount for the family at the family's first regular reexamination following the change in family unit size.

Utility Allowances
[24 CFR 982.517(d)]

The family share of the rent and HAP calculations must reflect any changes in the family’s utility arrangement with the owner, or in the PHA’s utility allowance schedule [HCV GB, p. 12-5]. Chapter 16 discusses how utility allowance schedules are established.

When there are changes in the utility arrangement with the owner, the PHA must use the utility allowances in effect at the time the new lease and HAP contract are executed.

At reexamination, the PHA must use the PHA current utility allowance schedule [24 CFR 982.517(d)(2)].

CHA Policy
Revised utility allowances will be applied to a family’s rent and subsidy calculations at the first regular or interim reexamination after the allowance is adopted.

11-III.C. Notification of New Family Share and HAP Amount
The PHA must notify the owner and family of any changes in the amount of the HAP payment [HUD-52641, HAP Contract]. The notice must include the following information [Housing Choice Voucher Guidebook, Chapter 12: Reexaminations:

- The amount and effective date of the new HAP payment
- The amount and effective date of the new family share of the rent
- The amount and effective date of the new tenant rent to owner
- The reason for the change

The family must be given an opportunity for an informal hearing regarding the PHA’s determination of their annual or adjusted income, and the use of such income to compute the housing assistance payment [24 CFR 982.555(a)(1)(i)] (see Chapter 16 - Program Administration).
CHA Policy

The notice to the family will include the annual and adjusted income amounts that were used to calculate the family share of the rent and the housing assistance payment. The notice also will state the procedures for requesting an informal hearing.

11-III.D. Discrepancies

During a regular or interim reexamination, the PHA may discover that information previously reported by the family was in error, or that the family intentionally misrepresented information. In addition, the PHA may discover errors made by the PHA. When errors resulting in the overpayment or underpayment of subsidy are discovered, corrections will be made in accordance with the policies in Chapter 14- Program Integrity.
Chapter 12-Termination of Assistance and Tenancy

HUD regulations specify the reasons for which PHA can terminate a family’s assistance, and the ways in which such terminations must take place. They also dictate the circumstances under which an owner may terminate the tenancy of an assisted family. This chapter presents the policies that govern voluntary and involuntary terminations of assistance, and termination of tenancy by the owner. It is presented in three parts:

**Part I: Grounds for Termination of Assistance.** This part discusses various reasons that a family’s assistance may be terminated, including voluntary termination by the family, termination because the family no longer qualifies to receive subsidy, and termination by the PHA based on the family’s behavior.

**Part II: Approach to Termination of Assistance.** This part describes the policies that govern how an involuntary termination takes place. It specifies the alternatives that the PHA may consider in lieu of termination, the criteria the PHA must use when deciding what action to take and the steps the PHA must take when terminating a family’s assistance.

**Part III: Termination of Tenancy by the Owner.** This part presents the policies that govern the owner’s right to terminate an assisted tenancy.

**Part I: Grounds for Termination of Assistance**

12-I.A. Overview

HUD requires the PHA to terminate assistance for certain offenses and when the family no longer requires assistance. HUD permits the PHA to terminate assistance for certain other actions family members take or fail to take. In addition, a family may decide to stop receiving HCV assistance at any time by notifying the PHA.

12-I.B. Family No Longer Requires Assistance

[24 CFR 982.455]

As a family’s income increases, the amount of the PHA subsidy goes down. If the amount of HCV assistance provided by the PHA drops to zero and remains at zero for 180 consecutive calendar days the family’s assistance terminates automatically.

*CHA Policy*

When a participant becomes zero HAP, staff must send the Zero Housing Assistance Payment Notice to the owner and participant, along with the Contract Rent Notice. This notice informs the participant that they have the ability to request an informal hearing. In addition, staff must also send the Zero HAP 30 Day Notice, 30 days prior to the participant reaching 180 days of Zero HAP. Staff must process the EOP effective the end of the month in which the 180 days has expired and must be processed within 30 days of the effective date.

In addition, CHA will not enter into any HAP contracts that have no subsidy. If it is determined the HAP contract will have no subsidy, staff must send the owner and participant/applicant the Notice of HAP Contract Denial-Zero HAP.

If a participating family receiving zero assistance experiences a change in circumstances that would cause the HAP payment to rise above zero, the family must notify the CHA of the changed circumstances and request an interim reexamination before the expiration of the 180-day period.

12-I.C. Family Chooses to Terminate Assistance

The family may request that the PHA terminate the family’s assistance at any time.
CHA Policy
The request to terminate assistance should be made in writing and signed by the head of household, spouse, or co-head. Before terminating the family’s assistance, the CHA will follow the notice requirements in Section 12-II.F. Termination Notice.

12-I.D. Enforcement Procedures

Issuance of an Intent to Terminate
When an Intent to Terminate (ITT) is issued a SharePoint record must be created the same day with all documentation regarding the ITT (including any amended ITT’s) and a Yardi memo must be notated. All documents must be uploaded to I-File no later than 2 calendar days after issuance.

For all program violations listed below, staff must look to see if the participant has committed any other program violations in the past four years, if so, those should be included in the ITT.

Administrative Issues
For program violations that involve recertification, missed appointments, missing documents, or HQS tenant fail items, the Housing Specialist is required to draft an ITT. If the violations meet the criteria for a Pre-Hearing Conference, that will take place as opposed to an Informal Hearing. See Pre-Hearing Conference procedures.

Lease Violations
If the property owner has not filed for eviction, contact the owner and request all notices issued to the participant (5, 10, 30-day notices, etc.), the ledger showing delinquency, and request that the owner testify at the informal hearing. If eviction has been filed for cause (e.g. failure to pay rent or damages to the unit), it must include the Case Number, the Type of Action (Joint Action or Order of Possession), and relevant information about the judgement. Documentation and notices supporting the lease violation(s) must be requested from the property owner prior to issuing the ITT (i.e. pictures of damages, 5-day notices, ledgers, etc.), unless otherwise advised by CHA Staff.

Unauthorized Occupants
In order to issue an ITT for unauthorized occupants, there must be evidence to support the presence of unauthorized occupants in the HCV unit. Staff should review the participant’s account to determine if the alleged unauthorized occupant was part of the household previously. If so, reference the Out of Household Declaration (“OHH”) in the ITT and the date the household member was removed. Staff must attempt to speak with the participant prior to issuing the ITT, allow the participant time to provide proof of address for alleged unauthorized occupant. A police report cannot be the sole piece of evidence of an unauthorized occupant, but it can corroborate additional evidence (e.g. Photo ID).

Criminal Activity
If CHA becomes aware of criminal activity that has resulted in a conviction that rises to the level of program termination, staff should send an ITT. An arrest may prompt inquiry into the conduct of an individual that upon further review and with sufficient evidence may determine an individual’s lack of suitability for tenancy or continue participation in the program. Examples of these violations include but are not limited to:

- Felony Drug related activity
  - Possession of Controlled Substance (PCS) or other narcotics
  - Heroin Possession
  - Marijuana felony (e.g. intent to distribute/sell)
- Violent Criminal Activity (physical harm to victim)
  - Assault or battery
  - Murder
Aggravated Battery

Sex Crimes
  - Sexual abuse
  - Pedophilia

DUI Narcotics

DUI Alcohol (cause bodily harm)

Possession of weapons/ammunition without valid FOID card
  - Discharge of firearm
  - Unlawful use of firearm

Voucher Expirations
In cases involving voucher expirations for required moves, an ITT should be issued if any one of the following factors occurs:

- The participant never submitted an RTA;
- The participant already received the maximum extension and there was no extenuating circumstances or administrative delay; or
- The participant did not have any communication with the CHA.

For all ITT’s issued, any additional information that supports termination should be included in the ITT and notated in the file. All ITTs issued along with any relevant documents/information must be entered into I-file within two days of receipt. In ITT SharePoint, all date fields must be populated and staff should check current ITTs before creating a new record. If a record has been previously created and the ITT is still active, new allegations and program violations must be updated in an amended ITT. Staff should ensure all cases are closed out properly if the ITT is rescinded or an informal hearing has taken place.

When mailing the ITT, staff must include a copy of the evidence used to substantiate the allegations against the family. For example, if the ITT involves criminal activity the Police Report and/or Background check or eviction documents for lease violations must be attached. Staff must include language in the ITT that the documents are enclosed.

Matters that Need Further Investigation
In cases where a search warrant is executed at a HCV unit, irrespective of the intended target, and there were narcotics, narcotic paraphernalia, weapons, or ammunition found in the unit. Staff should automatically issue an ITT if CHA receives a copy of the search warrant with confirmation that any of the above items were found.

In cases that involve any type of criminal matter, staff must run a Criminal Background check. Additionally, they may use the following resources to aid their investigation:

- Check to see if the appropriate person is in the Inmate Locater at https://inmatelocator.ccsheriff.org
- Illinois DOC Offender at https://www2.illinois.gov/idoc/offender/pages/inmatesearch.aspx
- Call Cook County Criminal Court to check status of case – (773) 674-3147
- Check both the Illinois Sex Offender website at http://www.isp.state.il.us/sor/ and the National Sex Offender Registry at www.nsopw.gov (if allegation involves a sex crime)
- Check the Chicago Gun Offender Registry at http://gis.chicagopolice.org/CLEARMap_rgo/startPage.htm
- Check the Chicago Arrest Reports at http://publicsearch1.azurewebsites.net/CheckHuman; and
- Check the Community Notification of Early Release at https://www2.illinois.gov/idoc/Offender/Pages/CommunityNotificationofInmateEarlyRelease.aspx
Any additional information that supports termination should be included in the ITT and notated in the file. Staff must monitor ongoing criminal matters (open cases) for any changes that may occur with the offender. For example, if the case was dismissed, the ITT should be rescinded. On the other hand, if additional charges are added to the case, an amended ITT is sent to the participant.

**Complaints/Fraud Hotline**

If CHA receives complaints about an HCV family (including, but not limited to complaints via the fraud hotline, the Office of the Inspector General, or a Problem Property Report) CHA HCV will send to the vendor to complete the directive or investigate further. CHA Legal will determine if the contact should testify, if so, they will instruct the vendor to reach out to them. If this contact leads to additional evidence, documentation (i.e. W-2, Birth Certificate, etc.) and witnesses are available to testify at an informal hearing, an ITT can be issued to the participant.

**When to Issue a PAC Warning Letter**

In the following cases, staff will issue a PAC Warning Letter:

- If a property owner enforces their lease with an eviction without a court order; See language regarding eviction in the Family Obligations section of the Admin Plan
- If CHA receives complaints via fraud hotline, the OIG, or a problem property report but there is not enough evidence to pursue an ITT;
- Allegations of unauthorized occupant(s) where there is not sufficient evidence to issue an ITT; or
- Egregious quality of life complaints - Excessive partying, fighting in the street, or excessive noise.

**When to schedule a PAC meeting**

A PAC meeting is required for the following reasons:

- Family has been issued multiple warning notices for same violation
- Pattern of Behavior within a 4 year time frame
- Egregious Quality of Life Complaints/Violations
- Further investigation is needed.

**How should a PAC meeting be conducted?**

- Investigate: Make the participant aware of the allegations against them
- Dispute: give the family an opportunity to dispute the allegations and provide documentation
- Conduct the Family Obligations Workshop/Webinar
- If CHA has substantial information for an ITT, and the offense is not a serious violation or mandatory termination, execute the PAC Agreement after the family has passed the quiz.
- Notate the account thoroughly explaining the conversation that took place and highlight each step taken – OIG Advisory 17

**When to schedule a Family Obligations Workshop/Webinar**

- As a part of the PAC meeting
- CHA Legal issues a recommendation to rescind the ITT subject to attending the workshop
- As a condition to re-instatement per a hearing condition

**How to conduct the Family Obligations Workshop/Webinar:**

- Send the link to the webinar and quiz to the family, or play the webinar in the PAC meeting:
  - Webinar: [https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/8580704598464516365](https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/8580704598464516365)
  - Quiz: [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PBGJ8H8](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PBGJ8H8)
Participants will have 10 days to review the workshop and complete the quiz, if it is completed online. All attendees must complete the quiz and obtain a 7 out of 10; and will have three opportunities to pass.

Once the family has completed the workshop, staff must issue a PAC Agreement and Addendum to the Family Obligations, and the Re-instatement Notice (for Hearing Decisions only) for the family to sign. Those who did not view the presentation entirely, must do so prior to executing the required documents.

When to Issue a Bar Agreement
A Bar Agreement is used to remove a household member from a family’s voucher and the subsidized unit in which the Head of Household resides while a part of the HCV Program. The Bar Agreement shall be effective despite the barred household member’s continued presence on the lease. The Bar Agreement is required if the household member is engaged in criminal activity. Additionally, the participant must sign a Bar Agreement if it is a condition of the Re-instatement per the hearing decision. In addition, a recommendation for a Bar Agreement may be requested. In such cases, the file should be sent to CHA-HCV for review and approval/denial. All Bar agreements approved will be sent to CHA Legal for final approval/denial. If the Bar Agreement is approved, the family will execute the agreement.

Hearing Requested
If an informal hearing has been requested, staff must issue the Informal Hearing Request Decision Notice within 10 calendar days of receiving the request. The case file must be packaged and sent to CHA Legal the Friday following the issuance of the Informal Hearing Request Decision Notice. For cases that will have a Pre-Hearing Conference, see those procedures.

All case files must have all relevant documents and supportive evidence in the case file. Physical files must be sent to CHA Legal and include the following items:

- Hearing File Checklist
- Informal Hearing Request Decision Notice
- Informal Hearing Request
- Amended Intent to Terminate (if applicable)
- Intent to Terminate
- Owner notice of Intent to terminate
- All Supportive Evidence (i.e. Police Report, Court Orders, Pay Stubs, etc.)
- Current Lease
- Current HAP Contract
- Signed Family Obligations
- Voucher & Addendum
- Most recent Application for Continued Eligibility
- Current Yardi Memo Review

All documents must be uploaded to ITT SharePoint. If there are any updates to a case or additional findings after the file has been sent to the Legal Department, the contractor must update ITT SharePoint and forward any additional documents to CHA Legal. Please send an email to the Deputy General Counsel and the assigned Paralegal attaching the amended ITT and all relevant supporting documents.

After the case file has been sent to the Legal Department, staff must review each ITT issued on a monthly basis to check if the violation has been remedied. If the participant is compliant with program rules, staff must rescind the ITT and inform the Legal Department. If there are any additional program violations (i.e. failed background check, lease violations, fraud, etc.) that were not included in the original ITT, an amended ITT must
be issued to include any new violations. When issuing the Amended ITT, if the time to request a hearing has not expired, the Housing Specialist must allow an additional 30 days (from the date of the amended ITT) for the participant to request an informal hearing.

If the Legal department declines to pursue the ITT, it is returned to HCV. Staff must rescind the ITT and follow the guidance of the legal department.

**Hearing Not Requested**

Once the ITT has been issued, the family has 30 calendar days to request an informal hearing. If the informal hearing request is not submitted, staff must process the EOP within 35 days of issuance of the ITT. The effective date of termination must not exceed the date of termination listed on the ITT.

If the family requests an Informal Hearing after the 30-calendar day period but before the effective date of the EOP, staff must honor the hearing request. The Informal Hearing Request Decision Notice will be issued and the file is sent to Legal in accordance with the standards set forth above. The EOP must be voided in Yardi, and HAP payment should resume if the owner is still eligible for HAP payments.

In cases where there is no conviction when an ITT is issued for Criminal Activity, the Housing Specialist must notate Yardi Memos and await further guidance from CHA Legal.

At the time the EOP (effective the last day of the month following the expiration of the 30 day period) is processed in Yardi, a Final termination Notice and HAP Contract Termination notice must be sent to the participant and property owner, including language stating that they failed to request a hearing. These documents must be uploaded to I-File no later than two calendar days from the date of issuance.

**Informal Hearing Decisions**

**Reinstate & Reinstate with Conditions**

All Informal Hearing decisions that reinstate or reinstate with conditions must be completed within 30 calendar days from the date the hearing decision was rendered. For reinstatement with no conditions, staff must place the participant back in Current Status within 5 calendar days of the hearing decision. For those that have conditions attached, staff will contact the participant over the phone and issue formal appointment notices to fulfill the conditions of reinstatement. If the family fails to adhere to the conditions of reinstatement within the designated timeframe. Prior to processing the EOP, staff must check Yardi memos for any relevant information that show an attempt by the participant to comply with the conditions. Staff will process the EOP, only if the Hearing Decision explicitly states that you must terminate if they don’t meet the conditions. If there is no such language in the Hearing Decision, staff must issue an ITT and follow the ITT process. All relevant documents must be uploaded to SharePoint and visible in IFile no later than 2 calendar days following any issuance of documents/notices. Yardi memo’s must be notated on the same day the appointment notices are mailed and/or contact with the family

**Terminate**

All Informal Hearing Decisions with a decision to terminate must be completed by the last day of the month in which the Informal Hearing Decision was rendered. For example, if the Informal Hearing Decision was rendered on May 18th staff must process the EOP no later than May 31, effective the last day of the following month. Final Termination notice must be issued to the participant and the HAP Contract termination notice must be issued to the participant and property owner. All notices must be in I-File no later than 2 calendar days following the date of issuance.
Recertification-Removing Household Member with Criminal Activity

If a family has been issued an ITT for the criminal activity of a HHM, that particular HHM must not be removed until an informal hearing decision has been issued.

In cases where a recertification interview is due, the family may choose to remove the HHM at that time in efforts to complete the recertification. In doing so, however, the HOH will sign a waiver that stipulates the following:

The HHM is being removed due to their current incarceration and inability to attend the recertification interview. The CHA has issued an ITT for the criminal activity of the HHM. The HOH has requested an Informal Hearing as a response to the ITT. The removal of said HHM does not rescind the ITT nor does it cancel the Informal Hearing. The Informal Hearing will be conducted based on the allegations and proposed program violations outlined in the ITT. A decision to terminate or reinstate will be made based on the evidence and testimony given at the informal hearing.

The signed copy of the waiver must be sent to the Deputy General Counsel for Litigation and the assigned Paralegal via email.

If a family is under ITT, the HOH cannot transfer the voucher to another HHM. The informal hearing must take place and a decision must be rendered before any change in family composition may take place.

12-I.E. Family Obligations

When the family’s unit is approved and the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) contract is executed, the family must follow the rules listed below in order to continue participating in the housing choice voucher program.

The CHA may terminate a family’s assistance if the family has failed to comply with any family obligations under the program listed below, even if not required to do so by HUD.

Any information the family supplies must be true and complete.

The family must:

1. Supply any information that the CHA or HUD determines to be necessary including evidence of citizenship or eligible immigration status. The CHA is required by HUD to terminate a family’s assistance if they do not meet this obligation. See 24 CFR 982.552(b)(4) and 24 CFR 5.514(c).

2. Supply any information that the CHA or HUD determine to be necessary for use in administering the program, including conducting a regularly scheduled re-examination or interim re-examination of family income and composition. See 24 CFR 982.551(b)(1)-(2).

3. Disclose and verify social security numbers. The CHA is required by HUD to terminate a family’s assistance if they do not meet this obligation. See 24 CFR 5.218(c).

4. Sign and submit consent forms for obtaining information. The CHA is required by HUD to terminate a family’s assistance if they do not meet this obligation. See 24 CFR 982.552(b)(3). See Chapter 7-Verification for further discussion of consent requirements.

5. Supply any information requested by the CHA to verify that the family is living in the unit or information related to family absence from the unit.

6. Notify the CHA in writing within 30 days when the family is away from the unit for an extended period of time in accordance with CHA policies. Regardless of any notice of absence, if the entire household is absent beyond 90 consecutive days, CHA will consider the unit to be abandoned and will proceed to
terminate the family’s participation and the Housing Assistance Payments to the owner even if the family continues to pay rent and/or utilities.

7. Notify the CHA and the owner in writing at least 30 days before moving out of the unit or terminating the lease.

8. Use the assisted unit for residence only by the family that is listed on the HAP contract and the lease. The unit must be the family’s only residence.

9. Notify the CHA in writing within 30 days of the birth, adoption or court-awarded custody of a child.

10. Request CHA’s written approval to add any other family member as an occupant of the unit.

11. Notify the CHA in writing within 30 days if any family member no longer lives in the unit.

12. Give the CHA a copy of any owner eviction notice within 30 days of the date the notice is received.

13. Attend informational briefings and required appointments including but not limited to those scheduled to discuss violations of family obligations and allegations of criminal activity in the family’s unit, building or neighborhood.

14. Request and obtain CHA approval before adding a live-in aide or foster child/adult to the household.

15. Report all changes in annual income within 30 days if the family has zero income prior to the change.

16. Maintain the assisted unit in accordance with Housing Quality Standards (HQS). The participant is responsible for keeping the unit in compliance with HQS, including maintaining appliances, paying utility bills and ensuring continuous utility service for any appliances and utilities that the owner is not required to provide under the lease and HAP contract. The participant is not responsible for owner-related HQS fail items.

17. Allow the CHA and/or owner to inspect the dwelling unit at reasonable times and after reasonable notice, and allow the owner/landlord access to the unit to make repairs. See 24 CFR 981.551(d).

18. Continue to meet ongoing eligibility requirements in the case of students. If a student enrolled at an institution of higher education is under the age of 24, is not a veteran, is not married, does not have dependent children and is not residing with his/her parents in an HCV assisted household, the CHA will terminate the student’s assistance if, at the time of re-examination, either the student’s income or the income of the student’s parents (if applicable) exceeds the applicable income limit. The CHA is required by HUD to terminate a family’s assistance if they do not meet this obligation. See 24 CFR 982.552(b)(5).

19. Follow the CHA’s policy regarding guests. A guest is defined as a person temporarily staying in the unit with the consent of the head of household or other adult member. A guest may visit a family in an assisted unit for a total of 30 calendar days in a calendar year; however, each visit cannot exceed seven consecutive calendar days. A visit is defined as an overnight stay. Participants may request a time extension to this visitor timeframe. Persons that exceed the time as a guest will be considered an unauthorized occupant and the family will be subject to program termination. Verification of an unauthorized occupancy can be established through the following:

   (1) Government issued ID’s or reports;
   (2) Utility Bills for the assisted unit;
   (3) Property sign-in logs; and/or
   (4) Other documentation or investigations.
The family (including each family member) must not:

1. **Own or have any interest in the unit (other than in a cooperative or in the case of a voucher holder participating in the homeownership program).**

2. **Be evicted due to serious violation of the lease.** The CHA is required by HUD to terminate a family’s assistance if they do not meet this obligation. See 24 CFR 982.552(b)(2). CHA considers a family evicted if the landlord files an eviction action and the court enters an order of possession, even if: 1) a money judgment is not entered concurrently with the order of possession, or 2) the family moves out of the subsidized unit before the order of possession is entered or physically enforced. CHA may consider a family to be evicted if the order of possession is an agreed order. The CHA will not consider a family to be evicted, however, if the order of possession is entered concurrently with a written settlement agreement pursuant to which the family repays all unpaid back rent and rent when due while they remain in possession of the subsidized unit.

3. **Commit any serious or repeated violation of the lease, even if the violation does not lead to eviction.** Serious or repeated lease violations will include, but not be limited to, nonpayment of rent, disturbance of neighbors, destruction of property, or living or housekeeping habits that cause damage to the unit or premises and criminal activity.

4. **Commit fraud, bribery, or any other corrupt or criminal act in connection with any federal housing program.**

5. **Engage in, or allow guests to engage in, drug-related criminal activity.** See 24 CFR 982.553(b) and 24 CFR 5.100.
   a. **Drug-related criminal activity** is defined by HUD as the illegal manufacture, sale, distribution, or use of a drug, or the possession of a drug with intent to manufacture, sell, distribute, or use the drug [24 CFR 5.100]. Drug means a controlled substance as defined in Section 802 of the Controlled Substances Act [21 USC 802] or any other illegal drug.
   b. The CHA may terminate assistance for a family if:
      i. Any household member or guest, including those who are 17 years of age, is currently engaged in drug-related criminal activity, or has engaged in drug-related criminal activity within the past three years.
      ii. Any illegal drug use or pattern of illegal drug use by a household member or guests, including those who are 17 years of age, interferes with the health, safety or right to peaceful enjoyment of the premises by other residents.
   c. The CHA may terminate assistance for drug-related criminal activity by a household member if the CHA determines that the household member has engaged in the activity within the last three years.

6. **Engage in, or allow guests to engage in, violent criminal activity.** See 24 CFR 982.553(b).
   a. **Violent criminal activity** is defined by HUD as any criminal activity that has as one of its elements the use, attempted use, or threatened use of physical force substantial enough to cause, or be reasonably likely to cause, serious bodily injury or property damage [24 CFR 5.100].
   b. The CHA may terminate assistance for criminal activity by a household member or guest if the CHA determines that the household member has engaged in the activity within the last three years.
7. Engage in, or allow guests to engage in, 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. *Immediate vicinity* means within a one mile radius of the premises.

8. Engage in, or allow guests to engage in, behavior that disturbs or threatens the health, safety or right to peaceful enjoyment of the other residents and persons residing in the immediate vicinity of the premises. This includes behavior related to the abuse of alcohol. *Immediate vicinity* means within a one mile radius of the premises.

9. Sublease or let the unit, assign the lease or transfer the unit. This includes receiving payment to cover rent or utility cost by a person living in the unit who is not listed as a family member.

10. Receive Housing Choice Voucher program housing assistance while receiving another housing subsidy for the same unit or a different unit under any other federal, state or local housing assistance program. See 24 CFR 982.551(n).

11. Damage the unit or premises (other than damage from ordinary wear and tear) or permit any guest to damage the unit or premises.

12. Fail to attend two consecutive, scheduled re-examination appointments without CHA approval.

13. Receive Housing Choice Voucher program housing assistance while residing in a unit owned by a spouse, domestic partner, parent, child, grandparent, grandchild, sister or brother of any member of the family, unless the CHA has determined (and has notified the owner and the family of such determination) that approving rental of the unit, notwithstanding such relationship, would provide reasonable accommodation for a family member who is a person with disabilities.

14. Threaten or engage in, or allow guests to threaten or engage in, abusive or violent behavior or criminal activity toward CHA personnel or its representatives. See 24 CFR 982.552(c)(1)(ix). CHA personnel include CHA employees or CHA contractors, subcontractors or agents. *Abusive or violent behavior towards CHA personnel or agents and contractors* includes verbal as well as physical abuse or violence. Use of racial epithets, or other language, written or oral, that is customarily used to intimidate may be considered abusive or violent behavior. *Threatening* refers to oral or written threats or physical gestures that communicate intent to abuse or commit violence.

15. Possess or use a firearm or aggravated assault weapon in violation of federal, state or local criminal or civil laws. This obligation applies to any household member and/or their guests while on the property or within the immediate vicinity of the property. See Section 12-I.E. Further Information on Firearms for more information.

16. Be subject to a lifetime requirement to register as a sex offender in any state or territory of the United States.

17. Have committed or be convicted of child molestation.

18. Have committed or be convicted of a drug-related crime for the manufacture or production of methamphetamine on the premises of federally assisted housing. The CHA is required by HUD to terminate a family’s assistance if they do not meet this obligation. See 24 CFR 982.553(b)(1)(ii).

19. Have committed or be convicted of arson.
20. Have had any public housing authority (PHA) previously terminate assistance under any federally assisted housing program within the last three years. See 24 CFR 982.552(c)(1)(iii). This policy excludes voluntary terminations.

21. Currently owe rent or other amounts to any PHA in connection with the HCV (including PRA and RAD), Moderate Rehabilitation or public housing programs, unless the family currently has a repayment agreement and is complying with its terms. See 24 CFR 982.552(c)(1)(v). This policy excludes voluntary terminations.

In each instance of being notified of criminal activity by a participant, staff conduct a Criminal Background Check irrespective of how long ago the previous CBC was run.

12-I.F. Further Information on Firearms
Participants and their authorized members, guests, or persons under their control, shall not display, use control, or possess anywhere on or near CHA property any firearms, ammunition, or other weapons in violation of Federal, State, and local laws. Unless required by lawful employment, and in accordance with law, it shall be a serious breach of the CHA HCV Program for any participant, their authorized members, guest or persons under their control to:

- Display a weapon while on or near CHA Property, or
- Conceal a weapon on one’s person while on CHA Property, or
- Discharge the weapon while on or near CHA Property, or
- Use a weapon with a verbal or non-verbal threat to shoot, fire, explode, throw, or
- Inflict any injury on another person, or
- Cause damage any property with the use of a weapon

The CHA will not terminate a family’s assistance because of the family’s failure to meet its obligations under the Family Self-Sufficiency program.

12-I.H. HAP Payments to Owners
Failure of the CHA to make a HAP payment to the owner is not a violation of the lease between the participant and the owner.

12-I.I. Insufficient Funding
[24 CFR 982.454]

The PHA may terminate HAP contracts if the PHA determines, in accordance with HUD requirements, that funding under the consolidated ACC is insufficient to support continued assistance for families in the program.

CHA Policy
The CHA will determine whether there is sufficient funding to pay for currently assisted families according to the policies in Part VIII: Determination of Insufficient Funding of Chapter 16. If the CHA determines there is a shortage of funding, prior to terminating any HAP contracts, the CHA will determine if any other actions can be taken to reduce program costs. If after implementing all reasonable cost cutting measures there is not enough funding
available to provide continued assistance for current participants, the CHA will terminate HAP contracts as a last resort.

Prior to terminating any HAP contracts, the CHA will inform the local HUD field office. The CHA will terminate the minimum number needed in order to reduce HAP costs to a level within the CHA’s annual budget authority.

If the CHA must terminate HAP contracts due to insufficient funding, the CHA will make public its plan for terminating assistance.

HAP contracts for special purpose vouchers as described in Section 4-III.B. Selection and HCV Funding Sources will be terminated last.

Part II: Approach to Termination of Assistance

12-II.A. Overview
The PHA is required by regulation to terminate a family’s assistance if certain program rules are violated. For other types of offenses, the regulations give the PHA the discretion to either terminate the family’s assistance or to take another action. This part discusses the various actions the PHA may choose to take when it has discretion, and outlines the criteria the PHA will use to make its decision about whether or not to terminate assistance. It also specifies the requirements for the notice that must be provided before terminating assistance.

12-II.B. Method of Termination
[24 CFR 982.552(a)(3)]
The way in which the PHA terminates assistance depends upon individual circumstances. HUD permits the PHA to terminate assistance by:

- Terminating housing assistance payments under a current HAP contract,
- Refusing to approve a request for tenancy or to enter into a new HAP contract, or
- Refusing to process a request for or to provide assistance under portability procedures.

12-II.C. Alternatives to Termination of Assistance
Change in Household Composition
As a condition of continued assistance, the PHA may require that any household member who participated in or was responsible for an offense no longer resides in the unit [24 CFR 982.552(c)(2)(ii)].

Repayment of Family Debts
CHA Policy
If a family owes amounts to the CHA, as a condition of continued assistance, the CHA will require the family to repay the full amount or to enter into a repayment agreement, within 30 calendar days of receiving notice from the CHA of the amount owed. See Chapter 16 for policies on repayment agreements.

12-II.D. Criteria for Deciding to Terminate Assistance
Evidence
For criminal activity, HUD permits the PHA to terminate assistance if a preponderance of the evidence indicates that a household member has engaged in the activity, regardless of whether the household member has been arrested or convicted [24 CFR 982.553(c)].

CHA Policy
The CHA will use the concept of the preponderance of the evidence as the standard for making all termination decisions.
Preponderance of the evidence is defined as evidence which is of greater weight or more convincing than the evidence which is offered in opposition to it; that is, evidence which as a whole shows that the fact sought to be proved is more probable than not. Preponderance of the evidence may not be determined by the number of witnesses, but by the greater weight of all evidence.

Consideration of Circumstances

[24 CFR 982.552(c)(2)(i)]

The PHA is permitted, but not required, to consider all relevant circumstances when determining whether a family’s assistance should be terminated.

CHA Policy

If any household member is or was responsible for an offense, the CHA will issue a notice of termination to the family.

The CHA may consider one or more of the following factors when making its decision to terminate assistance:

- The seriousness of the case, especially with respect to how it would affect other residents.
- The extent of participation or culpability of individual family members, including whether the culpable family member is a minor or a person with disabilities or (as discussed further in Section 12-II.E. Terminating the Assistance of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, or Stalking Victims and Perpetrators) a victim of domestic violence, sexual violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking.
- In the case of victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking, whether the family failed to meet family obligations due to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking.
- The length of time since the violation occurred, the family’s recent history and the likelihood of favorable conduct in the future.
- In the case of drug or alcohol abuse, whether the culpable household member is participating in or has successfully completed a supervised drug or alcohol rehabilitation program or has otherwise been rehabilitated successfully.
- The CHA will require the 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.
- In the case of program abuse, the dollar amount of the overpaid assistance and whether or not a false certification was signed by the family.

For all discretionary termination decisions, the CHA will consider relevant circumstances, provided those circumstances are factually supported by a preponderance of the evidence as determined by the informal hearing officer in the hearing decision. The hearing officer will further consider any claimed or documented disability as a mitigating factor against termination.

Reasonable Accommodation

[24 CFR 982.552(c)(2)(iv)]

If the family includes a person with disabilities, the PHA’s decision to terminate the family’s assistance is subject to consideration of reasonable accommodation in accordance with 24 CFR Part 8.

CHA Policy

If a family indicates that the behavior of a family member with a disability is the reason for a proposed
termination of assistance and/or requests a reasonable accommodation, the CHA will determine whether the behavior is related to the disability. If so, upon the family’s request, the CHA will determine whether alternative measures are appropriate as a reasonable accommodation. The CHA will only consider accommodations that can reasonably be expected to address the behavior that is the basis of the proposed termination of assistance. See Chapter 2 - Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity for a discussion of reasonable accommodation.

12-II.E. Terminating the Assistance of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence or Stalking Victims and Perpetrators

The Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 (VAWA) provides that “criminal activity directly relating to domestic violence, sexual violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking, engaged in by a member of a tenant’s household or any guest or other person under the tenant’s control shall not be a cause for termination of assistance, tenancy, or occupancy rights if the tenant or an affiliated individual of the tenant’s family is the victim or threatened victim of that domestic violence, sexual violence dating violence, sexual assault or stalking.” However, if termination is required by a federal statute, (any mandatory denials listed in the Administrative Plan) based on a particular adverse factor, the CHA must comply with that statute, even if the adverse factor is a direct result of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking. For example, if the participant is subject to a lifetime registration requirement under a State sex offender registration program, the PHA must comply with section 578 of the Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act of 1998 and deny the applicant admission, even if the sex offense were a direct result of the fact that the participant was a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking.

VAWA also gives the PHA the authority to “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.”

VAWA does not limit the authority of the PHA to terminate the assistance of any participant if the PHA “can demonstrate an actual and imminent threat to other tenants or those employed at or providing service to the property if that tenant is not evicted or terminated from assistance.”

VAWA also does not limit the authority of the PHA to maintain the right and authority to terminate the assistance of any participant or member of the participant’s household, including a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking for any violations not premised on the act or acts of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking in question. The PHA must not subject an individual who is or has been a victim of domestic violence, sexual violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking to a more demanding standard than other residents in determining whether to terminate assistance.

CHA Policy

In determining whether a participant who is a victim of domestic violence, sexual violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking is an actual and imminent threat to other tenants or those employed at or providing service to a property, the CHA will consider the following, and any other relevant, factors:

- Whether the threat is toward an employee or tenant other than the victim of domestic violence, sexual violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking
- Whether the threat is a physical danger beyond a speculative threat
- Whether the threat is likely to happen within a short period of time
- Whether the threat to other tenants or employees can be eliminated in some other way, such as by helping the victim relocate to a confidential location
As a reasonable accommodation, a participant can request VAWA protections based on the grounds that the live-in aid is a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking.

Victim Documentation

CHA Policy

When a participant family is facing assistance termination because of the actions of a participant, household member, guest, or other person under the participant’s control and a participant or immediate family member of the participant’s family claims that she or he is the victim of such actions and that the actions are related to domestic violence, sexual violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking, the CHA will request in writing that the participant submit documentation affirming that claim. The CHA request will include explicit instructions on where, when, and to whom the documentation must be submitted. It will also state the consequences for failure to submit the documentation by the deadline.

The documentation will consist of a completed and signed form HUD-5382, Certification of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault or Stalking.

The participant must complete the HUD 5382, which certifies that they are a victim of domestic violence, sexual violence, sexual assault or stalking. In cases where a family has fled due to domestic violence and is asking for portability or if coming to the CHA offices would endanger their health and safety, the CHA will accept a verbal statement from the victim in place of written documentation. The CHA will document the name, date and statement of the participant at that time in the confidential database.

The CHA will only require the victim to provide third party documentation if there is any conflicting accounts of the domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking. Any of the following documents would be acceptable third party documentation.

- A document
  - Signed by an employee, agent, or volunteer of a victim service provider, an attorney, or medical professional or a mental health professional from whom the victim has sought assistance relating to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking or the effects of abuse;
  - Signed by the participant; and
  - That specifies, under penalty of perjury, that the professional believes in the occurrence of the incident of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking that is ground for protection and remedies under the VAWA Final Rule, and that the incident meets the applicable definition of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking under 24 CF 5.2003

- A record of Federal State, tribal, territorial, or local law enforcement agency, court, or administrative agency (for example, a police report) that documents the incident of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking; or

- At the discretion of the covered housing provider, a statement or other evidence provided by the applicant or participant.

In cases of conflicting documentation between two accounts, if one participant submits a court order addressing rights of access or control of the property (such as a protection order granting the victim exclusive possession of the unit), the CHIA will honor this court order.

If a participant does not submit the required documentation within the required timeframe, the CHA may accept the applicant/participant assertion of victim status for the purposes of VAWA protections.

Terminating the Assistance of a Domestic Violence Perpetrator
Although VAWA provides assistance termination protection for victims of domestic violence, it does not provide protection for perpetrators. VAWA gives the PHA the explicit authority to “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 terminating assistance to, or otherwise penalizing the victim of such violence who is also a tenant or lawful occupant.” This authority is not dependent on a bifurcated lease or other eviction action by an owner against an individual family member. Further, this authority supersedes any local, state, or other federal law to the contrary. However, if the PHA chooses to exercise this authority, it must follow any procedures prescribed by HUD or by applicable local, state, or federal law regarding termination of assistance [Pub.L. 109-271]. This means that the PHA must follow the same rules when terminating assistance to an individual as it would when terminating the assistance of an entire family [3/16/07 Federal Register notice on the applicability of VAWA to HUD programs].

**CHA Policy**

The CHA will terminate assistance to a family member if the CHA determines that the family member has committed criminal acts of physical violence against other family members or others. This action will not affect the assistance of the remaining, non-culpable family members.

In making its decision, the CHA will consider all credible evidence, including, but not limited to, a signed certification or other documentation of abuse submitted to the CHA by the victim in accordance with this section. The CHA will also consider the factors in Section 12-II.D, Criteria for Deciding to Terminate Assistance. Upon such consideration, the CHA may, on a case-by-case basis, choose not to terminate the assistance of the culpable family member.

If the CHA does terminate the assistance of the culpable family member, it will do so in accordance with applicable law, HUD regulations, and the policies in this plan.

**PHA Confidentiality Requirements**

All information provided to the PHA regarding domestic violence, sexual violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking, including the fact that an individual is a victim of such violence or stalking, must be retained in confidence. The PHA will maintain confidentiality of information received and shared, and keep all information provided confidential in a secure file. If necessary, the PHA will not enter information into any shared data base nor provided such information to any related entity, except to the extent that the disclosure (a) is requested or consented to by the individual in writing, (b) is required for use in an eviction proceeding, or (c) is otherwise required by applicable law.

**CHA Policy**

If disclosure is required for use in an eviction proceeding or is otherwise required by applicable law, the CHA will inform the victim before disclosure occurs so that safety risks can be identified and addressed.

**12-II.F. Termination Notice**

[Housing Choice Voucher Guidebook, Chapter 15: Terminations of Assistance and HAP Contracts.]

If a family’s assistance is to be terminated, whether voluntarily or involuntarily, the PHA must give the family and the owner written notice that specifies:

- The reasons for which assistance has been terminated
- The effective date of the termination
The family’s right to an informal hearing as described in Chapter 16- Program Administration If a criminal record is the basis of the termination, a copy of the record will be provided to the family. A copy of the criminal record also must be provided to the subject of the record at the listed address of the subject [24 CFR 982.553(d)].

CHA Policy
When termination is initiated by the CHA, the notice to terminate will be sent to the family and the owner at least 30 calendar days prior to the effective date of the termination. However, if a family vacates the unit without informing the CHA, 30 calendar days notice will not be given. In these cases, the notice to terminate will be sent at the time the CHA learns the family has vacated the unit.

When a family requests to withdraw from the program they must do so in writing to the CHA (see Section 12-I.C. Family Chooses to Terminate Assistance). The CHA will then send a confirmation notice to the family and the owner indicating that the family voluntarily relinquished its HCV assistance within 10 calendar days of the family’s request.

Notice of Termination Based on Citizenship Status [24 CFR 5.514 (c) and (d)]

The PHA must terminate assistance if (1) a family fails to submit required documentation within the required timeframe concerning any family member’s citizenship or eligible immigration status; (2) evidence of citizenship and eligible immigration status is submitted timely, but USCIS primary and secondary verification does not verify eligible immigration status of a family; or (3) the PHA determines that a family member has knowingly permitted another individual who is not eligible for assistance to reside (on a permanent basis) in the unit. For (3) above, such termination must be for a period of at least 24 months.

The notice of termination must advise the family of the reasons their assistance is being terminated, that they may be eligible for proration of assistance, the criteria and procedures for obtaining relief under the provisions for preservation of families, that they have the right to request an appeal to the USCIS of the results of secondary verification of immigration status and to submit additional documentation or a written explanation in support of the appeal, and that they have the right to request an informal hearing with the PHA either upon completion of the USCIS appeal or in lieu of the USCIS appeal. Informal hearing procedures are contained in Chapter 16.

CHA Policy
The CHA will send a notice to terminate to the family and the owner at least 30 calendar days prior to the effective date of the termination.

12-II.G. How Termination of Assistance Affects the HAP Contract And Lease
When the family’s assistance is terminated, the lease and HAP contract terminate automatically [Form HUD-52641].

The owner may offer the family a separate unassisted lease [Housing Choice Voucher Guidebook, Chapter 15: Terminations of Assistance and HAP Contracts.]

Part III: Termination of Tenancy by The Owner

12-III.A. Overview
Termination of an assisted tenancy is a matter between the owner and the family; the PHA is not directly involved. However, the owner is under some constraints when terminating an assisted tenancy, and the reasons for which a tenancy is terminated dictate whether assistance also will be terminated.

During the term of the lease, the owner is not permitted to terminate the tenancy except for serious or repeated violations of the lease, certain violations of state or local law, or other good cause.

Serious or Repeated Lease Violations
The owner is permitted to terminate the family’s tenancy for serious or repeated violations of the terms and conditions of the lease, including failure to pay rent or other amounts due under the lease, except when the violations are related to an incident or incidents of actual or threatened domestic violence, sexual violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking against that participant. This includes failure to pay rent or other amounts due under the lease. However, the PHA’s failure to make a HAP payment to the owner is not a violation of the lease between the family and the owner.

Violation of Federal, State, or Local Law
The owner is permitted to terminate the tenancy if a family member violates federal, state, or local law that imposes obligations in connection with the occupancy or use of the premises.

Criminal Activity or Alcohol Abuse
The owner may terminate tenancy during the term of the lease if any covered person, meaning any member of the household, a guest or another person under the tenant’s control commits any of the following types of criminal activity (for applicable definitions see 24 CFR 5.100):

Any criminal activity that threatens the health or safety of, or the right to peaceful enjoyment of the premises by, other residents (including property management staff residing on the premises);

Any criminal activity that 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;

Any violent criminal activity on or near the premises; or

Any drug-related criminal activity on or near the premises.

The owner may terminate tenancy during the term of the lease if any member of the household is:

Fleeing to avoid prosecution, custody, or confinement after conviction for a crime or an attempt to commit a crime that is a felony under the laws of the place from which the individual flees, or that, in the case of the State of New Jersey is a high misdemeanor; or

Violating a condition of probation or parole imposed under federal or state law.

The owner may terminate tenancy for criminal activity by a household member in accordance with this section if the owner determines that the household member has committed the criminal activity, regardless of whether the household member has been arrested or convicted for such activity.

The owner may terminate tenancy during the term of the lease if any member of the household has engaged in abuse of alcohol that threatens the health, safety, or right to peaceful enjoyment of the premises by other residents.

Evidence of Criminal Activity
The owner may terminate tenancy and evict by judicial action a family for criminal activity by a covered person if the owner determines they have engaged in the criminal activity, regardless of arrest or conviction and without satisfying the standard of proof used for a criminal conviction, except in certain incidents where the criminal activity directly relates to domestic violence, sexual violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking and the tenant or an immediate member of the tenant’s family is the victim or threatened victim of the domestic violence,
sexual violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking. (See Section 12-II.E. Terminating the Assistance of Domestic Violence, dating Violence, or Stalking Victims, and Perpetrators).

Other Good Cause

During the initial lease term, the owner may not terminate the tenancy for “other good cause” unless the owner is terminating the tenancy because of something the family did or failed to do. During the initial lease term or during any extension term, other good cause includes the disturbance of neighbors, destruction of property, or living or housekeeping habits that cause damage to the unit or premises.

After the initial lease term, “other good cause” for termination of tenancy by the owner includes:

Failure by the family to accept the offer of a new lease or revision;

The owner’s desire to use the unit for personal or family use, or for a purpose other than as a residential rental unit; or

A business or economic reason for termination of the tenancy (such as sale of the property, renovation of the unit, or desire to lease the unit at a higher rent).

After the initial lease term, the owner may give the family notice at any time, in accordance with the terms of the lease.

12-III.C. Eviction

[24 CFR 982.310(e) and (f) and Form HUD-52641-A, Tenancy Addendum]

The owner must give the tenant a written notice that specifies the grounds for termination of tenancy during the term of the lease. The tenancy does not terminate before the owner has given this notice, and the notice must be given at or before commencement of the eviction action.

The notice of grounds may be included in, or may be combined with, any owner eviction notice to the tenant.

Owner eviction notice means a notice to vacate, or a complaint or other initial pleading used under state or local law to commence an eviction action. The owner may only evict the tenant from the unit by instituting a court action. The owner must give the PHA a copy of any eviction notice at the same time the owner notifies the family.

The family is also required to give the PHA a copy of any eviction notice (see Chapter 5- Briefings and Voucher Issuance).

CHA Policy

If the eviction action is finalized in court, the owner must provide the CHA with documentation related to the eviction, including notice of the eviction date, as soon as possible, but no later than 10 calendar days following the court-ordered eviction.

12-III.D. Deciding Whether to Terminate Tenancy

[24 CFR 982.310(h), Pub.L. 109-162]

An owner who has grounds to terminate a tenancy is not required to do so, and may consider all of the circumstances relevant to a particular case before making a decision. These might include but are not limited to:

- The nature of the offending action
- The seriousness of the offending action;
- The effect on the community of the termination, or of the owner’s failure to terminate the tenancy;
- The extent of participation by the leaseholder in the offending action;
- The effect of termination of tenancy on household members not involved in the offending activity;
- The demand for assisted housing by families who will adhere to lease responsibilities;
• The extent to which the leaseholder has shown personal responsibility and taken all reasonable steps to prevent or mitigate the offending action;
• The effect of the owner’s action on the integrity of the program.

The owner may require a family to exclude a household member in order to continue to reside in the assisted unit, where that household member has participated in or been culpable for action or failure to act that warrants termination.

In determining whether to terminate tenancy for illegal use of drugs or alcohol abuse by a household member who is no longer engaged in such behavior, the owner 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 (42 U.S.C. 13661). For this purpose, the owner may require the tenant 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.

The owner’s termination of tenancy actions must be consistent with the fair housing and equal opportunity provisions in 24 CFR 5.105.

An owner’s decision to terminate tenancy for incidents related to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking is limited by the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 (VAWA). (See Section 12-II.E.).

Owners are also bound by the terms of the State of Illinois Safe Homes Act (765 ILCS 750).

12-III.E. Effect of Tenancy Termination on the Family’s Assistance
If a termination is not due to a serious or repeated violation of the lease, and if the PHA has no other grounds for termination of assistance, the PHA may issue a new voucher so that the family can move with continued assistance (see Chapter 10- Moving with Continued Assistance and Portability).
Chapter 13-Owners

Introduction

Owners play a central role in the HCV program by supplying decent, safe, and sanitary housing for participating families. Owners have numerous responsibilities under the program, including screening and leasing to families, maintaining the dwelling unit, enforcing the lease, and complying with various contractual obligations.

The chapter is organized in two parts:

- **Part I: Owners in the HCV Program.** This part discusses the role of an owner in the PHA’s HCV program and highlights key owner rights and responsibilities.
- **Part II: Breach and Termination of HAP Contracts.** This part includes policies governing the termination of a HAP contract.

For additional information related to owners see:

1. Chapter 6 for a discussion of the calculation of family income, family share of rent and HAP.
2. Chapter 8 for a discussion of the HQS standards, as well as the process for HQS inspections at initial lease-up and throughout the family’s tenancy.
3. Chapter 9 for a discussion of the dwelling lease and tenancy addendum, including lease terms and provisions; unit eligibility policies; and HAP execution process.

**Part I: Owners in the HCV Program**

CHA strives to reach owners with units outside areas of high poverty or minority concentration. To this end, CHA will:

1. Conduct periodic seminars or meetings with current and prospective owners to explain and provide HCV program updates
2. Issue quarterly Owners’ newsletters
3. Join associations of owners/managers of rental property
4. Staff speaker’s bureau by advertising the ability of guest speaker for meetings of local community groups
5. Host yearly Owner fair and/or symposium
6. Maintain CHA HQS Inspection Guidebook
7. Additional services may be undertaken on an as-needed basis, and as resources permit.
   a. CHA launched the Owner’s Excellence Program in September 2011 to recognize and reward outstanding property owners and/or property managers who demonstrate exceptional program participation. To view MTW activities relates this program visit our website [http://www.thecha.org/](http://www.thecha.org/) to review the latest CHA MTW Plans and Reports.

**13-I.A. Initial Eligibility**

**[24 CFR 982.306]**

The owner must be qualified to participate in the program. Prior to executing a HAP contract and processing housing assistance payments, CHA must determine that the owner of the assisted unit is eligible to participate in the HCV program. Therefore, upon receiving an RTA or prior to a change of ownership and/or management, CHA shall screen new owners/property managers or current owners/property managers (if not screened within the last 12 months). The following policies are not intended to give any owner any right to participant in the program. CHA will not approve an assisted tenancy if:
1. CHA has been informed (by HUD or otherwise) that the owner is debarred, suspended, or subject to a limited denial of participation under 2 CFR part 2424.

2. When directed by HUD:
   a. 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; or
   b. A court or administrative agency has determined that the owner violated the Fair Housing Act or other federal equal opportunity requirements.

3. The owner is the parent, spouse, domestic partner, child, grandparent, grandchild, sister, or brother of any member of the family; unless CHA determines that approving the unit would provide reasonable accommodation for a family member who is a person with disabilities.
   a. This restriction against CHA approval of a unit only applies at the time a family initially receives tenant-based assistance for occupancy of a particular unit, but does not apply to CHA’s approval of a new tenancy with continued tenant-based assistance in the same unit.
   b. Current contracts on behalf of owners and families that are related may continue. Any new leases or contracts for these families, however, may not be approved, except new leases or contracts signed solely as a result of the merger to the HCV program (Housing Choice Voucher Guidebook, Chapter 11: Housing Assistance Payments (HAP) Contracts).

4. The owner has committed fraud, bribery or any other corrupt or criminal act in connection with any federal housing program;

5. The owner has engaged in any drug-related criminal activity or any violent criminal activity illegal possession and/or use of a firearm or aggravated assault in the last three years or has an arson, sex offender or child molestation conviction;

CHA may choose not to approve an assistance tenancy if:

1. The owner has violated obligations under a HAP contract under Section 8 of the 1937 Act (42 U.S.C. 1437f);
2. 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;
3. 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 engaged in by the tenant, any member of the household, a guest or another person under the control of any member of the household that:
   a. Threatens the right to peaceful enjoyment of the premises by other residents;
   b. Threatens the health or safety of other residents, of employees of CHA, or of owner employees or other persons engaged in management of the housing;
   c. 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; or
   d. Engages in drug-related criminal activity or violent criminal activity; or
4. The owner has a history or practice of renting units that fail to meet State or local housing codes; or
5. The owner has not paid State or local real estate taxes, fines or assessments. This includes outstanding debt(s) to CHA and/or another PHA or property taxes and/or foreclosure activity.
6. The owner has engaged in violent behavior toward CHA’s personnel (including a CHA employee, CHA contractor, subcontractor, or agent).
7. The owner fails to prove legal ownership of unit. CHA will verify proof of ownership through an Affidavit of Ownership.
### 13-I.B. Conflict of Interest

[24 CFR 982.161]

1. Neither CHA nor any of its contractors or subcontractors may enter into any contract or arrangement in connection with the tenant-based programs in which any of the following classes of persons has any interest, direct or indirect, during tenure or for one year thereafter:
   a. Any present or former member or officer of CHA (except a participant commissioner);
   b. Any employee of CHA, or any contractor, subcontractor or agent of CHA, who formulates policy or who influences decisions with respect to the programs;
   c. Any public official, member of a governing body, or State or local legislator, who exercises functions or responsibilities with respect to the programs; or
   d. Any member of the Congress of the United States.

2. Any member of the classes described in paragraph (1) of this section must disclose their interest or prospective interest to CHA and HUD.

3. The conflict of interest prohibition under this section may be waived by the HUD field office for good cause.
   a. In considering whether to request a conflict of interest waiver from HUD, CHA will consider factors the reasons for waiving the requirement; consistency with state and local laws; the existence of alternative housing available to families; the individual circumstances of a particular family; the specific duties of individuals whose positions present a possible conflict of interest; the nature of any financial investment in the property and plans for disclosure/divestiture; and the possible appearance of impropriety.
   b. Where CHA has requested a conflict of interest waiver, CHA may not execute the HAP contract until HUD has made a decision on the waiver request.
   c. To see waiver requirements see Housing Choice Voucher Guidebook, Chapter 11: Housing Assistance Payments (HAP) Contracts.

All cases determined to be a conflict of interest will be ported out to the Housing Authority of Cook County (HACC) within 90 days of hire of the notification date of existence of a conflict.

If CHA decides to disapprove an owner, it may not terminate the HAP contract for families that are already living in the owner’s properties unless the owner has violated the HAP contract for such units (Housing Choice Voucher Guidebook, Chapter 11: Housing Assistance Payments (HAP) Contracts).

When applicable, owners may request a review of CHA’s decision to deny an RTA and/or terminate a HAP contract. To request an informal review, owners shall follow applicant procedures as outlined in Section III.B. Informal Reviews in Chapter 16.

If a CHA HCV Family Self-Sufficiency FSS participant is identified to have a conflict of interest) i.e. an FSS head-of-household or family member is employed by an HCV Contract Administrator, or CHA employee), the CHA will handle the case in line with the policies detailed above.

### 13-I.C. Owner Responsibilities

[24 CFR 982.452]

CHA and the owner enter into a formal contractual relationship by executing the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) Contract (Form HUD-52641), which is prescribed by HUD. The owner is responsible for:

1. Performing all of the owner’s obligations under the HAP contract and the lease.
2. Performing all management and rental functions for the assisted unit, including selecting a voucher-holder to lease the unit, and deciding if the family is suitable for tenancy of the unit.
3. Complying with VAWA Reauthorization Act of 2013 when screening and terminating tenants.
4. Maintaining the unit in accordance with HQS, including performance of ordinary and extraordinary maintenance. The owner is not responsible for a breach of the HQS that is not caused by the owner, and for which the family is responsible (as provided in 24 CFR 982.404(b) and 24 CFR 982.551(c)). (However, the CHA may terminate assistance to a family because of HQS breach caused by the family.
5. Complying with equal opportunity requirements.
6. Preparing and furnishing to CHA information required under the HAP contract.
7. Collecting from the family:
   a. Any security deposit.
   b. The tenant contribution (the part of rent to owner not covered by the housing assistance payment).
   c. Any charges for unit damage by the family.
8. Enforcing tenant obligations under the lease.
9. Paying for utilities and services (unless paid by the family under the lease).
10. Complying with CHA’s policies in accordance with the Administrative Plan.
11. Complying with the Illinois Safe Homes Act (765 ILCS 750et seq.)
12. Receiving HAP via direct deposit.
   a. Notify the CHA of any changes to their bank accounts. If owners fail to notify the CHA, they will be subject to fees and/or penalties for non-compliance.

CHA encourages owners/property managers to complete a briefing session.

13-I.E. Owner Suspension
Owners that meet the following criteria will be issued a formal warning letter and be required to attend an upcoming CHA-HQS Training.

- For smaller owners (20 units or less in HCV), they have two or more HAP contract terminations due to HQS violations.
- For larger owners (21 units or more), 10% or more of their HAP contracts have been terminated due to HQS violations.

Owners are not allowed to enter into any new HAP contracts until they attend a CHA-HQS Training, which should occur within 60 days of being issued a warning. However, on a case by case basis, CHA may allow this to happen outside of this designated timeframe. Moreover, an owner who was recently issued a warning letter, but has not yet attended an HQS Training (prior to the 60 days expiring) may submit an RTA. However, moving forward with the lease up process is contingent on the owner attending the next training.

If an owner meets these requirements, but then subsequently has a HAP contract termination due to HQS within the next 12 months, they will be added to the Do Not Lease list and have a moratorium on new HAP contracts for a year subject to the requirements to lift the suspension listed below.

If CHA becomes aware of owners that are creating additional vendor ID’s with the purpose of circumventing this policy we reserve the right to place them on the Owner Suspension List.

Requirements to Lift a Suspension
In order for the suspension to be lifted, a year must pass and the owner must attend a property management training. Although, CHA does not require any specific training; Chicago Association of Realtors, Community Investment Corporation, and Spanish Coalition for Housing offer the appropriate classes. Other trainings must be approved by CHA.
If an owner has met the requirements to be removed (served one year and attended the appropriate trainings) from the Suspension List, but has additional HAP contract terminations due to HQS violations during the suspension period, CHA will remove them from the Suspension List. However, they will be placed back in Warning status and, if any HAP contracts are terminated due to HQS violations within the next 12 months (the 12 months start the date they are placed back into Warning status) they will return to the list.

Owners Meeting Suspension Criteria for a Second Time
Property owners placed on the Suspension List, removed (due to meeting all the requirements), and then subsequently exceeds the suspension criteria for a second time, will return to the list to serve a second one-year suspension. Additionally, they will be required to attend another HQS Training.

Owners currently suspended, but have had subsequent HAP contract terminations due to HQS will be removed from the list on a case-by-case basis (using the same factors outlined above). However, no owner that meets this criterion will be removed from the list without attending both a CHA-HQS Training and a Property Management Training.

13-I.F. Owner Enforcement Procedures
Property owners/manager must promptly notify CHA of any serious Lease Violations made by the participant and when a participant no longer resides in the subsidized unit. In addition, it against program rule for an owner to charge a voucher holder additional rent outside of the lease terms, as well as increasing the contract rent without CHA authorization.

If the CHA becomes aware of any of the violations outlined above, the following action will be taken.

First Violation
The CHA will issue the property owner/manager a formal written warning notice using the CHA Owner Warning Notice-CHA 0102. In addition, when this letter is sent, staff must call the property owner and inform them verbally and notate Yardi.

Multiple Violations
If the property owner has multiple violations (either for the same infraction or for another one outlined above), they must fulfill the following requirements. This applies to all second violation, irrespective of when the first occurred.

- Attend a Prohibited Action Conduct (PAC) Meeting and sign a PAC Agreement within 30 days of the second violation. Staff must reach out to the owner and schedule this meeting
- Attend either a CHA Owner Briefing or approved Property Management Training within 30 days of the second violation, and provide proof of attendance. Any attendance of a PAC Meeting, Owner Briefing or Property Management Training before the prior violation does not fulfill the requirement.

If these requirements are not met, the property owner/manager will be placed on the Do Not Lease List for one year and will not be able to enter into any new HAP contracts.

13-I.G. Owner Do Not Lease List
Any owner who is suspended from the HCV Program will be placed on CHA’s Do Not Lease List for a specified period of time. Owners may be placed on this list for the following reasons:
Criminal Background Issue-Criminal Activity
The suspension period lasts three years from the date of conviction or release from a correctional institution. If parole or supervised release is a condition of the sentence, suspension will remain in place for three years after the sentence is successfully completed.

Criminal Background Issue-Arson, Sex offender, Child Molestation
If an owner is convicted of arson or is placed on the lifetime sex offender registry list, they remain on the list permanently.

For owners who have been required to register on the Illinois Sex Offender Registry for a defined period of time, the suspension lasts as long as the owner is required to register.

HUD Debarment
Owners remain on the list until they are removed from the HUD Debarment List.

City’s Problem Landlord/Problem Building Owner List
The owners on this list have been found liable in two or more City of Chicago Administrative Hearing cases within a 24-month period and have three or more serious building code violations. Owners remain on the list until they are removed from the City’s Problem Landlord/Problem Building Owner List. Please visit here for a list of these owners.

City’s Building Code Scofflaw List
The City of Chicago publishes a Building Code Scofflaw List identifying residential building owners with three or more properties that are the subject of active Circuit Court cases where the violations remain uncorrected after the second court hearing. Owners remain on the list until they are removed from the City’s Scofflaw List. Please visit here for a list of these owners.

Committed Fraud
Any owner placed on the list due to proven allegations of fraud against the CHA remains on the list for at least three years. If the fraud has resulted in the owner owing money to the CHA, they will not be removed until the entire amount is paid back.

Lead Violation
If an owner is placed for knowingly falsifying information regarding lead paint, they are placed on the list for a three-year period.

HAP Contract Terminations due to HQS Violations
If an owner is suspended for too many HQS fails as determined by the Owner Suspension Guidelines, the owner will be subject to the Do Not Lease list. Upon first offense, owners will be placed on the list for one year for the first violation. However, any subsequent violations results in a three-year suspension.

Engaging in Physical or Verbal Abuse Towards CHA Personnel
CHA reserves the right to place on the Do Not Lease List for up to three years any owner who engages in physical or verbal abuse towards CHA personnel (including CHA employee, CHA contractor, subcontractor, agent). In order to be removed the owner will be required to attend an Owner Briefing.

Fair Housing Violations
CHA reserves the right to place on the Do Not Lease List for up to three years any owner who violates any state, local, or federal fair housing law.
**CHA Contract and Other Violations**
CHA reserves the right to place on the Do Not Lease List for up to three years any owner who violates the HAP Contract or any federal, state, or local law as it relates to landlord-tenant issues.

13-I.H. Procedures for Adding Owners to the Do Not Lease List

Upon receiving information that an owner may fall into one of the categories listed above, a staff member will notify the owner that they are being placed on the Do Not Lease List. If there is a Request for Tenancy Approval being processed, the owner and tenant will receive a letter stating that the unit is currently ineligible to participate in the HCV program. The letter will state the reason for the suspension and how long the suspension is anticipated to be effective.

For a suspension lasting up to one (1) year: the owner will be placed on the Do Not Lease list and be informed of his/her right to contest the decision through submitting documents or meeting with a staff member. Only after staff has determined that the suspension decision was made in error will the owner be removed from the Do Not Lease list.

For a suspension lasting more than one (1) year: staff will send the owner notification of the decision to place the owner on the Do Not Lease list indicating the effective date of the suspension. The notice will inform the owner of his/her right to contest the decision by either submitting documents or meeting with a staff member. If no communication is received to contest the suspension decision, suspension becomes effective on the original notice date.

CHA staff will review the HUD Debarment List, City’s Problem Landlord List, and City’s Building Code Scofflaw List on a quarterly basis. CHA staff will add or remove owner’s names in accordance with the procedures and policies outlined above. For owners who are placed on the Do Not Lease List for HAP Contract Termination due to HQS Violations, CHA will review those names on a monthly basis.

**Opportunities for Dispute**
Once CHA has sent notice to the owner of either the suspension or its intention to place the owner on the Do Not Lease list, the owner shall have thirty (30) days to contest the decision. This may be done through written documents, telephonically, or in-person. To contest the decision in-person, the owner must schedule a meeting with a designated CHA representative within 30 days of the date on the notification letter. After hearing and/or reading any evidence against the reason for the owner’s suspension, the designated CHA representative will send the owner notification within 30 days of the decision to either uphold or overturn the suspension. In the case where the owner has already been placed on the Do Not Lease list, the letter will indicate that the owner has been removed from the list.

13-I.I. Landlord Incentive Payments

Property owners new to the CHA Program that lease up a voucher holder in a CHA designated Mobility area will receive a one-time lump sum Landlord Incentive Payment (LIP) equal to the contract rent. Existing owners on the HCV Program that lease up a voucher holder in a CHA designated Mobility area will not receive a LIP.

If the CHA becomes aware of any fraud regarding the issuance of LIP payments, the CHA reserves the right to rescind any of these payments. Examples of fraud include CHA and the property owner enter into a HAP contract, and shortly thereafter the owner and participant terminate the lease. If the owner fails (does not include tenant fails) an inspection prior to the end of the initial lease and does not correct the deficiency, CHA reserves the right to rescind the LIP.
13-I.L. Vacancy Payments
Units that have passed two consecutive HQS inspections (initial and/or regular) on the first attempt are eligible for vacancy payments. A property owner receives this payment when they rent to a HCV participant, that voucher holder moves out of the unit, and a subsequent HCV participant moves into the same unit. The property owner must complete the necessary documentation to receive a payment of the previous HAP amount for the time the unit is empty, up to two months but not to exceed the number of days the unit was empty. Vacancy payments will not be automatically issued.

Part II. HAP Contracts
13-II.A. Overview
The HAP contract represents a written agreement between CHA and the owner of the dwelling unit occupied by a HCV assisted family. The contract spells out the owner’s responsibilities under the program, as well as CHA’s obligations. Under the HAP contract, CHA agrees to make housing assistance payments to the owner on behalf of a specific family occupying a specific unit.

The HAP contract is used for all HCV program tenancies except for assistance under the Section 8 homeownership program. See chapter 15 for a discussion of any special housing types included in the PHA’s HCV program.

Owners are responsible to comply with the terms of the HAP contract and the policies set forth in the Administrative Plan.

13-II.B. Termination of HAP Payments
[24 CFR 982.311(b)]
1. CHA must continue making housing assistance payments to the owner in accordance with the HAP contract as long as the tenant continues to occupy the unit and the HAP contract is not violated.
2. HAP payments terminate when the HAP contract terminates or when the tenancy is terminated in accordance with the terms of the lease.
3. If the owner is in compliance with the HAP contract and has initiated eviction proceedings against the family, and the family continues to reside in the unit, CHA must continue to make housing assistance payments to the owner until the owner has obtained a court judgment or other process allowing the owner to evict the tenant. To continue to make housing assistance payments, CHA shall require that:
   a. The owner must inform CHA when the owner has initiated eviction proceedings against the family and the family continues to reside in the unit.
   b. The owner must inform CHA when the owner has obtained a court judgment or other process allowing the owner to evict the tenant, and provide CHA with a copy of such judgment or determination.
   c. Once the owner has obtained a court judgment or other process allowing the owner to evict the tenant, CHA will terminate the HAP contract, initiate termination proceedings (if not already started) and provide proper notice of termination.

13-II.C. Breach of HAP Contract
[24 CFR 982.453]
Any of the following actions by the owner constitutes a breach of the HAP contract:

1. If the owner violates any obligations under the HAP contract including failure to maintain the unit in accordance with HQS
2. If the owner has violated any obligation under any other HAP contract under Section 8 of the 1937 Act
3. If the owner has committed fraud, bribery or any other corrupt or criminal act in connection with any federal housing program
4. For projects with mortgages insured by HUD or loans made by HUD, if the owner has failed to comply with the regulations for the applicable program; or if the owner has committed fraud, bribery or any other corrupt or criminal act in connection with the mortgage or loan
5. If the owner has engaged in drug-related criminal activity
6. If the owner has committed any violent criminal activity
7. If CHA, is informed (by HUD or otherwise) and/or discovers that owner does not longer meet Initial Eligibility or Owner Responsibilities requirements.

CHA Remedies

[24 CFR 982.404]

If the owner fails to maintain the dwelling unit in accordance with HQS, CHA must take prompt and vigorous action to enforce the owner obligations. CHA remedies for such breach of the HQS are included in Chapter 8: Housing Quality Standards and Rent Reasonableness Determinations.

If CHA determines that a breach of the HAP contract has occurred, it may exercise any of its rights and remedies under the HAP contract.

1. CHA’s rights and remedies against the owner under the HAP contract include mandatory meeting with CHA, recovery of any HAP overpayment, suspension of housing assistance payments, abatement or reduction of the housing assistance payment, termination of the payment or termination the HAP contract. CHA may also obtain additional relief by judicial order or action.
   a. Before CHA invokes a remedy against an owner, CHA will evaluate all information and documents available to determine if the contract has been breached.

2. CHA must notify the owner of its determination and provide in writing the reasons for the determination. The notice may require the owner to take corrective action by an established deadline. CHA must provide the owner with written notice of any reduction in housing assistance payments or the termination of the HAP contract.

In all cases, the HAP contract terminates at the end of the calendar month that follows the calendar month in which the CHA gives written notice to the owner. The owner is not entitled to any housing assistance payment after this period, and must return to the CHA any housing assistance payment received after this period.
Chapter 14-Program Integrity

Introduction

The PHA is committed to ensuring that subsidy funds made available to the PHA are spent in accordance with HUD requirements.

This chapter covers HUD and PHA policies designed to prevent, detect, investigate and resolve instances of program abuse or fraud. It also describes the actions that will be taken in the case of unintentional errors and omissions.

Part I: Preventing, Detecting, and Investigating Errors and Program Abuse. This part presents PHA policies related to preventing, detecting, and investigating errors and program abuse.

Part II: Corrective Measures and Penalties. This part describes the corrective measures the PHA must and may take when errors or program abuses are found.

Code of Conduct— the CHA Ethics Policy

The CHA conducts business in accordance with the Board-approved Ethics Policy that:

a. Complies with the conflict of interest requirements of the HCV program cited in 24 CFR 982.161; and

b. Prohibits the solicitation or acceptance of gifts or gratuities in excess of a nominal value by an officer or employee of the PHA or any contractor, subcontractor, or agent of the PHA; and

c. Outlines administrative and disciplinary remedies for violation of the CHA.

The CHA informs all officers, employees, and agents of its organization of the Ethics Policy at the time of hire or appointment. The CHA also informs its contractors of the requirements at the initiation of their contracts.

Part I: Preventing, Detecting, and Investigating Errors and Program Abuse

14-I.A. Preventing Errors and Program Abuse

CHA Policy

The CHA anticipates that the vast majority of families, owners, and the CHA employees intend to and will comply with program requirements and make reasonable efforts to avoid errors.

To ensure that the CHA’s HCV program is administered effectively and according to the highest ethical and legal standards, the CHA will employ a variety of techniques to ensure that both errors and intentional program abuse are rare.

The CHA will discuss program compliance and integrity issues during the voucher briefing sessions described in Chapter 5- Briefings and Voucher Issuance.

The CHA will provide each applicant and participant with the publication Things You Should Know (HUD-1140-OIG), that explains the types of actions a family must avoid and the penalties for program abuse.

The CHA will place a warning statement about the penalties for fraud (as described in the False Statement Act, U.S.C. 1001 and 1010) on key CHA forms and form letters that request information from a family or owner.

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The CHA staff will be required to review and explain the contents of all HUD- and the CHA-required forms prior to requesting family member signatures.

The CHA will provide each CHA employee with the necessary training on program rules and the organization’s standards of conduct and ethics.

For purposes of this chapter the term error refers to an unintentional error or omission. Program abuse or fraud refers to a single act or pattern of actions that constitute a false statement, omission, or concealment of a substantial fact, made with the intent to deceive or mislead.

14-I.B. Detecting Errors And Program Abuse

In addition to taking steps to prevent errors and program abuse, the PHA will use a variety of activities to detect errors and program abuse.

Quality Control and Analysis of Data

Under the Section 8 Management Assessment Program (SEMAP), HUD requires the PHA to review a random sample of tenant records annually to determine if the records conform to program requirements and to conduct quality control inspections of a sample of units to ensure HQS compliance [24 CFR, Part 985]. (See Chapter 16-Program Administration for additional information about SEMAP requirements).

CHA Policy

In addition to the SEMAP quality control requirements, the CHA will employ a variety of methods to detect errors and program abuse.

The CHA routinely will use available sources of up-front income verification including HUD’s EIV system to compare with family-provided information.

At each regular reexamination, current information provided by the family will be compared to information provided at the last regular reexamination to identify inconsistencies and incomplete information.

The CHA will compare family-reported income and expenditures to detect possible unreported income.

The CHA will monitor program actions through the use of its internal quality assurance program.

Independent Audits and HUD Monitoring

OMB Circular A-133 requires all PHAs that expend $500,000 or more in federal awards annually to have an independent audit (IPA). In addition, HUD conducts periodic on-site and automated monitoring of PHA activities and notifies the PHA of errors and potential cases of program abuse.

CHA Policy

The CHA will use the results reported in any IPA or HUD monitoring reports to identify potential program abuses as well as to assess the effectiveness of the CHA’s error detection and abuse prevention efforts.

Individual Reporting of Possible Errors and Program Abuse

CHA Policy

The CHA will encourage staff, program participants, and the public to report possible program abuse.

14-I.C. Investigating Errors and Program Abuse

When the PHA Will Investigate

CHA Policy

The CHA will review all referrals, specific allegations, complaints, and tips from any source including other agencies, companies, and individuals, to determine if they warrant investigation. In order for the CHA to
investigate, the allegation must contain at least one independently verifiable item of information, such as the name of an employer or the name of an unauthorized household member.

The CHA will investigate inconsistent information related to the family that is identified through file reviews and the verification process.

Consent to Release of Information

[24 CFR 982.516]

The PHA may investigate possible instances of error or abuse using all available PHA and public records. If necessary, the PHA will require HCV families to give consent to the release of additional information.

Analysis and Findings

CHA Policy

The CHA will base its evaluation on a preponderance of the evidence collected during its investigation.

*Preponderance of the evidence* is defined as evidence which is of greater weight or more convincing than the evidence which is offered in opposition to it; that is, evidence that as a whole shows that the fact sought to be proved is more probable than not. Preponderance of evidence may not be determined by the number of witnesses, but by the greater weight of all evidence.

For each investigation the CHA will determine (1) whether an error or program abuse has occurred, (2) whether any amount of money is owed the CHA, and (3) what corrective measures or penalties will be assessed.

Consideration of Remedies

All errors and instances of program abuse must be corrected prospectively. Whether the PHA will enforce other corrective actions and penalties depends upon the nature of the error or program abuse.

CHA Policy

In the case of family-caused errors or program abuse, the CHA will take into consideration (1) the seriousness of the offense and the extent of participation or culpability of individual family members, (2) any special circumstances surrounding the case, and (3) any mitigating circumstances related to the disability of a family member.

In the case of owner-caused errors or program abuse, the CHA will take into consideration (1) the seriousness of the offense, (2) the length of time since the violation has occurred, and (3) the effects of a particular remedy on the family living in the unit.

Notice and Appeals

CHA Policy

The CHA will inform the relevant party in writing of its findings and remedies within 10 calendar days of the conclusion of the investigation. The notice will include (1) a description of the error or program abuse, (2) the basis on which the CHA determined the error or program abuses, (3) the remedies to be employed, and (4) the family’s right to appeal the results through the informal review or hearing process, if applicable (see Chapter 16).

14-I.D. Renting from a Relative

The CHA follows the procedures outlined below to identify possible cases where a voucher holder is renting from a relative. Staff run two reports, the Tenant-Owner Last Name Match and the Address Match Report and conduct the following analysis.
Last Name Match Report

1) The Tenant-Owner Last Name Match Report (TOM) flags when any household member shares a last name with the vendor on the most recent 50058. This report is provided to enforcement teams for review. All potential matches must have a Familial Relationship Certification form on file, regardless of whether renting from a relative has been approved or not. Participants are barred from renting from the following categories of family members: spouse, parents, children, siblings, grandparents, grandchildren.

2) The TOM Report provides information on whether the family has disability status and/or has a reasonable accommodation on file. If a RA has been approved to rent from a relative, complete all information pertaining to the RA on the Reasonable Accommodations attachment under Data. If the information has not been completed, all RAs should be reviewed to confirm that the approved RA allows renting from a relative.

3) If there is no RA on file, review whether the family is grandfathered in (HAPC signed prior to June 17, 1998). If the family has been grandfathered in, complete the RA attachment in Yardi with this information.

4) Familial Relationship Certification forms are sent to the vendor and must also be signed by the HOH. Upload all returned forms to iFile under Vendor - Compliance. If the form is not returned, the family must be sent an Intent to Terminate Notice and a PRH Tenant Hold placed on the account. The vendor must be placed on the Do Not Lease list.

5) Additional review of existing documents on file may be warranted. Documents that may provide information about the potential relationship between the vendor and HHM include birth certificates, marriage certificates, the Application for Continued Eligibility, and the Emergency Contact Form.

6) If the family is renting from a relative in one of the barred categories without a reasonable accommodation, the family must be sent an Intent to Terminate Notice and a PRH Tenant Hold placed on the account. The vendor must be placed on the Do Not Lease list.

Address Match Report

1) The Tenant-Owner Address Match Report flags when the family and vendor share the same mailing address. This report is provided to enforcement teams for review.

2) Vendors are barred from living in a unit for which they receive subsidy. In cases of a street address match with an exact unit number match, review vendor documents for alternate mailing or business addresses (for example, W-9, affidavit of ownership, or photo ID). If no documentation is on file of an alternate mailing address, reach out to the vendor to request proof that they do not live in the unit. The vendor should provide an updated address in the system. If it is determined that the vendor lives in a unit for which he/she receives subsidy, issue an ITT to the family, place a hold on the account, and submit the vendor to the Do Not Lease List.

3) If the family and vendor’s street addresses match, but there is no unit number (structure is a single family home as verified by Cook County Assessor website), review vendor documents for alternate mailing or business addresses and follow up to request an alternate mailing address. If the vendor states that they live in a separate unit in the structure, the family’s rent determination must be reviewed to verify that rent reasonableness and utility allowances have been conducted on the proper multifamily structure type. If the vendor provides information showing that they live in the unit for which they receive subsidy, follow termination/debarment procedures for the family and vendor.

4) If the family and vendor reside in different units within the same structure, review existing documents on file to determine whether additional follow up is needed. Follow procedures as outlined above.
Part II: Corrective Measures and Penalties

14-II.A. Subsidy Under- or Over-Payments

A subsidy under-payment or over-payment includes (1) an incorrect housing assistance payment to the owner, (2) an incorrect family share established for the family, and (3) an incorrect utility reimbursement to a family.

Corrections

Whether the incorrect subsidy determination is an overpayment or underpayment of subsidy, the PHA must promptly correct the HAP, family share, and any utility reimbursement prospectively.

CHA Policy

Increases in the family share will be implemented only after the family has received 30 calendar days notice.

Any decreases in family share will become effective the first of the month following the discovery of the error.

Re-imbursement

Whether the family or owner is required to reimburse the PHA or the PHA is required to make retroactive subsidy payments to the owner or family depends upon which party is responsible for the incorrect subsidy payment and whether the action taken was an error or program abuse. Policies regarding reimbursement are discussed in the three sections that follow.

14-II.B. Family-Caused Errors and Program Abuse

Family obligations and general administrative requirements for participating in the program are discussed throughout this plan. This section deals specifically with errors and program abuse by family members.

An incorrect subsidy determination caused by a family generally would be the result of incorrect reporting of family composition, income, assets, or expenses, but also would include instances in which the family knowingly allows the PHA to use incorrect information provided by a third party.

Family Re-imbursement to the PHA

In the case of family-caused errors or program abuse, the family will be required to repay any excess subsidy received. The CHA may, but is not required to, offer the family a repayment agreement in accordance with Chapter 16. If the family fails to repay the excess subsidy, the CHA will terminate the family’s assistance in accordance with the policies in Chapter 12- Termination of Assistance and Tenancy.

PHA Re-imbursement to Family

The CHA will not reimburse the family for any underpayment of assistance when the underpayment clearly is caused by the family.

Prohibited Actions

An applicant or participant in the HCV program must not knowingly:

- Make a false statement to the PHA [Title 18 U.S.C. Section 1001].
- Commit fraud, bribery, or any other corrupt or criminal act in connection with any federal housing program [24 CFR 982.552(c)(iv)].

CHA Policy

The CHA will consider factors such as the following as evidence of family program abuse:

- Payment to the owner in excess of amounts authorized by the CHA for rent, security deposit, and additional services
- Offering bribes or illegal gratuities to the CHA Board of Commissioners, employees, contractors, or other CHA representatives
- Offering payments or other incentives to the owner or a third party as an inducement for the third party to make false or misleading statements to the CHA on the family’s behalf
- Use of a false name or the use of falsified, forged, or altered documents
- Intentional misreporting of family information or circumstances (e.g., income, family composition)
- Omitted facts that were obviously known by a family member (e.g., not reporting employment income)
- Admission of program abuse by an adult family member

The CHA may determine other actions to be program abuse based upon a preponderance of the evidence, as defined earlier in this chapter.

Penalties for Program Abuse
In the case of program abuse caused by a family the PHA may, at its discretion, impose any of the following remedies.

- The PHA may require the family to repay excess subsidy amounts paid by the PHA, as described earlier in this section.
- The PHA may require, as a condition of receiving or continuing assistance, that a culpable family member not reside in the unit. See policies in Chapter 3 - Eligibility (for applicants) and Chapter 12 - Termination of Assistance and Tenancy (for participants).
- The PHA may deny or terminate the family’s assistance following the policies set forth in Chapter 3 and Chapter 12 respectively.
- The PHA may refer the family for state or federal criminal prosecution as described in Section 14-II.E. Criminal Prosecution.

14-II.C. Owner-Caused Error or Program Abuse
Owner requirements that are part of the regular process of offering, leasing, and maintaining a unit (e.g., HQS compliance, fair housing) are addressed in the appropriate chapters of this plan. This section focuses on errors and program abuse by owners.

An incorrect subsidy determination caused by an owner generally would be the result of an incorrect owner statement about the characteristics of the assisted unit (e.g., the number of bedrooms, which utilities are paid by the family). It also includes accepting duplicate housing assistance payments for the same unit in the same month, or after a family no longer resides in the unit.

Owner Reimbursement to the PHA
In all cases of overpayment of subsidy caused by the owner, the owner must repay to the PHA any excess subsidy received. The PHA may recover overpaid amounts by withholding housing assistance payments due for subsequent months, or if the debt is large, the PHA may allow the owner to pay in installments over a period of time [Housing Choice Voucher Guidebook, Chapter 22: Program Integrity].

CHA Policy
In cases where the owner has received excess subsidy, the CHA will require the owner to repay the amount owed in accordance with the policies in Section 16-IV.B. Repayment Policy.

Prohibited Owner Actions
An owner participating in the HCV program must not:

- Make any false statement to the PHA [Title 18 U.S.C. Section 1001].
• Commit fraud, bribery, or any other corrupt or criminal act in connection with any federal housing program [24 CFR 982.453(a)(3)] including:

CHA Policy
The CHA will consider factors such as the following as evidence of owner program abuse:

• Charging the family rent above or below the amount specified by the CHA
• Charging a security deposit other than that specified in the family’s lease
• Charging the family for services that are provided to unassisted tenants at no extra charge
• Knowingly accepting housing assistance payments for any month(s) after the family has vacated the unit
• Knowingly accepting incorrect or excess housing assistance payments
• Offering bribes or illegal gratuities to the CHA Board of Commissioners, employees, contractors, or other CHA representatives
• Offering payments or other incentives to an HCV family as an inducement for the family to make false or misleading statements to the CHA
• Residing in the unit with an assisted family

Remedies and Penalties
When the PHA determines that the owner has committed program abuse, the PHA may take any of the following actions:

• Require the owner to repay excess housing assistance payments, as discussed earlier in this section and in accordance with the policies in Chapter 16- Program Administration.
• Terminate the HAP contract (See Chapter 13- Owners).
• Bar the owner from future participation in any PHA programs.
• Refer the case to state or federal officials for criminal prosecution as described in Section 14-II.E. Criminal Prosecution.

14-II.D. PHA-Caused Errors or Program Abuse
The responsibilities and expectations of the PHA staff with respect to normal program administration are discussed throughout this plan. This section specifically addresses actions of a PHA staff member that are considered errors or program abuse related to the HCV program. Additional standards of conduct may be provided in the PHA policies or the managing agents’ personnel policy.

PHA-caused incorrect subsidy determinations include (1) failing to correctly apply HCV rules regarding family composition, income, assets, and expenses, (2) assigning the incorrect voucher size to a family, and (3) errors in calculation.

Repayment to the PHA
Neither a family nor an owner is required to repay an overpayment of subsidy if the error or program abuse is caused by PHA staff or managing agents [Housing Choice Voucher Guidebook, Chapter 22: Program Integrity].

PHA Reimbursement to Family or Owner
The PHA must reimburse a family for any underpayment of subsidy, regardless of whether the underpayment was the result of staff-caused error or staff or owner program abuse. The PHA will issue a check to the family for the amount of the underpayment. Funds for this reimbursement must come from the PHA’s administrative fee reserves [Housing Choice Voucher Guidebook, Chapter 22: Program Integrity].

Code of Conduct
The CHA conducts business in accordance with the Board-approved ethics policy that:
a. Complies with the conflict of interest requirements of the HCV program cited in 24 CFR 982.161; and

b. Prohibits the solicitation or acceptance of gifts or gratuities in excess of a nominal value by an officer or employee of the PHA or any contractor, subcontractor, or agent of the PHA.

c. Outlines administrative and disciplinary remedies for violation of the CHA Code of Conduct.

The CHA informs all officers, employees, and agents of its organization of the Code of Conduct.

Prohibited Activities

CHA Policy

The CHA will consider factors such as the following as evidence of program abuse by CHA staff or managing agents:

- Failing to comply with any HCV program requirements for personal gain
- Failing to comply with any HCV program requirements as a result of a conflict of interest relationship with any applicant, participant, or owner
- Seeking or accepting anything of material value from applicants, participating families, vendors, owners, contractors, or other persons who provide services or materials to the CHA
- Disclosing confidential or proprietary information to outside parties
- Gaining profit as a result of insider knowledge of CHA activities, policies, or practices
- Misappropriating or misusing HCV funds
- Destroying, concealing, removing, or inappropriately using any records related to the HCV program
- Committing any other corrupt or criminal act in connection with any federal housing program

14-II.E. Criminal Prosecution

CHA Policy

When the CHA determines that program abuse by an owner, family, or CHA staff or managing agents has occurred and the amount of overpaid subsidy meets or exceeds the threshold for prosecution under local or state law, the CHA will refer the matter to the CHA Office of the Inspector General or other appropriate entity for prosecution. When the amount of overpaid assistance meets or exceeds the federal threshold, the case will also be referred to the HUD Office of Inspector General (OIG).

Other criminal violations related to the HCV program will be referred to the appropriate local, state, or federal entity.

14-II.F. Fraud and Program Abuse Recoveries

The PHA may retain a portion of program fraud losses that the PHA recovers from a family or owner through litigation, court order, or a repayment agreement [24 CFR 982.163].

The PHA must be the principal party initiating or sustaining the action to recover amounts due from tenants that are due as a result of fraud and abuse. 24 CFR 792.202 permits the PHA to retain the greater of:

- 50 percent of the amount it actually collects from a judgment, litigation (including settlement of a lawsuit) or an administrative repayment agreement, or
- Reasonable and necessary costs that the PHA incurs related to the collection including costs of investigation, legal fees, and agency collection fees.

The family must be afforded the opportunity for an informal hearing in accordance with requirements in 24 CFR 982.555.
If HUD incurs costs on behalf of the PHA related to the collection, these costs must be deducted from the amount retained by the PHA.
Chapter 15-Special Housing Types

Introduction

The PHA may permit a family to use any of the special housing types discussed in this chapter. Special housing types include single room occupancy (SRO), congregate housing, group homes, shared housing, cooperative housing, manufactured homes where the family owns the home and leases the space, and homeownership [24 CFR 982.601].

However, the PHA is not required to permit families receiving assistance in its jurisdiction to use these housing types, except that the PHA must permit use of any special housing type if needed as a reasonable accommodation for a person with a disability. The PHA also may limit the number of families who receive HCV assistance in these housing types and cannot require families to use a particular housing type. No special funding is provided for special housing types.

CHA Policy

Families will be able to utilize the following special housing types:

- Single Room Occupancy housing
- Congregate housing
- Group homes
- Shared housing
- Cooperative housing
- Homeownership

The CHA will not allow families that own a manufactured housing unit to lease home spaces or pads since such housing is prohibited by City law.

This chapter consists of the following six parts containing descriptions of the housing type and any special requirements associated with it. Except as modified by this chapter, the general requirements of the HCV program apply to special housing types.

Part I: Single Room Occupancy

Part II: Congregate Housing

Part III: Group Homes

Part IV: Shared Housing

Part V: Cooperative Housing

Part VI: Homeownership
Part I: Single Room Occupancy

15-I.A. Overview
A single room occupancy (SRO) unit provides living and sleeping space for the exclusive use of the occupant but requires the occupant to share sanitary and/or food preparation facilities with others. More than one person may not occupy an SRO unit. HCV regulations do not limit the number of units in an SRO facility, but the size of a facility may be limited by local ordinances.

When providing HCV assistance in an SRO unit, a separate lease and HAP contract are executed for each assisted person, and the standard form of the HAP contract is used.

CHA Policy
The CHA does not permit the use of single room occupancy housing in its program except as a reasonable accommodation to a person with disabilities.

15-I.B. Payment Standard, Utility Allowance and HAP Calculation
The payment standard for SRO housing is 75 percent of the zero bedroom payment standard amount on the PHA’s payment standard schedule.

The utility allowance for an assisted person residing in SRO housing is 75 percent of the zero bedroom utility allowance.

The HAP for an assisted occupant in an SRO facility is the lower of the SRO payment standard amount minus the TTP or the gross rent for the unit minus the TTP.

15-I.C. Housing Quality Standards (HQS)
HQS requirements described in Chapter 8 apply to SRO housing except as modified below.

- **Access:** Access doors to the SRO unit must have working locks for privacy. The occupant must be able to access the unit without going through any other unit. Each unit must have immediate access to two or more approved means of exit from the building, appropriately marked and leading to safe and open space at ground level. The SRO unit must also have any other means of exit required by State or local law.

- **Fire Safety:** All SRO facilities must have a sprinkler system that protects major spaces. “Major spaces” are defined as hallways, common areas, and any other areas specified in local fire, building, or safety codes. SROs must also have hard-wired smoke detectors, and any other fire and safety equipment required by state or local law.

Sanitary facilities and space and security standards must meet local code requirements for SRO housing. In the absence of local code standards the requirements discussed below apply [24 CFR 982.605].
• **Sanitary Facilities:** At least one flush toilet that can be used in privacy, a lavatory basin, and a bathtub or shower in proper operating condition must be provided for each six persons (or fewer) residing in the SRO facility. If the SRO units are leased only to men, flush urinals may be substituted for up to one half of the required number of toilets. Sanitary facilities must be reasonably accessible from a common hall or passageway, and may not be located more than one floor above or below the SRO unit. They may not be located below grade unless the SRO units are located on that level.

• **Space and Security:** An SRO unit must contain at least 110 square feet of floor space, and at least four square feet of closet space with an unobstructed height of at least five feet, for use by the occupant. If the closet space is less than four square feet, the habitable floor space in the SRO unit must be increased by the amount of the deficiency. Exterior doors and windows accessible from outside the SRO unit must be lockable.

Because no children live in SRO housing, the housing quality standards applicable to lead-based paint do not apply.

**Part II: Congregate Housing**

[24 CFR 982.606 through 982.609]

15-II.A. Overview

Congregate housing is intended for use by elderly persons or persons with disabilities. A congregate housing facility contains a shared central kitchen and dining area and a private living area for the individual household that includes at least a living room, bedroom and bathroom. Food service for residents must be provided.

If approved by the PHA, a family member or live-in aide may reside with the elderly person or person with disabilities. The PHA must approve a live-in aide if needed as a reasonable accommodation so that the program is readily accessible to and usable by persons with disabilities.

When providing HCV assistance in congregate housing, a separate lease and HAP contract are executed for each assisted family, and the standard form of the HAP contract is used.

15-II.B. Payment Standard, Utility Allowance and HAP Calculation

The payment standard for an individual unit in a congregate housing facility is based on the number of rooms in the private living area. If there is only one room in the unit (not including the bathroom or the kitchen, if a kitchen is provided), the PHA must use the payment standard for a zero-bedroom unit. If the unit has two or more rooms (other than the bathroom and the kitchen), the PHA must use the one-bedroom payment standard.

The HAP for an assisted occupant in a congregate housing facility is the lower of the applicable payment standard minus the TTP or the gross rent for the unit minus the TTP.

The gross rent for the unit for the purpose of calculating HCV assistance is the shelter portion (including utilities) of the resident’s monthly housing expense only. The residents’ costs for food service should not be included in the rent for a congregate housing unit.
15-II.C. Housing Quality Standards
HQS requirements as described in Chapter 8- Housing Quality Standards and Rent Reasonableness Determinations apply to congregate housing except for the requirements stated below.

Congregate housing must have (1) a refrigerator of appropriate size in the private living area of each resident; (2) a central kitchen and dining facilities located within the premises and accessible to the residents, and (3) food service for the residents, that is not provided by the residents themselves.

The housing quality standards applicable to lead-based paint do not apply.

Part III: Group Home
[24 CFR 982.610 through 982.614]

15-III.A. Overview
A group home is a state-licensed facility intended for occupancy by elderly persons and/or persons with disabilities. Except for live-in aides, all persons living in a group home, whether assisted or not, must be elderly persons or persons with disabilities. Persons living in a group home must not require continuous medical or nursing care.

A group home consists of bedrooms for residents, which can be shared by no more than two people, and a living room, kitchen, dining area, bathroom, and other appropriate social, recreational, or community space that may be shared with other residents.

No more than 12 persons may reside in a group home including assisted and unassisted residents and any live-in aides.

If approved by the PHA, a live-in aide may live in the group home with a person with disabilities. The PHA must approve a live-in aide if needed as a reasonable accommodation so that the program is readily accessible to and usable by persons with disabilities.

When providing HCV assistance in a group home, a separate lease and HAP contract is executed for each assisted family, and the standard form of the HAP contract is used.

15-III.B. Payment Standard, Utility Allowance and HAP Calculation
Unless there is a live-in aide, the family unit size for an assisted occupant of a group home must be zero or one-bedroom, depending on the PHA’s subsidy standard. If there is a live-in aide, the aide must be counted in determining the household’s unit size.

The payment standard used to calculate the HAP is the lower of the payment standard for the family unit size or the prorated share of the payment standard for the group home size. The prorated share is calculated by dividing the number of persons in the assisted household by the number of persons (assisted and unassisted) living in the group home.

The HAP for an assisted occupant in a group home is the lower of the payment standard minus the TTP or the gross rent minus the TTP.
The utility allowance for an assisted occupant in a group home is the prorated share of the utility allowance for the group home.

The rents paid for participants residing in group homes are subject to generally applicable standards for rent reasonableness. The rent for an assisted person must not exceed the prorated portion of the reasonable rent for the group home. In determining reasonable rent, the PHA should consider whether sanitary facilities and facilities for food preparation and service are common facilities or private facilities.

15-III.C. Housing Quality Standards

HQS requirements described in Chapter 8 apply to group homes except for the requirements stated below.

- **Sanitary Facilities**: A group home must have at least one bathroom in the facility, with a flush toilet that can be used in privacy, a fixed basin with hot and cold running water, and a shower or bathtub with hot and cold running water. A group home may contain private or common bathrooms. However, no more than four residents can be required to share a bathroom.

- **Food Preparation and Service**: Group home units must contain a kitchen and dining area with adequate space to store, prepare, and serve food. The facilities for food preparation and service may be private or may be shared by the residents. The kitchen must contain a range, an oven, a refrigerator, and a sink with hot and cold running water. The sink must drain into an approvable public or private disposal system.

- **Space and Security**: Group homes must contain at least one bedroom of appropriate size for every two people, and a living room, kitchen, dining area, bathroom, and other appropriate social, recreational, or community space that may be shared with other residents.

- **Structure and Material**: To avoid any threat to the health and safety of the residents, group homes must be structurally sound. Elevators must be in good condition. Group homes must be accessible to and usable by residents with disabilities.

- **Site and Neighborhood**: Group homes must be located in a residential setting. The site and neighborhood should be reasonably free from hazards to the health, safety, and general welfare of the residents, and should not be subject to serious adverse conditions, such as:
  - Dangerous walks or steps
  - Instability
  - Flooding, poor drainage
  - Septic tank back-ups
  - Sewage hazards
  - Mud slides
  - Abnormal air pollution
  - Smoke or dust
  - Excessive noise
  - Vibrations or vehicular traffic
  - Excessive accumulations of trash
  - Vermin or rodent infestation, and
  - Fire hazards.

The housing quality standards applicable to lead-based paint do not apply.
Part IV: Shared Housing

[24 CFR 982.615 through 982.618]

15-IV.A. Overview
Shared housing is a single housing unit occupied by an assisted family and another resident or residents. The shared unit consists of both common space for use by the occupants of the unit and separate private space for each assisted family.

An assisted family may share a unit with other persons assisted under the HCV program or with other unassisted persons. The owner of a shared housing unit may reside in the unit, but housing assistance may not be paid on behalf of the owner. The resident owner may not be related by blood or marriage to the assisted family.

If approved by the PHA, a live-in aide may reside with the family to care for a person with disabilities. The PHA must approve a live-in aide if needed as a reasonable accommodation so that the program is readily accessible to and usable by persons with disabilities.

When providing HCV assistance in shared housing, a separate lease and HAP contract are executed for each assisted family, and the standard form of the HAP contract is used.

15-IV.B. Payment Standard, Utility Allowance and HAP Calculation
The payment standard for a family in shared housing is the lower of the payment standard for the family unit size or the prorated share of the payment standard for the shared housing unit size.

The prorated share is calculated by dividing the number of bedrooms available for occupancy by the assisted family in the private space by the total number of bedrooms in the unit.

The HAP for a family in shared housing is the lower of the payment standard minus the TTP or the gross rent minus the TTP. The utility allowance for an assisted family living in shared housing is the prorated share of the utility allowance for the shared housing unit.

The rents paid for families living in shared housing are subject to generally applicable standards for rent reasonableness. The rent paid to the owner for the assisted family must not exceed the pro-rata portion of the reasonable rent for the shared unit. In determining reasonable rent, the PHA should consider whether sanitary and food preparation areas are private or shared.

15-IV.C. Housing Quality Standards
The PHA may not give approval to reside in shared housing unless the entire unit, including the portion of the unit available for use by the assisted family under its lease, meets the housing quality standards.

HQS requirements described in Chapter 8- Housing Quality Standards and Rent Reasonableness Determinations apply to shared housing except for the requirements stated below.

- **Facilities Available for the Family**: Facilities available to the assisted family, whether shared or private, must include a living room, a bathroom, and food preparation and refuse disposal facilities.
- **Space and Security**: The entire unit must provide adequate space and security for all assisted and unassisted residents. The private space for each assisted family must contain at least one bedroom for each two persons
in the family. The number of bedrooms in the private space of an assisted family must not be less than the family unit size. A zero-bedroom or one-bedroom unit may not be used for shared housing.

Part V: Cooperative Housing
[24 CFR 982.619]

15-V.A. Overview
This part applies to rental assistance for a cooperative member residing in cooperative housing. It does not apply to assistance for a cooperative member who has purchased membership under the HCV homeownership option, or to rental assistance for a family that leases a cooperative housing unit from a cooperative member.

A cooperative is a form of ownership (nonprofit corporation or association) in which the residents purchase memberships in the ownership entity. Rather than being charged “rent” a cooperative member is charged a “carrying charge.”

When providing HCV assistance in cooperative housing, the standard form of the HAP contract is used.

15-V.B. Payment Standard, Utility Allowance and HAP Calculation
The payment standard and utility allowance are determined according to regular HCV program requirements.

The HAP for a cooperative housing unit is the lower of the payment standard minus the TTP or the monthly carrying charge for the unit, plus any utility allowance, minus the TTP. The monthly carrying charge includes the member’s share of the cooperative debt service, operating expenses, and necessary payments to cooperative reserve funds. The carrying charge does not include down payments or other payments to purchase the cooperative unit or to amortize a loan made to the family for this purpose.

15-V.C. Housing Quality Standards
All standard HQS requirements apply to cooperative housing units. There are no additional HQS requirements.

Part VI: Homeownership
[24 CFR 982.625 through 982.643]

15-VI.A. Overview
[24 CFR 982.625]
The homeownership option is used to assist a family residing in a home purchased and owned by one or more members of the family. A family assisted under this option may be newly admitted or an existing participant in the HCV program. The PHA must have the capacity to operate a successful HCV homeownership program as defined by the regulations.

There are two forms of homeownership assistance a PHA may offer under this option: monthly homeownership assistance payments, or a single down payment assistance grant. The PHA may choose to offer either or both forms of homeownership assistance, or choose not to offer either. If the PHA offers both forms of assistance, a family must choose which form of assistance to receive.

The PHA must offer either form of homeownership assistance if needed as a reasonable accommodation so that the program is readily accessible to and usable by persons with disabilities. It is the sole responsibility of the PHA to determine whether it is reasonable to implement a homeownership program as a reasonable accommodation.
The PHA must determine what is reasonable based on the specific circumstances and individual needs of the person with a disability. The PHA may determine that it is not reasonable to offer homeownership assistance as a reasonable accommodation in cases where the PHA has otherwise opted not to implement a homeownership program.

The PHA must approve a live-in aide if needed as a reasonable accommodation so that the program is readily accessible to and usable by persons with disabilities.

CHA Policy
The CHA has instituted a minimum homeowner down payment requirement of at least three percent of the purchase price, and requires that at least one percent of the purchase price come from the family's personal resources.

The CHA will offer the monthly homeownership assistance payments to qualified families.

15-VI.B. Family Eligibility

The family must meet all of the family eligibility requirements listed below before the commencement of homeownership assistance:

- The family has had no family violations of HUD’s Housing Quality standards within the past year.
- The family does not owe money to CHA.
- The family has not committed any serious or repeated violations of a CHA-assisted lease within the past year.
- The family must have been admitted to the Housing Choice Voucher program.
- The family must qualify as a first-time homeowner, or may be a cooperative member.
- The family must have a gross annual income equal to 50 percent of AMI based on family size. CHA will not establish a higher minimum income standards for disabled or elderly families.
- CHA will count self-employment in a business when determining whether the family meets the employment requirement.
- For disabled and elderly families, the minimum income requirement is equal to the current SSI monthly payment for an individual living alone, multiplied by 12.
- For elderly or disabled families, welfare assistance payments for adult family members who will own the home will be included in determining whether the family meets the minimum income requirement. It will not be included for other families.
- Non-elderly, non-disabled families must satisfy the employment requirements by demonstrating that one or more adult members of the family who will own the home at commencement of homeownership assistance is currently employed on a full-time basis (the term ‘full-time employment’ means not less than an average of 30 hours per week); and has been continuously so employed during the year before commencement of homeownership assistance for the family.
- The employment requirement does not apply to elderly and disabled families. In addition, if a family, other than an elderly or disabled family includes a person with disabilities, the PHA may grant an exemption from the employment requirement if the PHA determines that it is needed as a reasonable accommodation.
- The family has not defaulted on a mortgage securing debt to purchase a home under the homeownership option.

- Except for cooperative members who have acquired cooperative membership shares prior to commencement of homeownership assistance, no family member has a present ownership interest in a residence at the commencement of homeownership assistance for the purchase of any home.

- Except for cooperative members who have acquired cooperative membership shares prior to the commencement of homeownership assistance, the family has entered a contract of sale in accordance with 24 CFR 982.631(c).

15-VI.C. Selection of Families

[24 CFR 982.626]

Unless otherwise provided (under the homeownership option), the PHA may limit homeownership assistance to families or purposes defined by the PHA, and may prescribe additional requirements for commencement of homeownership assistance for a family. Any such limits or additional requirements must be described in the PHA administrative plan.

If the PHA limits the number of families that may participate in the homeownership option, the PHA must establish a system by which to select families to participate.

CHA Policy

All families interested in the program that meet the eligibility requirements as defined in Section 15-VI.B. Family Eligibility of this plan may participate in the homeownership option.

The CHA will offer a selection preference for participation in the tenant-based homeownership program to any family under a CHA public housing lease who is fully compliant with the Public Housing Program and provided the voucher is utilized for home mortgage assistance only.

15-VI.D. Eligible Units

[24 CFR 982.628]

In order for a unit to be eligible, the PHA must determine that the unit satisfies all of the following requirements:

- The unit must meet HUD’s “eligible housing” requirements. The unit may not be any of the following:
  - A public housing or Indian housing unit;
  - A unit receiving Section 8 property-based assistance;
  - A nursing home, board and care home, or facility providing continual psychiatric, medical or nursing services;
  - A college or other school dormitory;
  - On the grounds of penal, reformatory, medical, mental, or similar public or private institutions.

- The unit must be under construction or already exist at the time the family enters into the contract of sale.

- The unit must be a one-unit property or a single dwelling unit in a cooperative or condominium.

- The unit must have been inspected by the PHA and by an independent inspector designated by the family.

- The unit must meet Housing Quality Standards (see Chapter 8- Housing Quality Standards and Rent Reasonableness Determinations).
• For a unit where the family will not own fee title to the real property (such as a manufactured home), the home must have a permanent foundation and the family must have the right to occupy the site for at least 40 years.

• For PHA-owned units all of the following conditions must be satisfied:
  o The PHA informs the family, both orally and in writing, that the family has the right to purchase any eligible unit and a PHA-owned unit is freely selected by the family without PHA pressure or steering;
  o The unit is not ineligible housing;
  o The PHA obtains the services of an independent agency to inspect the unit for compliance with HQS, review the independent inspection report, review the contract of sale, determine the reasonableness of the sales price and any PHA provided financing. All of these actions must be completed in accordance with program requirements.

The PHA must not approve the unit if the PHA has been informed that the seller is debarred, suspended, or subject to a limited denial of participation.

15-VI.E. Additional PHA Requirements for Search and Purchase

[24 CFR 982.629]
It is the family's responsibility to find a home that meets the criteria for voucher homeownership assistance. The PHA may establish the maximum time that will be allowed for a family to locate and purchase a home, and may require the family to report on their progress in finding and purchasing a home. If the family is unable to purchase a home within the maximum time established by the PHA, the PHA may issue the family a voucher to lease a unit or place the family's name on the waiting list for a voucher.

CHA Policy
The family will be allowed 180 days to identify a unit and submit a sales contract for review. The family will be allowed an additional 180 days to close on the home. The CHA may grant extensions to either of these periods for good cause. The length of the extension(s) will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

All requests for extensions must be submitted in writing to the CHA prior to the expiration of the period for which the extension is being requested. The CHA will approve or disapprove the extension request within 10 calendar days. The family will be notified of the CHA’s decision in writing.

During these periods, the family will continue to receive ACC or HCV rental assistance in accordance with any applicable lease and HAP contract until the family vacates the rental unit for its purchased home.

The family will be required to report their progress on locating and purchasing a home to the CHA.

15-VI.F. Homeownership Counseling

[24 CFR 982.630]
Before commencement of homeownership assistance for a family, the family must attend and satisfactorily complete the pre-assistance homeownership and housing counseling program required by the PHA. HUD suggests the following topics for the PHA-required pre-assistance counseling:

• Home maintenance (including care of the grounds);
• Budgeting and money management;
• Credit counseling;
- How to negotiate the purchase price of a home;
- How to obtain homeownership financing and loan pre-approvals, including a description of types of financing that may be available, and the pros and cons of different types of financing;
- How to find a home, including information about homeownership opportunities, schools, and transportation in the PHA jurisdiction;
- Advantages of purchasing a home in an area that does not have a high concentration of low-income families and how to locate homes in such areas;
- Information on fair housing, including fair housing lending and local fair housing enforcement agencies; and
- Information about the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act (12 U.S.C. 2601 et seq.) (RESPA), state and Federal truth-in-lending laws, and how to identify and avoid loans with oppressive terms and conditions.

The PHA may adapt the subjects covered in pre-assistance counseling (as listed) to local circumstances and the needs of individual families.

The PHA may also offer additional counseling after commencement of homeownership assistance (ongoing counseling). If the PHA offers a program of ongoing counseling for participants in the homeownership option, the PHA shall have discretion to determine whether the family is required to participate in the ongoing counseling.

If the PHA does not use a HUD-approved housing counseling agency to provide the counseling, the PHA should ensure that its counseling program is consistent with the counseling provided under HUD’s Housing Counseling program.

**CHA Policy**

Families are required to attend and complete post-purchase ongoing homeownership counseling.

15-VI.G. Home Inspections, Contract of Sale and PHA Disapproval of Seller

[24 CFR 982.631]

**Home Inspections**

The PHA may not commence monthly homeownership assistance payments or provide down payment assistance grants for a family until the PHA has inspected the unit and has determined that the unit passes HQS.

An independent professional inspector selected by and paid for by the family must also inspect the unit. The independent inspection must cover major building systems and components, including foundation and structure, housing interior and exterior, and the roofing, plumbing, electrical, and heating systems. The independent inspector must be qualified to report on property conditions, including major building systems and components.

The PHA may not require the family to use an independent inspector selected by the PHA. The independent inspector may not be a PHA employee or contractor, or other person under control of the PHA. However, the PHA may establish standards for qualification of inspectors selected by families under the homeownership option.

The PHA may disapprove a unit for assistance based on information in the independent inspector’s report, even if the unit was found to comply with HQS.

**Contract of Sale**

Before commencement of monthly homeownership assistance payments or receipt of a down payment assistance grant, a member or members of the family must enter into a contract of sale with the seller of the unit.
to be acquired by the family. The family must give the PHA a copy of the contract of sale. The contract of sale must:

- Specify the price and other terms of sale by the seller to the purchaser;
- Provide that the purchaser will arrange for a pre-purchase inspection of the dwelling unit by an independent inspector selected by the purchaser;
- Provide that the purchaser is not obligated to purchase the unit unless the inspection is satisfactory to the purchaser;
- Provide that the purchaser is not obligated to pay for any necessary repairs; and
- Contain a certification from the seller that the seller has not been debarred, suspended, or subject to a limited denial of participation under CFR part 24.

**Disapproval of a Seller**

In its administrative discretion, the PHA may deny approval of a seller for the same reasons a PHA may disapprove an owner under the regular HCV program [see 24 CFR 982.306(c)].

**CHA Policy**

When the family locates a home they wish to purchase and submits a copy of their purchase offer/contract, the CHA will conduct a housing quality standards (HQS) inspection within 10 calendar days. Any items found not to meet HQS must be repaired before the unit can be determined eligible for the homeownership program.

The family must hire an independent professional inspector, whose report must be submitted to the CHA for review. This inspector must be a member of the American Society of Home Inspectors (ASHI) or other recognized professional society, or a licensed engineer. The inspector may not be a CHA employee.

The CHA will review the professional report in a timely fashion and, based on the presence of major physical problems, may disapprove the purchase of the home.

If the CHA disapproves the purchase of a home, the family will be notified in writing of the reasons for the disapproval.

The CHA will not conduct HQS inspections while the family is receiving homeownership assistance.

**15-VI.H. Financing**

[24 CFR 982.632]

The PHA may establish requirements for financing purchase of a home under the homeownership option. This may include requirements concerning qualification of lenders, terms of financing, restrictions concerning debt secured by the home, lender qualifications, loan terms, and affordability of the debt. The PHA must establish policies describing these requirements in the administrative plan.

The PHA may not require that families acquire financing from one or more specified lenders, thereby restricting the family’s ability to secure favorable financing terms.

**CHA Policy**

As a check against predatory lending, the CHA will review the financing of each purchase transaction, including estimated closing costs. The CHA will review the loans for features, such as balloon payments, adjustable rate mortgages, and unusually high interest rates, all of which are prohibited. The CHA also will not approve “seller financing” or “owner-held” mortgages. Beyond these basic criteria, the CHA will rely on the lenders to determine that the loan will be affordable to program participants.
The mortgage the family applies for must require a minimum down payment of at least three percent of the sales price with one percent of the down payment coming from the purchaser’s personal funds. The CHA will not require that the family have any more than the minimum of one percent of their own money in the transaction. However, in cases where a lender is requiring a larger amount, the family will be held to the underwriting guidelines set by their lending institution.

The CHA will approve a family’s request to utilize its Family Self-Sufficiency escrow account for down payment and/or closing costs when purchasing a unit under the HCV homeownership option.

15-VI.I. Continued Assistance Requirements; Family Obligations

Homeownership assistance may only be paid while the family is residing in the home. If the family moves out of the home, the PHA may not continue homeownership assistance after the month when the family moves out. The family or lender is not required to refund to the PHA the homeownership assistance for the month when the family moves out.

Before commencement of homeownership assistance, the family must execute a statement in which the family agrees to comply with all family obligations under the homeownership option.

The family must comply with the following obligations:

- The family must comply with the terms of the mortgage securing debt incurred to purchase the home, or any refinancing of such debt.
- The family may not convey or transfer ownership of the home, except for purposes of financing, refinancing, or pending settlement of the estate of a deceased family member. Use and occupancy of the home are subject to 24 CFR 982.551 (h) and (i).
  - The family must supply information to the PHA or HUD as specified in 24 CFR 982.551(b). The family must further supply any information required by the PHA or HUD concerning mortgage financing or refinancing, sale or transfer of any interest in the home, or homeownership expenses. If there are any changes to the mortgage payment amount (increase or decrease), the family must notify the CHA within 14 days of the date of the notice from the mortgage lender.
- The family must notify the PHA before moving out of the home.
- The family must notify the PHA if the family defaults on the mortgage used to purchase the home.
- No family member may have any ownership interest in any other residential property.
- The family must comply with the obligations of a participant family described in 24 CFR 982.551, except for the following provisions which do not apply to assistance under the homeownership option: 24 CFR 982.551(c), (d), (e), (f), (g) and (j).

CHA Policy

The CHA does not conduct any additional inspections after the family moves into the unit.

For families who have reached the 10-year anniversary of their closing, their equity in the home will be considered an asset for the purposes of income calculations. However, in accordance with the CHA’s MTW Plan, assets are disregarded after initial eligibility and are not included in the calculation of the participant’s portion.
15-VI.J. Maximum Term of Homeowner Assistance

**[24 CFR 982.634]**

Except in the case of a family that qualifies as an elderly or disabled family, other family members (described below) shall not receive homeownership assistance for more than:

- 15 years, if the initial mortgage incurred to finance purchase of the home has a term of 20 years or longer; or
- Ten years, in all other cases.

The maximum term described above applies to any member of the family who:

- Has an ownership interest in the unit during the time that homeownership payments are made; or
- Is the spouse of any member of the household who has an ownership interest in the unit during the time homeownership payments are made.

In the case of an elderly family, the exception only applies if the family qualifies as an elderly family at the start of homeownership assistance. In the case of a disabled family, the exception applies if at any time during receipt of homeownership assistance the family qualifies as a disabled family.

If, during the course of homeownership assistance, the family ceases to qualify as a disabled or elderly family, the maximum term becomes applicable from the date homeownership assistance commenced. However, such a family must be provided at least six months of homeownership assistance after the maximum term becomes applicable (provided the family is otherwise eligible to receive homeownership assistance).

If the family has received such assistance for different homes, or from different PHAs, the total of such assistance terms is subject to the maximum term described in this part.

15-VI.K. Homeownership Assistance Payments and Homeownership Expenses

**[24 CFR 982.635]**

The monthly homeownership assistance payment is the lower of: the voucher payment standard minus the total tenant payment, or the monthly homeownership expenses minus the total tenant payment.

In determining the amount of the homeownership assistance payment, the PHA will use the same payment standard schedule, payment standard amounts, and subsidy standards as those described in elsewhere in this plan for the Housing Choice Voucher program.

The PHA may pay the homeownership assistance payments directly to the family, or at the PHA’s discretion, to a lender on behalf of the family. If the assistance payment exceeds the amount due to the lender, the PHA must pay the excess directly to the family.

Homeownership assistance for a family terminates automatically 180 calendar days after the last homeownership assistance payment on behalf of the family. However, a PHA may grant relief from this requirement in those cases where automatic termination would result in extreme hardship for the family.

The PHA must adopt policies for determining the amount of homeownership expenses to be allowed by the PHA in accordance with HUD requirements.

Homeownership expenses (not including cooperatives) only include amounts allowed by the PHA to cover:
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- Principal and interest on initial mortgage debt, any refinancing of such debt, and any mortgage insurance premium incurred to finance purchase of the home;
- Real estate taxes and public assessments on the home;
- Home insurance;
- The PHA allowance for maintenance expenses;
- The PHA allowance for costs of major repairs and replacements;
- The PHA utility allowance for the home;
- Principal and interest on mortgage debt incurred to finance costs for major repairs, replacements or improvements for the home. If a member of the family is a person with disabilities, such debt may include debt incurred by the family to finance costs needed to make the home accessible for such person, if the PHA determines that allowance of such costs as homeownership expenses is needed as a reasonable accommodation so that the homeownership option is readily accessible to and usable by such person;
- Land lease payments where a family does not own fee title to the real property on which the home is located; [see 24 CFR 982.628(b)].
- For a condominium unit, condominium operating charges or maintenance fees assessed by the condominium homeowner association.

CHA Policy

The CHA’s housing assistance payment will be paid directly to the family. It will be the family’s responsibility to make the entire payment to the lender. The CHA may pay the HAP directly to the lender if this process is preferred by the lender and this arrangement is agreed upon by the participant. If the assistance payment exceeds the amount due to the lender, the CHA must pay the excess directly to the family.

The CHA will not grant relief, under any circumstances, from the requirement to automatically terminate homeownership assistance 180 calendar days after the CHA makes the last housing assistance payment on behalf of the family.

The CHA will allow the following homeownership expenses:

Monthly homeownership payment. This includes principal and interest on initial mortgage debt, taxes and insurance, and any mortgage insurance premium, if applicable.

Utility allowance. The CHA utility allowance for the unit, based on the current HCV utility allowance schedule.

Monthly maintenance allowance and monthly major repair/replacement allowance. A combined monthly allowance for maintenance expenses costs of major repair/replacement calculated as one percent of the purchase price of the unit divided evenly throughout the 12 months of the year; or $75 monthly, whichever is greater.

Monthly co-op/condominium assessments. If applicable, the monthly amount of co-op or condominium association operation and maintenance assessments.

Monthly principal and interest on debt for improvements. Principal and interest for major home repair, replacements, or improvements, if applicable.

Homeownership expenses for a cooperative member may only include amounts allowed by the PHA to cover:
- The cooperative charge under the cooperative occupancy agreement including payment for real estate taxes and public assessments on the home;
- Principal and interest on initial debt incurred to finance purchase of cooperative membership shares and any refinancing of such debt;
- Home insurance;
- The PHA allowance for maintenance expenses;
- The PHA allowance for costs of major repairs and replacements;
- The PHA utility allowance for the home; and
- Principal and interest on debt incurred to finance major repairs, replacements or improvements for the home. If a member of the family is a person with disabilities, such debt may include debt incurred by the family to finance costs needed to make the home accessible for such person, if the PHA determines that allowance of such costs as homeownership expenses is needed as a reasonable accommodation so that the homeownership option is readily accessible to and usable by such person.
- Cooperative operating charges or maintenance fees assessed by the cooperative homeowner association.

15-VI.L. Portability
[24 CFR 982.636, 982.637, 982.353(b) and (c)].
Subject to the restrictions on portability included in HUD regulations and PHA policies, a family may exercise portability if the receiving PHA is administering a voucher homeownership program and accepting new homeownership families. The receiving PHA may absorb the family into its voucher program, or bill the initial PHA.

The family must attend the briefing and counseling sessions required by the receiving PHA. The receiving PHA will determine whether the financing for, and the physical condition of the unit, are acceptable. The receiving PHA must promptly notify the initial PHA if the family has purchased an eligible unit under the program, or if the family is unable to purchase a home within the maximum time established by the PHA.

15-VI.M. Moving with Continued Assistance
[24 CFR 982.637]
A family receiving homeownership assistance may move with continued tenant-based assistance. The family may move with voucher rental assistance or with voucher homeownership assistance. Continued tenant-based assistance for a new unit cannot begin so long as any family member holds title to the prior home.

The PHA may deny permission to move to a new unit with continued voucher assistance as follows:
- Lack of funding to provide continued assistance.
- At any time, the PHA may deny permission to move with continued rental or homeownership assistance in accordance with 24 CFR 982.638, regarding denial or termination of assistance.
- In accordance with the PHA’s policy regarding number of moves within a 12-month period.

The PHA must deny the family permission to move to a new unit with continued voucher rental assistance if:
- The family defaulted on an FHA-insured mortgage; and
- The family fails to demonstrate that the family has conveyed, or will convey, title to the home, as required by HUD, to HUD or HUD's designee; and the family has moved, or will move, from the home within the period established or approved by HUD.
CHA Policy

For families participating in the homeownership option, requests to move will be approved and/or denied in accordance with CHA policies in Chapter 10- Moving with Continued Assistance and Portability.

The CHA will require additional counseling of any families who move with continued assistance.

15-VI.N. Denial or Termination of Assistance

At any time, the PHA may deny or terminate homeownership assistance in accordance with HCV program requirements in 24 CFR 982.552 (Grounds for denial or termination of assistance) or 24 CFR 982.553 (Crime by family members).

The PHA may also deny or terminate assistance for violation of participant obligations described in 24 CFR Parts 982.551 or 982.633 and in accordance with its own policy.

The PHA must terminate voucher homeownership assistance for any member of family receiving homeownership assistance that is dispossessed from the home pursuant to a judgment or order of foreclosure on any mortgage (whether FHA insured or non-FHA) securing debt incurred to purchase the home, or any refinancing of such debt.

CHA Policy

The CHA will terminate a family’s homeownership assistance if the family violates any of the homeowner obligations listed in Section 1, as well as for any of the reasons listed in Section 2 of form HUD-52649, Statement of Homeowner Obligations Housing Choice Homeownership Voucher Program.

In making its decision to terminate homeownership assistance, the CHA will consider alternatives as described in Section 12-II.C. Alternatives to Termination of Assistance and other factors described in Section 12-II.D. Criteria for Deciding to Terminate Assistance Upon consideration of such alternatives and factors, the CHA may, on a case-by-case basis, choose not to terminate assistance.

Termination notices will be sent in accordance with the requirements and policies set forth in Section 12-II.F. Termination Notice.
Chapter 16-Program Administration

Introduction
This chapter discusses administrative policies and practices that are relevant to the activities covered in this guide. The policies are discussed in seven parts as described below:

Part I: Administrative Fee Reserve. This part describes the PHA’s policies with regard to oversight of expenditures from its administrative fee reserve.

Part II: Setting Program Standards and Schedules. This part describes what payment standards are, and how they are updated, as well as how utility allowances are established and revised.

Part III: Informal Reviews and Hearings. This part outlines the requirements and procedures for informal reviews and hearings, and for informal hearings regarding citizenship status.

Part IV: Owner or Family Debts to the PHA. This part describes policies for recovery of monies that the PHA has overpaid on behalf of families, or to owners, and describes the circumstances under which the PHA will offer repayment agreements to owners and families. Also discussed are the consequences for failure to make payments in accordance with a repayment agreement.

Part V: Section 8 Management Assessment Program (SEMAP). This part describes what the SEMAP scores represent, how they are established, and how those scores affect the PHA.

Part VI: Record-Keeping. All aspects of the program involve certain types of record-keeping. This part outlines the privacy rights of applicants and participants and record retention policies the PHA will follow.

Part VII: Reporting and Record Keeping for Children with Elevated Blood Lead Levels. This part describes the PHA’s responsibilities for reporting, data collection, and record keeping relative to children with environmental intervention blood lead levels that are less than six years of age, and are receiving HCV assistance.

Part VIII: Determination of Insufficient Funding. This part describes the PHA’s policies for determining if there is sufficient funding to issue vouchers, to approve moves to higher cost units or areas, and to continue assistance for all participant families.

Part IX: Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2014 (VAWA). This part describes the PHA’s policies and the family’s rights in regards to VAWA.

Part I: Administrative Fee Reserve
[24 CFR 982.155]

The PHA must maintain an administrative fee reserve for the program to pay program administrative expenses in excess of administrative fees paid by HUD for the PHA’s fiscal year. Since FY2004, the use of administrative fee reserves, called Unrestricted Net Assets, is restricted to activities related to rental assistance under the HCV program, including development activities.

If the PHA has not adequately administered any Section 8 program, HUD may prohibit use of funds in the administrative fee reserve, and may direct the PHA to use funds in the reserve to improve administration of the program or to reimburse ineligible expenses. HUD also may prohibit use of the funds for certain purposes.

HUD requires the PHA Board of Commissioners or other authorized officials to establish the maximum amount that may be charged against the administrative fee reserve without specific approval.
CHA Policy
Expenditures from the administrative fee reserve will be made in accordance with all applicable Federal requirements. Expenditures will not exceed $100,000 per occurrence without the prior approval of the CHA’s Board of Commissioners.

The use of the administrative fee is authorized by the Chief Executive Officer or his or her designee.

Part II: Setting Program Standards and Schedules

16-II.A. Overview
Although many of the program’s requirements are established centrally by HUD, the HCV program’s regulations recognize that some flexibility is required to allow the PHA to adapt the program to local conditions. This part discusses how the PHA establishes and updates certain schedules and standards that are used to administer the program locally. Details about how these schedules are applied to individual families are provided in other chapters. The schedules and standards discussed here include:

- **Payment Standards**, which dictate the maximum subsidy a family can receive (application of the payment standards is discussed in [Chapter 6- Income and Subsidy Determinations](#)); and

- **Utility Allowances**, which specify how a family’s payment should be adjusted to account for tenant-paid utilities (application of utility allowances is discussed in [Chapter 6- Income and Subsidy Determinations](#)).

CHA Policy
Copies of the payment standard and utility allowance schedules are available for review in the CHA’s offices during normal business hours.

The CHA will maintain documentation to support its annual review of payment standards and utility allowance schedules. This documentation will be retained for at least three years.

16-II.B. Payment Standards
[24 CFR 982.503]

The payment standard sets the maximum subsidy payment a family can receive from the PHA each month ([24 CFR 982.505](#)). Payment standards are based on fair market rents (FMRs) published annually by HUD. FMRs are set at a percentile within the rent distribution of standard quality rental housing units in each FMR area. For most jurisdictions FMRs are set at the 40th percentile of rents in the market area. However, HUD has established payment standards at the 50th percentile of rents in the Chicago metropolitan area.

The PHA must establish a payment standard schedule that establishes payment standard amounts for each FMR area within the PHA’s jurisdiction, and for each unit size within each of the FMR areas. For each unit size, the PHA may establish a single payment standard amount for the whole FMR area, or may set different payment standards for different parts of the FMR area. Unless HUD grants an exception, the PHA is required to establish a payment standard within a “basic range” established by HUD – between 90 and 110 percent of the published FMR for each unit size.

Families requiring or requesting interim re-examinations will not have their HAP payments calculated using the higher payment standard until their next regular re-examination. However, under its MTW Program, elderly/disabled households will have their HAP payments calculated using the most up to date payment standard.
Updating Payment Standards
When HUD updates its FMRs, the PHA must update its payment standards if the standards are no longer within the basic range [24 CFR 982.503(b)]. HUD may require the PHA to make further adjustments if it determines that rent burdens for assisted families in the PHA’s jurisdiction are unacceptably high [24 CFR 982.503(g)].

CHA Policy
The CHA will review the appropriateness of the payment standards on an annual basis when the new FMR is published. In addition to ensuring the payment standards are always within the “basic range” the CHA will consider factors such as the following when determining whether an adjustment should be made to the payment standard schedule:

Funding Availability: The CHA will review the budget to determine the impact projected subsidy adjustments will have on funding available for the program and the number of families served. The CHA will compare the number of families who could be served under revised payment standard amounts with the number assisted under current payment standard amounts.

Rent Burden of Participating Families: Rent burden will be determined by identifying the percentage of families, for each unit size, that are paying more than 30 percent of their monthly adjusted income as the family share. When 40 percent or more of families, for any given unit size, are paying more than 30 percent of adjusted monthly income as the family share, the CHA will consider increasing the payment standard. In evaluating rent burdens, the CHA will not include families renting a larger unit than their family unit size.

Quality of Units Selected: The CHA will review the quality of units selected by participant families when making the determination of the percent of income families are paying for housing, to ensure that payment standard increases are only made when needed to reach the mid-range of the market.

Changes in Rent to Owner: The CHA may review a sample of the units to determine how often owners are increasing or decreasing rents and the average percent of increases/decreases by bedroom size.

The new payment standards are effective upon HUD publication of the new FMRs for any voucher holders who are leasing a unit for the first time or for program participants that are undergoing a regular reexamination with an effective date on or after the publication of the FMRs by HUD.

Exception Payment Standards
[24 CFR 982.503(c)]
The CHA under its MTW Program administers a set-aside of tenant-based vouchers for use in a demonstration program to expand affordable housing choices within Mobility Areas in the City of Chicago. In order for participants to access housing in these areas, the CHA may approve special exception payment standards on a unit-by-unit basis up to 150 percent of the HUD published FMRs for the City of Chicago. For Reasonable Accommodations, payment standards may go up to 250 percent of HUD FMRs for units with required accessibility features or if the participant needs a specific location due to the proximity to a medical facility, accessible public transportation or other location based accommodations. These requests must be approved by the Fair Housing Division.

Decreases in the Payment Standard Below the Basic Range
[24 CFR 982.503(d)]
The PHA must request HUD approval to establish a payment standard amount that is lower than the basic range. At HUD’s sole discretion, HUD may approve establishment of a payment standard lower than the basic range. HUD will not approve a lower payment standard if the family share for more than 40 percent of program participants exceeds 30 percent of adjusted monthly income.
16-II.C. Utility Allowances

A PHA-established utility allowance schedule is used in determining family share and PHA subsidy. The PHA must maintain a utility allowance schedule for (1) all tenant-paid utilities, (2) the cost of tenant-supplied refrigerators and ranges, and (3) other tenant-paid housing services such as trash collection.

The utility allowance schedule must be determined based on the typical cost of utilities and services paid by energy-conservative households that occupy housing of similar size and type in the same locality. In developing the schedule, the PHA must use normal patterns of consumption for the community as a whole, and current utility rates.

The utility allowance must include the utilities and services that are necessary in the locality to provide housing that complies with housing quality standards. Costs for telephone, cable/satellite television, and internet services are not included in the utility allowance schedule.

In the utility allowance schedule, the PHA must classify utilities and other housing services according to the following general categories: space heating; air conditioning; cooking; water heating; water; sewer; trash collection; other electric; cost of tenant-supplied refrigerator; cost of tenant-supplied range; and other specified housing services.

The cost of each utility and housing service must be stated separately by unit size and type. Housing Choice Voucher Guidebook, Chapter 18: Allowances for Utilities and Other Services, provides detailed guidance to the PHA about establishing utility allowance schedules.

Air Conditioning

An allowance for air-conditioning must be provided when the majority of housing units in the market have central air-conditioning or are wired for tenant-installed air conditioners.

**CHA Policy**

The majority of housing units in the CHA’s jurisdiction does not include central air-conditioning and are not wired for tenant-installed air conditioners. Therefore, the CHA has not included an allowance for air-conditioning in its utility allowance schedule.

Reasonable Accommodation

HCV program regulations require a PHA to approve a utility allowance amount higher than shown on the PHA’s schedule if a higher allowance is needed as a reasonable accommodation for a family member with a disability. For example, if a family member with a disability requires such an accommodation, the PHA will approve an allowance for air-conditioning, even if the PHA has determined that an allowance for air-conditioning generally is not needed (See Chapter 2 - Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity for policies regarding the request and approval of reasonable accommodations).

Utility Allowance Revisions

The PHA must review its schedule of utility allowances each year, and must revise its allowance for a utility category if there has been a change of 10 percent or more in the utility rate since the last time the utility allowance schedule was revised.

The PHA must maintain information supporting its annual review of utility allowance and any revisions made in its utility allowance schedule.
Part III: Informal Reviews and Hearings

16-III.A. Overview
When the PHA makes a decision that has a negative impact on a family, the family is often entitled to appeal the decision. For applicants, the appeal takes the form of an informal review; for participants, or for applicants denied admission because of citizenship issues, the appeal takes the form of an informal hearing.

The PHA is required to include in its administrative plan, informal review procedures for applicants, and informal hearing procedures for participants [24 CFR 982.54(d)(12) and (13)].

16-III.B. Informal Reviews
Informal reviews are provided for program applicants. An applicant is someone who has applied for admission to the program, but is not yet a participant in the program. Informal reviews are intended to provide a “minimum hearing requirement” [24 CFR 982.554], and need not be as elaborate as the informal hearing requirements.

Decisions Subject to Informal Review
The PHA must give an applicant the opportunity for an informal review of a decision denying assistance [24 CFR 982.554(a)]. Denial of assistance may include any or all of the following [24 CFR 982.552(a)(2)]:

- Denying listing on the PHA waiting list
- Denying or withdrawing a voucher
- Refusing to enter into a HAP contract or approve a lease
- Refusing to process or provide assistance under portability procedures
- Denial of assistance based on unfavorable history involving criminal activity that disturbs the health and safety and peaceful enjoyment of the premises. (See Section 3-III. G. Prohibition Against Denial of Assistance to Victims of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking)
- Denial of assistance based on information, investigation, background checks, and/or arrests or convictions of an unfavorable history that may be the result of domestic violence, sexual violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking. (See Section 3-III.G. Prohibition Against Denial of Assistance to Victims of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking)

Informal reviews are not required for the following reasons [24 CFR 982.554(c)]:

- Discretionary administrative determinations by the PHA
- General policy issues or class grievances
- A determination of the family unit size under the PHA subsidy standards
- A PHA determination not to grant approval of the tenancy
- A PHA determination that the unit is not in compliance with the HQS
- A PHA determination that the unit is not in accordance with the HQS due to family size or composition

CHA Policy
The CHA will only offer an informal review to applicants for whom assistance is being denied. Denial of assistance includes: denying listing on the CHA waiting list; denying or withdrawing a voucher; refusing to enter into a HAP contract or approve a lease; refusing to process or provide assistance under portability procedures.

Notice to the Applicant
[24 CFR 982.554(a)]
The PHA must give an applicant prompt notice of a decision denying assistance. The notice must contain a brief statement of the reasons for the PHA decision, and must also state that the applicant may request an informal review of the decision. The notice must describe how to obtain the informal review.

Scheduling and Holding an Informal Review

CHA Policy
A request for an informal review must be made in writing and delivered to the CHA either in person or by first class mail, by the close of the business day, no later than 10 calendar days from the date of the CHA’s denial of assistance.

Except as provided in Section 3-III. G. Prohibition Against Denial of Assistance to Victims of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking, the CHA will schedule and send written notice of the informal review within a reasonable time of the family’s request and will hold the review within a reasonable time from the date of the family’s request.

At the discretion of the CHA, mitigating factors may be considered for the admission of the applicant family.

Informal Review Procedures

[24 CFR 982.554(b)]

CHA Policy
The family at their own expense may be represented by a lawyer or other representative at the informal hearing. Legal representation is not allowed during any of the following events: new admission eligibility appointments, regular re-examination appointments, or interim re-examinations requested by the family.

The informal review must be conducted by a person other than the one who made or approved the decision under review, or a subordinate of this person.

The applicant must be given a copy of any record, including background checks, if the denial is based on criminal activity.

The applicant must be provided an opportunity to present written or oral objections to the decision of the CHA. The person conducting the review will make a recommendation to the CHA, but the CHA is responsible for making the final decision as to whether assistance should be granted or denied.

Informal Review Decision

[24 CFR 982.554(b)]

The PHA must notify the applicant of the PHA’s final decision, including a brief statement of the reasons for the final decision.

CHA Policy
In rendering a decision, the CHA will evaluate the following matters:

- Whether or not the grounds for denial were stated factually in the Notice.
- The validity of grounds for denial of assistance. If the grounds for denial are not specified in the regulations, then the decision to deny assistance will be overturned.
- The validity of the evidence. The CHA will evaluate whether the facts presented prove the grounds for denial of assistance. If the facts prove that there are grounds for denial, and the denial is required by HUD, the CHA will uphold the decision to deny assistance.
If the facts prove the grounds for denial, and the denial is discretionary, the CHA will consider the recommendation of the person conducting the informal review in making the final decision whether to deny assistance.

The CHA will notify the applicant of the final decision, including a statement explaining the reason(s) for the decision. The notice will be mailed within 30 calendar days of the informal review, to the applicant and his or her representative, if any, along with proof of mailing.

If the decision to deny is overturned as a result of the informal review, processing for admission will resume.

If the family does not appear at the scheduled time, and was unable to reschedule the informal review in advance due to the nature of the conflict, the family must contact the CHA by telephone or in writing within 24 hours of the scheduled informal review date, excluding weekends and holidays. The CHA will reschedule the informal review only if the family can show good cause for the failure to appear, or if it is needed as a reasonable accommodation for a person with disabilities. The family must provide all requests and documentation of good cause in writing (via fax, email, mail, or hand-delivery) within 10 days. If the family misses the rescheduled informal review, the family’s assistance will be denied.

16-III.C. Informal Hearings for Participants

[24 CFR 982.555]

The PHA must offer an informal hearing for certain PHA determinations relating to the individual circumstances of a participant family. A participant is defined as a family that has been admitted to the PHA’s HCV program and is currently assisted in the program. The purpose of the informal hearing is to consider whether the PHA’s decisions related to the family’s circumstances are in accordance with the law, HUD regulations and PHA policies.

The PHA is not permitted to terminate a family’s assistance until the time allowed for the family to request an informal hearing has elapsed, and any requested hearing has been completed. Termination of assistance for a participant may include any or all of the following:

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

Decisions Subject to Informal Hearing

Circumstances for which the PHA must give a participant family an opportunity for an informal hearing are as follows:

- A determination of the family’s annual or adjusted income, and the use of such income to compute the housing assistance payment
- A determination of the appropriate utility allowance (if any) for tenant-paid utilities from the PHA utility allowance schedule
- A determination of the family unit size under the PHA’s subsidy standards
- A determination to terminate assistance for a participant family because of the family’s actions or failure to act, including, but not limited to criminal activity (see Chapter 3- Eligibility)
- A determination to terminate assistance because the participant has been absent from the assisted unit for longer than the maximum period permitted under PHA policy and HUD rules
- A determination to terminate a family’s Family Self Sufficiency contract, withhold supportive services, or propose forfeiture of the family’s escrow account [24 CFR 984.303(j)]
A determination based on information, investigation, background checks, and or arrests or convictions to terminate assistance based on an unfavorable history that may be the result of domestic violence, sexual violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking.

Circumstances for which an informal hearing is not required are as follows:

- Discretionary administrative determinations by the PHA
- General policy issues or class grievances
- Establishment of the PHA schedule of utility allowances for families in the program
- A PHA determination not to approve an extension or suspension of a voucher term
- A PHA determination not to approve a unit or tenancy
- A PHA determination that a unit selected by the applicant is not in compliance with the HQS
- A PHA determination that the unit is not in accordance with HQS because of family size
- A determination by the PHA to exercise or not to exercise any right or remedy against an owner under a HAP contract

**CHA Policy**
The CHA will only offer participants the opportunity for an informal hearing when required to by the regulations.

**Informal Hearing Procedures**

**Notice to the Family**

[24 CFR 982.555(c)]

When the PHA makes a decision that is subject to informal hearing procedures, the PHA must inform the family of its right to an informal hearing at the same time that it informs the family of the decision.

For decisions related to the family’s annual or adjusted income, the determination of the appropriate utility allowance, and the determination of the family unit size, the PHA must notify the family that they may ask for an explanation of the basis of the determination, and that if they do not agree with the decision, they may request an informal hearing on the decision.

For decisions related to the termination of the family’s assistance, or the denial of a family’s request for an exception to the PHA’s subsidy standards, the notice must contain a brief statement of the reasons for the decision, a statement that if the family does not agree with the decision, the family may request an informal hearing on the decision, and a statement of the deadline for the family to request an informal hearing.

**CHA Policy**

In cases where the CHA makes a decision for which an informal hearing must be offered, the notice to the family will include all of the following:

- The proposed action or decision of the CHA.
- A brief statement of the reasons for the decision including the regulatory reference.
- The date the proposed action will take place.
- A statement of the family’s right to an explanation of the basis for the CHA’s decision.
- A statement of the family’s right to obtain copies of records upon which the decision is based at the expense of the family.
- A statement that if the family does not agree with the decision the family may request an informal hearing of the decision.
- A deadline for the family to request the informal hearing.
- To whom the hearing request should be addressed.
Scheduling and Holding an Informal Hearing

[24 CFR 982.555(d)]

When an informal hearing is required, the PHA must proceed with the hearing in a reasonably expeditious manner upon the request of the family.

CHA Policy

A request for an informal hearing must be made in writing and delivered to the CHA either in person or by first class mail, within 30 calendar days from the date of the CHA’s decision or notice to terminate assistance.

The CHA will schedule and send written notice of the informal hearing to the family and will hold the hearing within a reasonable time of the family’s request. If the family misses the scheduled hearing, the family’s assistance is terminated.

For families that have ported out of CHA’s jurisdiction, the CHA will proceed with the hearing process unless and until the family leases-up and is absorbed by the receiving PHA. For families who have ported out of CHA’s jurisdiction but whose vouchers were not absorbed by the receiving PHA, the CHA will send notice to the participant’s new address informing them of the informal hearing and their right to attend the hearing telephonically. Upon information that a family has been absorbed by a receiving PHA, the CHA will rescind any outstanding ITT that has not resulted in a final decision by an informal hearing officer.

Prior to the date scheduled for the hearing, the family may submit a request in writing to reschedule a hearing for good cause, or if it is needed as a reasonable accommodation for a person with disabilities. Good cause is defined as an unavoidable conflict which seriously affects the health, safety or welfare of the family. The unavailability of the family representative or attorney is not good cause for rescheduling a hearing. Requests to reschedule a hearing must be made orally or in writing prior to the hearing date. At its discretion, the CHA may request documentation of the “good cause” prior to rescheduling the hearing. If the family misses the rescheduled hearing, the family’s assistance is terminated.

If the family does not appear at the scheduled time, and was unable to reschedule the hearing in advance due to the nature of the conflict, the family must contact the CHA in writing within 24 hours of the scheduled hearing date, excluding weekends and holidays. The CHA will reschedule the hearing only if the family can show good cause for the failure to appear, or if it is needed as a reasonable accommodation for a person with disabilities. If the family misses the rescheduled hearing, the family’s assistance is terminated.

Pre-Hearing Right to Discovery

[24 CFR 982.555(e)]

Participants and the PHA are permitted pre-hearing discovery rights. The family must be given the opportunity to examine before the hearing any PHA documents that are directly relevant to the hearing. The family must be allowed to copy any such documents at their own expense. If the PHA does not make the document available for examination on request of the family, the PHA may not rely on the document at the hearing.

The PHA hearing procedures may provide that the PHA must be given the opportunity to examine at the PHA offices before the hearing, any family documents that are directly relevant to the hearing. The PHA must be allowed to copy any such document at the PHA’s expense. If the family does not make the document available for examination on request of the PHA, the family may not rely on the document at the hearing.

For the purpose of informal hearings, documents include records and regulations.
CHA Policy
The family will be allowed to copy any documents related to the hearing. The family must request discovery of the CHA documents no later than 12:00 p.m. on the business day prior to the scheduled hearing date.

The CHA must be given an opportunity to examine at the CHA offices before the hearing any family documents that are directly relevant to the hearing. Whenever a participant requests an informal hearing, the CHA will automatically mail a letter to the participant requesting a copy of all documents that the participant intends to present or utilize at the hearing. The participant must make the documents available no later than 12:00 pm on the business day prior to the scheduled hearing date.

Participant’s Right to Bring Counsel
[24 CFR 982.555(e)(3)]
At its own expense, the family may be represented by a lawyer or other representative at the informal hearing.

Informal Hearing Officer
[24 CFR 982.555(e)(4)]
Informal hearings will be conducted by a person or persons approved by the PHA, other than the person who made or approved the decision or a subordinate of the person who made or approved the decision.

CHA Policy
The CHA has designated staff to serve as hearing officers.

Attendance at the Informal Hearing
CHA Policy
Hearings may be attended by a hearing officer and the following applicable persons:

- A CHA representative(s) and any witnesses for the CHA
- The participant and any witnesses for the participant
- The participant’s counsel or other representative
- Any other person approved by the CHA as a reasonable accommodation for a person with a disability

Conduct at Hearings
The person who conducts the hearing may regulate the conduct of the hearing in accordance with the PHA’s hearing procedures [24 CFR 982.555(4)(ii)].

CHA Policy
The hearing officer is responsible to manage the order of business and to ensure that hearings are conducted in a professional and businesslike manner. Attendees are expected to comply with all hearing procedures established by the hearing officer and guidelines for conduct. Any person demonstrating disruptive, abusive or otherwise inappropriate behavior will be excused from the hearing at the discretion of the hearing officer. Furthermore, if disruptive behavior is displayed by the participant, the hearing officer will end the hearing and the participant’s HCVP program assistance will be terminated.

Evidence
[24 CFR 982.555(e)(5)]
The PHA and the family must be given the opportunity to present evidence and question any witnesses. In general, all evidence is admissible at an informal hearing. Evidence may be considered without regard to admissibility under the rules of evidence applicable to judicial proceedings. While the CHA may terminate assistance based on
the conduct underlying an arrest, the CHA may not base a termination decision solely on a record of arrests(s). See PIH Notice 2015-19.

**CHA Policy**

Any evidence to be considered by the hearing officer must be presented at the time of the hearing. There are four categories of evidence.

**Oral evidence**: the testimony of witnesses

**Documentary evidence**: a writing which is relevant to the case, for example, a letter written to the CHA. Writings include all forms of recorded communication or representation, including letters, words, pictures, sounds, videotapes or symbols or combinations thereof.

**Demonstrative evidence**: Evidence created specifically for the hearing and presented as an illustrative aid to assist the hearing officer, such as a model, a chart or other diagram.

**Real evidence**: A tangible item relating directly to the case.

**Hearsay Evidence** is evidence of a statement that was made other than by a witness while testifying at the hearing and that is offered to prove the truth of the matter. Hearsay evidence will be admissible at the informal hearings; however, hearsay evidence alone cannot be used as the sole basis for the hearing officer’s decision.

If either the CHA or the family fail to comply with the discovery requirements described above, the hearing officer may refuse to admit such evidence.

Other than the failure of a party to comply with discovery, the hearing officer has the authority to overrule any objections to evidence.

**Hearing Officer’s Decision**

[24 CFR 982.555(e)(6)]

The person who conducts the hearing must issue a written decision, stating briefly the reasons for the decision. Factual determinations relating to the individual circumstances of the family must be based on a preponderance of evidence presented at the hearing. A copy of the hearing must be furnished promptly to the family.

**CHA Policy**

In rendering a decision, the hearing officer will consider the following matters:

**CHA Notice to the Family**: The hearing officer will determine if the reasons for the CHA’s decision are factually stated in the Notice.

**Discovery**: The hearing officer will determine if the CHA and the family were given the opportunity to examine any relevant documents in accordance with CHA policy.

**CHA Evidence to Support the CHA Decision**: The evidence consists of the facts presented. Evidence is not conclusion and it is not argument. The hearing officer will evaluate the facts to determine if they support the CHA’s conclusion.

**Validity of Grounds for Termination of Assistance (when applicable)**: The hearing officer will determine if the termination of assistance is for one of the grounds specified in the HUD regulations and the CHA policies. If the grounds for termination are not specified in the regulations or in compliance with the CHA policies, then the decision of the CHA will be overturned.

The hearing officer will issue a written decision to the family and the CHA no later than 30 calendar days after the hearing. The report will contain the following information:
Hearing information:

- Name of the participant;
- Date, time and place of the hearing;
- Name of the hearing officer;
- Name of the CHA representative; and
- Name of family representative (if any).

**Background:** A brief, impartial statement of the reason for the hearing.

**Summary of the Evidence:** The hearing officer will summarize the testimony of each witness and identify any documents that a witness produced in support of his/her testimony and that are admitted into evidence.

**Findings of Fact:** The hearing officer will include all findings of fact, based on a preponderance of the evidence. *Preponderance of the evidence* is defined as evidence which is of greater weight or more convincing than the evidence which is offered in opposition to it; that is, evidence which as a whole shows that the fact sought to be proved is more probable than not. Preponderance of the evidence may not be determined by the number of witnesses, but by the greater weight of all evidence.

**Conclusions:** The hearing officer will render a conclusion derived from the facts that were found to be true by a preponderance of the evidence. The conclusion will result in a determination of whether these facts uphold the CHA’s decision.

**Order:** The hearing report will include a statement of whether the CHA’s decision is upheld or overturned. If it is overturned, the hearing officer will instruct the CHA to change the decision in accordance with the hearing officer’s determination. In the case of termination of assistance, the hearing officer will instruct the CHA to restore the participant’s program status.

**Procedures for Rehearing or Further Hearing**

*CHA Policy*

The hearing officer may ask the family for additional information and/or might adjourn the hearing in order to reconvene at a later date, before reaching a decision. If the family misses an appointment or deadline ordered by the hearing officer, the action of the CHA will take effect and another hearing will not be granted.

In addition, within 30 calendar days after the date the hearing officer’s report is mailed to the CHA and the participant, the CHA or the participant may request a rehearing or a further hearing. Such request must be made in writing and postmarked or hand-delivered to the hearing officer and to the other party within the 30 calendar day period. The request must demonstrate cause, supported by specific references to the hearing officer’s report, why the request should be granted.

A rehearing or a further hearing may be requested for the purpose of rectifying any obvious mistake of law made during the hearing or any obvious injustice not known at the time of the hearing.

It shall be within the sole discretion of the CHA to grant or deny the request for further hearing or rehearing. A further hearing may be limited to written submissions by the parties, in the manner specified by the hearing officer.

**PHA Notice of Final Decision**

[24 CFR 982.555(f)]
The PHA is not bound by the decision of the hearing officer for matters in which the PHA is not required to provide an opportunity for a hearing, or decisions that exceed the authority of the hearing officer, or decisions that conflict with or contradict HUD regulations, requirements, or are otherwise contrary to Federal, State or local laws.

If the PHA determines it is not bound by the hearing officer’s decision in accordance with HUD regulations, the PHA must promptly notify the family of the determination and the reason for the determination.

**CHA Policy**

The CHA will mail a “Notice of Final Decision” including the hearing officer’s report, to the participant and their representative. This Notice will be sent by first-class mail. The participant will be mailed the original “Notice of Final Decision.” A copy of the “Notice of Final Decision” will be maintained in the CHA’s file.

**Grievance Procedure for Temporary Relocatees**

Temporary Relocatees under the PHA Leaseholder Housing Choice and Relocation Rights Contract will have rights under the PHA Grievance Procedures for a formal hearing as spelled out in the Resident Grievance Procedure and the PHA Leaseholder Housing Choice and Relocation Rights Contract, Section 11 (b).

16-III.D. Pre-Hearing Conference Procedures

After an informal hearing request has been received vendor staff will hold a Pre-Hearing Conference (PHC) in the following cases:

- HQS Violations
- Missing documents/appointments
- Voucher expiration
- Any other Family Obligation violation that CHA management deems appropriate (in these cases, CHA will provide further guidance)

Written notice will be issued to the participant of the PHC date, time and location, and any documents to bring using the Notice of Pre-Hearing Conference (CHA 0264)

If the participant fails to attend or the family obligation violation(s) is (are) not cured or resolved after the PHC (or within a specific timeframe), CHA will schedule an informal hearing. If the PHC resolves the issue, the ITT will be rescinded and no Informal Hearing is scheduled.

Below highlight the specific procedures

1. CHA issues ITT for one of the following reasons
   - HQS Violations
   - Missing documents/appointments
   - Voucher expiration
   - Any other Family Obligation that CHA management deems appropriate

2. If an Informal Hearing isn’t requested, an End of Participation is processed within 35 days of ITT issuance. If one is requested the following actions must be taken.
   I. Contact participant and schedule them for a PHC, informing them of the when and where it will occur. If verbal explanation is only needed the violation is cured prior to the PRH, then it will be cancelled.
   II. Mail PHC notice identifying date, time, location and any additional information. The PRC must be scheduled within 10 calendar days of approving the informal hearing. See details below for what to include for each type of violation.
Missing
Letter must instruct them to bring the document that is missing.

Missed Appointment
The letter must mimic the language sent to participants when scheduling a reexamination appointment and clearly state that the staff will also conduct the re-examination. Any missing information will be required to be submitted within 10 calendar days, if not, then CHA will amend the ITT with the new PRH information and move forward with the ITT.

HQS issues
Letter will state that the participant must be at the unit during the scheduled inspection time and allow the inspector into the unit or cure the fail item, whichever is appropriate. CHA will make every effort to schedule the inspection prior to the PHC. If the issue is resolved prior to the PRC it will be canceled and the ITT will be rescinded.

Voucher Expiration
The letter will instruct the participant to bring any documentation of their efforts to find a unit. Examples of these include proof that they applied for available units or filed a discrimination case with Chicago Commission on Human Relations (CCHR). Information provided that proves they meet any of the circumstances to receive an extension (outlined in Section 5-II.E. of the Procedure Guide) will require that they are given an additional 60 days on their voucher.

3. If the participant is in full compliance within 10 calendar days of the PRC then the ITT will be rescinded. If not, the ITT will be amended with the additional information from the PRH.

4. Through all steps of the process, Yardi memos must be made.

16-III.E. Hearing and Appeal Provisions for Non-Citizens
[24 CFR 5.514]
Denial or termination of assistance based on immigration status is subject to special hearing and notice rules. Applicants who are denied assistance due to immigration status are entitled to an informal hearing, not an informal review.

Assistance to a family may not be delayed, denied, or terminated on the basis of immigration status at any time prior to a decision under the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) appeal process. Assistance to a family may not be terminated or denied while the PHA hearing is pending, but assistance to an applicant may be delayed pending the completion of the informal hearing.

A decision against a family member, issued in accordance with the USCIS appeal process or the PHA informal hearing process, does not preclude the family from exercising the right, that may otherwise be available, to seek redress directly through judicial procedures.

Notice of Denial or Termination of Assistance
[24 CFR 5.514(d)]
As discussed in Chapters 3- Eligibility and Chapter 11- Re-examinations, the notice of denial or termination of assistance for noncitizens must advise the family:

• That financial assistance will be denied or terminated, and provide a brief explanation of the reasons for the proposed denial or termination of assistance.
• The family may be eligible for proration of assistance.
• In the case of a participant, the criteria and procedures for obtaining relief under the provisions for preservation of families [24 CFR 5.514 and 5.518].
• That the family has a right to request an appeal to the USCIS of the results of secondary verification of immigration status and to submit additional documentation or explanation in support of the appeal.

• That the family has a right to request an informal hearing with the PHA either upon completion of the USCIS appeal or in lieu of the USCIS appeal.

• For applicants, assistance may not be delayed until the conclusion of the USCIS appeal process, but assistance may be delayed during the period of the informal hearing process.

**USCIS Appeal Process**

[24 CFR 5.514(e)]

When the PHA receives notification that the USCIS secondary verification failed to confirm eligible immigration status, the PHA must notify the family of the results of the USCIS verification. The family will have 30 days from the date of the notification to request an appeal of the USCIS results. The request for appeal must be made by the family in writing directly to the USCIS. The family must provide the PHA with a copy of the written request for appeal and the proof of mailing.

**CHA Policy**

The CHA will notify the family in writing of the results of the USCIS secondary verification within 15 calendar days of receiving the results.

The family must provide the CHA with a copy of the written request for appeal and proof of mailing within 15 calendar days of sending the request to the USCIS.

The family must forward to the designated USCIS office any additional documentation or written explanation in support of the appeal. This material must include a copy of the USCIS document verification request (used to process the secondary request) or such other form specified by the USCIS, and a letter indicating that the family is requesting an appeal of the USCIS immigration status verification results.

The USCIS will notify the family, with a copy to the PHA, of its decision. When the USCIS notifies the PHA of the decision, the PHA must notify the family of its right to request an informal hearing.

**CHA Policy**

The CHA will send written notice to the family of its right to request an informal hearing within 15 calendar days of receiving notice of the USCIS decision regarding the family’s immigration status.

**Informal Hearing Procedures for Applicants**

[24 CFR 5.514(f)]

After notification of the USCIS decision on appeal, or in lieu of an appeal to the USCIS, the family may request that the PHA provide a hearing. The request for a hearing must be made either within 30 days of receipt of the PHA notice of denial, or within 30 days of receipt of the USCIS appeal decision.

The informal hearing procedures for applicant families are described below.

**Informal Hearing Officer**

The PHA must provide an informal hearing before an impartial individual, other than a person who made or approved the decision under review, and other than a person who is a subordinate of the person who made or approved the decision. See Section 16-III.C. for a listing of positions that serve as informal hearing officers.

**Evidence**

The family must be provided the opportunity to examine and copy at the family’s expense, at a reasonable time in advance of the hearing, any documents in the possession of the PHA pertaining to the family’s eligibility status,
or in the possession of the USCIS (as permitted by USCIS requirements), including any records and regulations that may be relevant to the hearing.

CHA Policy
The family will be allowed to copy any documents related to the hearing. The family must request discovery of CHA documents no later than 12:00 p.m. on the business day prior to the hearing.

The family must be provided the opportunity to present evidence and arguments in support of eligible status. Evidence may be considered without regard to admissibility under the rules of evidence applicable to judicial proceedings.

The family must also be provided the opportunity to refute evidence relied upon by the PHA, and to confront and cross-examine all witnesses on whose testimony or information the PHA relies.

Representation and Interpretive Services
The family is entitled to be represented by an attorney or other designee, at the family’s expense, and to have such person make statements on the family’s behalf.

The family also has the right for an interpreter to attend the hearing.

Recording of the Hearing
The family is entitled to have the hearing recorded by audiotape. The PHA may, but is not required to provide a transcript of the hearing.

CHA Policy
The CHA will not provide a transcript of an audio taped hearing.

Hearing Decision
The PHA must provide the family with a written final decision, based solely on the facts presented at the hearing, within 30 calendar days of the date of the informal hearing. The decision must state the basis for the decision.

Informal Hearing Procedures for Residents
[24 CFR 5.514(f)]

After notification of the USCIS decision on appeal, or in lieu of an appeal to the USCIS, the family may request that the PHA provide a hearing. The request for a hearing must be made either within 30 days of receipt of the PHA notice of termination, or within 30 days of receipt of the USCIS appeal decision.

For the informal hearing procedures that apply to participant families whose assistance is being terminated based on immigration status, see Section 16-III.C. Informal Hearings for Participants.

Retention of Documents
[24 CFR 5.514(h)]

The PHA must retain for a minimum of five years the following documents that may have been submitted to the PHA by the family, or provided to the PHA as part of the USCIS appeal or the PHA informal hearing process:

- The application for assistance
- The form completed by the family for income reexamination
- Photocopies of any original documents, including original USCIS documents
- The signed verification consent form
- The USCIS verification results
- The request for a USCIS appeal
- The final USCIS determination
• The request for an informal hearing
• The final informal hearing decision

Part IV: Owner or Family Debts to the PHA

16-IV.A. Overview
The PHA is required to include in the administrative plan, policies concerning repayment by a family of amounts owed to the PHA [24 CFR 982.54]. This part describes the PHA’s policies for recovery of monies that have been overpaid on behalf of families, or to owners.

CHA Policy
When an action or inaction of an owner or participant results in the overpayment of housing assistance, the CHA holds the owner or participant liable to return any overpayments to the CHA.

The CHA will enter into repayment agreements in accordance with the policies contained in this part as a means to recover overpayments.

When an owner or participant refuses to repay monies owed to the CHA, the CHA will utilize other available collection alternatives including, but not limited to, the following:

• Collection agencies
• Small claims court
• Civil law suit

16-IV.B. Repayment Policy

Owner Debts to the PHA

CHA Policy
The CHA will collect any overpayments to an owner by reducing the future HAP payments to the owner by the amount owed until the debt is paid in full. If the reduction of HAP payments is not possible, any amounts due to CHA by an owner must be repaid by the owner.

If the owner refuses to repay the debt or does not repay the debt, the CHA will abate the debt from future payments made to the owner through participation in the program. Furthermore, if the amount owed by the owner is not repaid, or the owner leaves the program, the CHA will pursue other modes of collection, including referral to the Inspector General, litigation and debt collection agencies. If the owner seeks to be discharged from the debt through a bankruptcy filing, and if the debt is due to fraud against the program, the CHA will object to the discharge of the debt.

Family Debts to the PHA

CHA Policy
Any amount due to the CHA by an HCV participant must be repaid by the family. If the family is unable to repay the debt, the CHA may offer to enter into a repayment agreement in accordance with the policies below.

If the family refuses to repay the debt, enter into a repayment agreement, or breaches a repayment agreement, the CHA will terminate the assistance upon notification to the family, and shall then pursue other modes of collection. If the participant seeks to be discharged from the debt through a bankruptcy filing, and if the debt is due to fraud against the program, the CHA will object to the discharge of the debt in addition to terminating assistance to the participant.
If any member of the household has a repayment agreement with CHA and the member is removed from the family composition, the debt will be transferred to the succeeding head of household and co-head or spouse.

By entering a Repayment Agreement with the Participant, the CHA does not waive its right to pursue a termination for the underlying cause which gave rise to the outstanding debt in the event the Participant breaches the Repayment Agreement.

Repayment Agreement

The term repayment agreement refers to a formal document signed by a tenant and provided to the PHA in which a tenant acknowledges a debt in a specific amount and agrees to repay the amount due at specific time periods.

Repayment Agreement Guidelines

Down Payment Requirement

CHA Policy

The CHA may enter into repayment agreements for amounts not to exceed $5,000. The monthly repayment plus the regular monthly rent payment cannot exceed 40 percent of the participant’s monthly adjusted income. The CHA will not enter into repayment agreements for amounts greater than $5,000 and will terminate the participant from the program. CHA will pursue other modes of collection, including referral to the Inspector General.

Upon execution of a repayment agreement, the family must pay either the balance owed to the CHA or a down payment of $500.

For families repaying rent owed due to a temporary hardship exemption, there is no minimum down payment. The CHA does not have any other hardship exception. The family must comply with the Repayment Agreement Guidelines despite any change in circumstances beyond the family’s control.

Execution of the Agreement

CHA Policy

The head of household and spouse/co-head (if applicable) must sign the repayment agreement.

Due Dates

CHA Policy

All payments are due by the close of business on the 15th day of the month. If the 15th does not fall on a business day, the due date is the first business day after the 15th.

Non-Payment

CHA Policy

The family must make its payment by the date due. If the payment is not received by the due date, the family has breached the repayment agreement and the CHA will terminate assistance upon written notification to the family.

No Offer of Repayment Agreement

CHA Policy

The CHA will not enter into a repayment agreement if there is already a repayment agreement in place with the family.

The CHA will only enter into one repayment agreement with a family during the family’s tenure on the program. Subsequent events will be automatic grounds for termination.
**Part V: Management Assessment (SEMAP)**

### 16-V.A. Overview

The Section Eight Management Assessment Program (SEMAP) is a tool that allows HUD to measure PHA performance in key areas to ensure program integrity and accountability. SEMAP scores translate into a rating for each PHA as high performing, standard, or troubled. Scores on individual SEMAP indicators, as well as overall SEMAP ratings, can affect the PHA in several ways.

- High-performing PHAs can be given a competitive advantage under notices of funding availability [24 CFR 985.103].
- PHAs with deficiencies on one or more indicators are required to correct the deficiencies and report to HUD [24 CFR 985.106].
- PHAs with an overall rating of “troubled” are subject to additional HUD oversight, including on-site reviews by HUD staff, a requirement to develop a corrective action plan, and monitoring to ensure the successful implementation of the corrective action plan. In addition, PHAs that are designated “troubled” may not use any part of the administrative fee reserve for other housing purposes [24 CFR 985.107].
- HUD may determine that a PHA’s failure to correct identified SEMAP deficiencies or to prepare and implement a corrective action plan required by HUD constitutes a default under the ACC [24 CFR 985.109].

### 16-V.B. SEMAP Certification

[24 CFR 985.101]

PHAs must submit the HUD-required SEMAP certification form within 60 calendar days after the end of its fiscal year. The certification must be approved by PHA board resolution and signed by the PHA executive director. If the PHA is a unit of local government or a state, a resolution approving the certification is not required, and the certification must be executed by the HCV program director.

PHAs with less than 250 voucher units are only required to be assessed every other PHA fiscal year. HUD will assess such PHAs annually if the PHA elects to have its performance assessed on an annual basis; or is designated as “troubled” [24 CFR 985.105].

Failure of a PHA to submit its SEMAP certification within the required time frame will result in an overall performance rating of “troubled.”

A PHA’s SEMAP certification is subject to HUD verification by an on-site confirmatory review at any time.

Upon receipt of the PHA’s SEMAP certification, HUD will rate the PHA’s performance under each SEMAP indicator in accordance with program requirements.

**HUD Verification Method**

Several of the SEMAP indicators are scored based on a review of a quality control sample selected for this purpose. The PHA or the Independent Auditor must select an unbiased sample that provides an adequate representation of the types of information to be assessed, in accordance with SEMAP requirements [24 CFR 985.2].

If the HUD verification method for the indicator relies on data in the Form-50058 module (formerly known as MTCs) in the PIH Information Center (PIC), and HUD determines that those data are insufficient to verify the PHA's certification on the indicator due to the PHA’s failure to adequately report family data, HUD will assign a zero rating for the indicator [24 CFR 985.3].

**CHA Policy**

The CHA is a Moving-to-Work agency and under its current agreement the CHA is not required to certify to SEMAP. Language related to SEMAP in this plan is for reference purposes only.
16-V.C. SEMAP Indicators

[24 CFR 985.3 and form HUD-52648]

The table below lists each of the SEMAP indicators, contains a description of each indicator, and explains the basis for points awarded under each indicator.

A PHA that expends less than $300,000 in Federal awards and whose Section 8 programs are not audited by an independent auditor, is not be rated under SEMAP indicators 1-7.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SEMAP Indicators</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Indicator 1: Selection from the waiting list</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Maximum Score: 15</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• This indicator shows whether the PHA has written policies in its administrative plan for selecting applicants from the waiting list and whether the PHA follows these policies when selecting applicants for admission from the waiting list.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Points are based on the percent of families that are selected from the waiting list in accordance with the PHA’s written policies, according to the PHA’s quality control sample.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Indicator 2: Rent reasonableness</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Maximum Score: 20</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• This indicator shows whether the PHA has and implements a reasonable written method to determine and document for each unit leased that the rent to owner is reasonable based on current rents for comparable unassisted units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Points are based on the percent of units for which the PHA follows its written method to determine reasonable rent and has documented its determination that the rent to owner is reasonable, according to the PHA’s quality control sample.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Indicator 3: Determination of adjusted income</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Maximum Score: 20</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• This indicator measures whether the PHA verifies and correctly determines adjusted income for each assisted family, and where applicable, uses the appropriate utility allowances for the unit leased in determining the gross rent.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Points are based on the percent of files that are calculated and verified correctly, according to the PHA’s quality control sample.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Indicator 4: Utility allowance schedule</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Maximum Score: 5</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• This indicator shows whether the PHA maintains an up-to-date utility allowance schedule.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Points are based on whether the PHA has reviewed the utility allowance schedule and adjusted it when required, according to the PHA’s certification.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Indicator 5: HQS quality control inspections</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Maximum Score: 5</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• This indicator shows whether a PHA supervisor reinspects a sample of units under contract during the PHA fiscal year, which meets the minimum sample size requirements for quality control of HQS inspections.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Points are based on whether the required quality control re-inspections were completed, according to the PHA’s certification.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Indicator 6: HQS enforcement</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Maximum Score: 10

- This indicator shows whether, following each HQS inspection of a unit under contract where the unit fails to meet HQS, any cited life-threatening deficiencies are corrected within 24 hours from the inspection and all other deficiencies are corrected within no more than 30 calendar days from the inspection or any PHA-approved extension or the PHA took appropriate action.
- Points are based on whether the PHA took appropriate action when the responsible party failed to correct all HQS deficiencies in accordance with required time frames, according to the PHA’s certification.

**Indicator 7: Expanding housing opportunities**

**Maximum Points: 5**

- Only applies to PHAs with jurisdiction in metropolitan FMR areas.
- This indicator shows whether the PHA has adopted and implemented a written policy to encourage participation by owners of units located outside areas of poverty or minority concentration; informs voucher holders of the full range of areas where they may lease units both inside and outside the PHA’s jurisdiction; and supplies a list of owners/property managers or other parties who are willing to lease units or help families find units, including units outside areas of poverty or minority concentration.
- Points are based on whether the PHA has adopted and implemented written policies in accordance with SEMAP requirements, according to the PHA’s certification.

**Indicator 8: FMR limit and payment standards**

**Maximum Points: 5 points**

- This indicator shows whether the PHA has adopted a payment standard schedule that establishes payment standard amounts by unit size for each FMR area in the PHA’s jurisdiction, that are within the basic range of 90 to 110 percent of the published FMR.
- Points are based on whether the PHA has appropriately adopted a payment standard schedule(s), according to the PHA’s certification.

**Indicator 9: Regular reexaminations**

**Maximum Points: 10**

- This indicator shows whether the PHA completes a reexamination for each participating family at least every 12 months.
- Points are based on the percent of reexaminations that are more than 2 months overdue, according to data from PIC.

**Indicator 10: Correct tenant rent calculations**

**Maximum Points: 5**

- This indicator shows whether the PHA correctly calculates the family’s share of the rent to owner.
- Points are based on the percent of correct calculations of family share of the rent, according to data from PIC.

**Indicator 11: Pre-contract HQS inspections**

**Maximum Points: 5**

- This indicator shows whether newly leased units pass HQS inspection on or before the effective date of the assisted lease and HAP contract.
- Points are based on the percent of newly leased units that passed HQS inspection prior to the effective date of the lease and HAP contract, according to data from PIC.

**Indicator 12: Annual HQS inspections**
### Maximum Points: 10
- This indicator shows whether the PHA inspects each unit under contract at least annually.
- Points are based on the percent of annual HQS inspections of units under contract that are more than 2 months overdue, according to data from PIC.

### Indicator 13: Lease-up
**Maximum Points: 20 points**
- This indicator shows whether the PHA enters HAP contracts for the number of units or funding reserved under ACC for at least one year.
- Points are based on the percent of units leased during the last completed PHA fiscal year, or the percent of allocated budget authority that has been expended by the PHA, according to data reported to HUD through the PHA’s VMS reporting.

### Indicator 14: Family self-sufficiency (FSS) enrollment and escrow account balances
**Maximum Points: 10**
- Only applies to PHAs with mandatory FSS programs.
- This indicator shows whether the PHA has enrolled families in the FSS program as required, and measures the percent of current FSS participants that have had increases in earned income which resulted in escrow account balances.
- Points are based on the percent of mandatory FSS slots that are filled and the percent of families with escrow account balances, according to data from PIC.

### Success Rate of Voucher Holders
**Maximum Points: 5**
- Only applies to PHAs that have received approval to establish success rate payment standard amounts, and isn’t effective until the second full PHA fiscal year following the date of HUD approval of success rate payment standard amounts.
- This indicator shows whether voucher holders were successful in leasing units with voucher assistance.
- Points are based on the percent of families that were issued vouchers, and that became participants in the voucher program.

### Deconcentration Bonus Indicator
**Maximum Points: 5**
- Submission of data for this indicator is mandatory for a PHA using one or more payment standard amount(s) that exceed(s) 100 percent of the published FMR set at the 50 percentile rent, starting with the second full PHA fiscal year following initial use of payment standard amounts based on the FMRs set at the 50th percentile.
- Additional points are available to PHAs that have jurisdiction in metropolitan FMR areas and that choose to submit the required data.
- Points are based on whether the data that is submitted meets the requirements for bonus points.

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### Part VI: Record Keeping

**16-VI.A. Overview**
The PHA must maintain complete and accurate accounts and other records for the program in accordance with HUD requirements, in a manner that permits a speedy and effective audit. All such records must be made available to HUD or the Comptroller General of the United States upon request.
In addition, the PHA must ensure that all applicant and participant files are maintained in a way that protects an individual’s privacy rights.

16-VI.B. Record Retention

[24 CFR 982.158]

During the term of each assisted lease, and for at least three years thereafter, the PHA must keep:

- A copy of the executed lease;
- The HAP contract; and
- The application from the family.

In addition, the PHA must keep the following records for at least three years:

- Records that provide income, racial, ethnic, gender, and disability status data on program applicants and participants;
- An application from each ineligible family and notice that the applicant is not eligible;
- HUD-required reports;
- Unit inspection reports;
- Lead-based paint records as required by 24 CFR 35, Subpart B.
- Accounts and other records supporting PHA budget and financial statements for the program;
- Records to document the basis for the PHA determination that rent to owner is a reasonable rent (initially and during the term of a HAP contract); and
- Other records specified by HUD.

The PHA must also keep the last three years of the form HUD-50058 and supporting documentation during the term of each assisted lease, and for a period of at least three years from the end of participation (EOP) date.

If an informal hearing to establish a family’s citizenship status is held, longer retention requirements apply for some types of documents. For specific requirements, see Section 16-III.D. Hearing and Appeal Provisions for Non-Citizens, Retention of Documents.

16-VI.C. Records Management

The PHA must maintain applicant and participant files and information in accordance with the regulatory requirements described below.

CHA Policy

All applicant and participant information will be kept in a secure location and access will be limited to authorized CHA staff.

The CHA staff will not discuss personal family information unless there is a business reason to do so. Inappropriate discussion of family information or improper disclosure of family information by staff will result in disciplinary action.

Privacy Act Requirements

[24 CFR 5.212 and Form-9886]

The collection, maintenance, use, and dissemination of social security numbers (SSN), employer identification numbers (EIN), any information derived from these numbers, and income information of applicants and participants must be conducted, to the extent applicable, in compliance with the Privacy Act of 1974, and all other provisions of Federal, State, and local law.
Applicants and participants, including all adults in the household, are required to sign a consent form, **HUD-9886**, Authorization for Release of Information. This form incorporates the Federal Privacy Act Statement and describes how the information collected using the form may be used, and under what conditions HUD or the PHA may release the information collected.

**Upfront Income Verification (UIV) Records**

PHAs accesses UIV data through HUD’s Enterprise Income Verification (EIV) System and is required to adopt and follow specific security procedures to ensure that all EIV data is protected in accordance with Federal laws, regardless of the media on which the data is recorded (e.g. electronic, paper). These requirements are contained in the HUD issued document, **Enterprise Income Verification (EIV) System, Security Procedures for Upfront Income Verification data**.

**CHA Policy**

Prior to utilizing HUD’s EIV system, the CHA will adopt and implement EIV security procedures in accordance with HUD requirements.

**Criminal Records**

The PHA may only disclose the criminal conviction records which the PHA receives from a law enforcement agency to officers or employees of the PHA, or to authorized representatives of the PHA who have a job-related need to have access to the information [24 CFR 5.903(e)].

The PHA must establish and implement a system of records management that ensures that any criminal record received by the PHA from a law enforcement agency is maintained confidentially, not misused or improperly disseminated, and destroyed, once the purpose for which the record was requested has been accomplished, including expiration of the period for filing a challenge to the PHA action without institution of a challenge or final disposition of any such litigation [24 CFR 5.903(g)].

The PHA must establish and implement a system of records management that ensures that any sex offender registration information received by the PHA from a State or local agency is maintained confidentially, not misused or improperly disseminated, and destroyed, once the purpose for which the record was requested has been accomplished, including expiration of the period for filing a challenge to the PHA action without institution of a challenge or final disposition of any such litigation. This requirement does not apply to information that is public information, or is obtained by the PHA other than under 24 CFR 5.905.

**Medical/Disability Records**

The PHA is not permitted to inquire about the nature or extent of a person’s disability. The PHA may not inquire about a person’s diagnosis or details of treatment for a disability or medical condition. If the PHA receives a verification document that provides such information, the PHA will not place this information in the tenant file. The PHA will destroy the document.

**Part VII: Reporting and Record Keeping for Children with Elevated Blood Lead Levels**

16-VII.A. Overview

The PHA has certain responsibilities relative to children with elevated blood lead levels that are receiving HCV assistance. The notification, verification, and hazard reduction requirements are discussed in Chapter 8- Housing Quality Standards and Rent Reasonableness Determinations. This part deals with the reporting requirements, and data collection and record keeping responsibilities that the PHA is subject to.

16-VII.B. Reporting Requirement [24 CFR 35.1225(e)]
The PHA must report the name and address of a child identified as having an elevated blood lead level to the public health department within seven calendar days of being so notified by any other medical health care professional.

**CHA Policy**
The CHA will provide the public health department written notice of the name and address of any child identified as having an elevated blood lead level.

16-VII.C. Data Collection and Record Keeping

**[24 CFR 35.1225(f)]**

At least quarterly, the PHA must attempt to obtain from the public health department(s) with a similar area of jurisdiction, the names and/or addresses of children less than six years old with an identified elevated blood lead level.

If the PHA obtains names and addresses of elevated blood lead level children from the public health department(s), the PHA must match this information with the names and addresses of families receiving HCV assistance, unless the public health department performs such a procedure. If a match occurs, the PHA must carry out the notification, verification, and hazard reduction requirements discussed in Chapter 8- Housing Quality Standards and Rent Reasonableness Determinations, and the reporting requirement discussed above.

At least quarterly, the PHA must also report an updated list of the addresses of units receiving assistance under the HCV program to the same public health department(s), unless the public health department(s) states that it does not wish to receive such a report.

**CHA Policy**
The CHA provides an updated list of the addresses of units receiving assistance under the HCV program to the local public health department(s) four times a year.

**Part VIII: Determination of Insufficient Funding**

16-VIII.A. Overview

The HCV regulations allow PHAs to deny families permission to move and to terminate Housing Assistance Payments (HAP) contracts if funding under the consolidated ACC is insufficient to support continued assistance **[24 CFR 982.314(e)(1) and 982.454]**. Insufficient funding may also impact the PHA’s ability to issue vouchers to families on the waiting list. This part discusses the methodology the PHA will use to determine whether or not the PHA has sufficient funding to issue vouchers, approve moves, and to continue subsidizing all families currently under a HAP contract.

16-VIII.B. Methodology

**CHA Policy**
The CHA will determine whether there is adequate funding to issue vouchers, approve moves to higher cost units and areas, and continue subsidizing all current participants by comparing the CHA’s annual budget authority to the annual total HAP needs on a monthly basis. The total HAP needs for the calendar year will be projected by establishing the actual HAP costs year to date. To that figure, the CHA will add anticipated HAP expenditures for the remainder of the calendar year. Projected HAP expenditures will be calculated by multiplying the projected number of units leased per remaining months by the most current month’s average HAP. The projected number of units leased per month will take into account the average monthly turnover of participant families. CHA will not consider the cost of vouchers issued that are not under HAP contract in making this determination. If the total annual HAP needs equal or exceed the annual budget authority, or if the
CHA cannot support the cost of the proposed subsidy commitment (voucher issuance or move) based on the funding analysis, the CHA will be considered to have insufficient funding.


16-IX.A. Notification to Participants

VAWA requires PHAs to notify HCV program participants of their rights under this law, including their right to confidentiality and the limits thereof.

*CHA Policy*

The CHA will provide all participants with notification of their protections and rights under VAWA at the time of admission and at regular reexamination.

The notice will explain the protections afforded under the law, inform the participant of CHA confidentiality requirements, and provide contact information for local victim advocacy groups or service providers.

The CHA will also include in all assistance termination notices a statement explaining assistance termination protection provided by VAWA (see Section 12-II.E. Terminating the Assistance of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, or Stalking Victims and Preparators).

16-IX.B. Notification to Applicants

*CHA Policy*

The CHA will provide all applicants with notification of their protections and rights under VAWA at the time they request an application for housing assistance.

The notice will explain the protections afforded under the law, inform each applicant of CHA confidentiality requirements, and provide contact information for local victim advocacy groups or service providers.

The CHA will also include in all notices of denial a statement explaining the protection against denial provided by VAWA (see Section 3-III.G. Prohibition Against Denial of Assistance to Victims of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking).

16-IX.C. Notification to Owners and Managers

VAWA requires PHAs to notify owners and managers of their rights and responsibilities under this law.

*CHA Policy*

The CHA will inform property owners and managers of their screening and termination responsibilities related to VAWA. The CHA may utilize any or all of the following means to notify owners of their VAWA responsibilities:

- As appropriate in day to day interactions with owners and managers.
- Inserts in HAP payments, 1099s, owner workshops, classes, orientations, and/or newsletters.
- Signs in the CHA lobby and/or mass mailings which include model VAWA certification forms.
Chapter 17-Property Rental Assistance Program

Introduction
This chapter describes the CHA policies related to the property-based voucher (PBV) program in nine parts:

Part I: General Requirements. This part describes general provisions of the PBV program including maximum budget authority requirements.

Part II: PBV Owner Proposals. This part includes policies related to the submission and selection of owner proposals for PBV assistance. It describes the CHA process for selecting proposals, the type of housing that is eligible to receive PBV assistance, subsidy layering requirements, and site selection policies.

Part III: Dwelling Units. This part describes requirements related to housing quality standards, the type and frequency of inspections, and housing accessibility for persons with disabilities.

Part IV: Substantially Rehabilitated and Newly Constructed Units. This part describes the CHA policies related to the development and completion of substantially rehabilitated and newly constructed housing units that will be receiving PBV assistance.

Part V: Housing Assistance Payments Contract. This part discusses HAP contract requirements and policies including the execution, term, and termination of the HAP contract. In addition, it describes how the HAP contract may be amended and identifies provisions that may be added to the HAP contract at the CHA’s discretion.

Part VI: Selection of PBV Program Participants. This part describes the policies governing how the CHA and the owner will select a family to receive PBV assistance.

Part VII: Occupancy. This part discusses occupancy requirements related to the lease, and describes under what conditions families are allowed or required to move.

Part VIII: Determining Rent to Owner. This part describes how the initial rent to owner is determined, and how rent will be re-determined throughout the life of the HAP contract. Rent reasonableness requirements are also discussed.

Part IX: Payments to Owner. This part describes the types of payments owners may receive under this program.

Part X: RHI. This part describes the Regional Housing Initiative program and CHA’s involvement.

PART I: General Requirements

17-I.A. Overview
The CHA will operate a property-based voucher program using a portion of its HCV budget authority for property-based assistance.

PBV assistance may be awarded to existing housing or substantially rehabilitated or newly constructed housing.

17-I.B. Tenant-Based Vs. Property-based Voucher Assistance
Except as otherwise noted in this chapter, the CHA policies for the tenant-based voucher program also apply to the PBV program and its participants.
PART II: PBV Owner Proposals

17-II.A. Overview
This section describes the CHA’s policies for owner submission of PBV proposals and for the CHA’s selection of PBV proposals.

17-II.B. Owner Proposal Selection Process
The CHA will select PBV proposals by any of the following three methods.

- **PBV Request for Proposals.** The CHA may solicit proposals by using a request for proposals to select proposals on a competitive basis in response to the CHA request. The CHA will not limit proposals to a single site or impose restrictions that explicitly or practically preclude owner submission of proposals for PBV housing on different sites.

- **Proposals that were previously selected based on a competition.** The CHA may consider an application and select a proposal for housing assisted under a federal, state, or local government housing assistance, community development, or supportive services program (e.g., HOME, and units for which competitively awarded low income housing tax credits have been provided) that included a competitive process. The CHA considers such applications only if the housing was competitively selected within three years of the PRA proposal selection date and where the earlier competitive proposal did not involve any consideration that the project would receive property-based voucher assistance.

- **Joint Requests for Proposals with the City and State.** In order to both maximize the impact of its property-based vouchers and to minimize the number of application processes developers face, the CHA may distribute property-based assistance via competitive processes for other affordable housing funds. In particular, the CHA will seek to link the award of property-based assistance to releases of affordable housing funds from the City of Chicago and the State of Illinois.

**Solicitation and Selection of PBV Proposals**
The CHA will announce the availability of property-based vouchers and advertise its request for proposals (RFP) for existing, substantially rehabilitated and newly constructed housing by posting notice on its website at [www.thecha.org](http://www.thecha.org).

In order for a proposal to be considered, the owner must submit a complete proposal to the CHA that responds to all the requirements in the RFP. The CHA will not review any incomplete proposals and will return any such proposals to the owner.

Using criteria in the RFP, CHA may select proposals that have less restrictive tenant screening requirements in the approved Tenant Selection Plan than those defined in the CHA Admin Plan for determining program eligibility in supportive housing developments where supportive services may assist low-income participants in obtaining and maintaining affordable housing. All tenant screening requirements in the Tenant Selection Plan must meet minimum HUD requirements for eligibility.

The CHA will evaluate each proposal on its merits using the factors in the RFP that will include, but are not limited to:

- **Extent to which the property furthers the CHA goal of de-concentrating poverty and expanding housing and economic opportunities; and**

- **Extent to which the proposal complements other local activities, such as the redevelopment of a public housing site under the HOPE VI program, the HOME program, CDBG activities, other development activities in a HUD-designated Enterprise Zone, Economic Community, Renewal Community or Neighborhood Stabilization Program, or Affordable Requirements (ARO) activities**
CHA-Owned Units
The CHA may provide PBV assistance to the CHA-Owned units only if HUD or a HUD-approved independent entity determines that the CHA-Owned units were appropriately selected.

In addition, the following program services will be performed by the HUD-approved independent entity:

1. Determine the amount of rent for the PBV assisted units.
2. Establish initial contract rents based on an appraisal conducted by a licensed, state certified appraiser.
3. Perform inspections of the PBV assisted units in accordance with Housing Quality Standards.

The CHA may compensate the independent entity and appraiser from the CHA’s MTW block grant. The CHA, independent entity, and appraiser will not charge families any fee for the appraisal or the services provided by the independent entity.

CHA Notice of Owner Selection
The CHA will notify owners in writing of the developments selected and not selected for the PBV assistance. The CHA will also announce the development selections on the CHA website.

17-II.C. Housing Type
The CHA may provide PBV assistance for units in existing housing. A housing unit is considered an existing unit for purposes of the PBV program, if, at the time of notice of the CHA selection, the units substantially comply with HQS.

The CHA may also provide PBV assistance to substantially rehabilitated or newly constructed housing. For substantial rehabilitation or new construction developments, the owner must enter into an Agreement to Enter into a Housing Assistance Payments Contract (AHAP).

17-II.D. Prohibition of Assistance for Certain Units
Ineligible Housing Types
The CHA will not provide PBV assistance to shared housing units; units on the grounds of a penal reformatory, medical, mental, or similar public or private institution; nursing homes or facilities providing continuous psychiatric, medical, nursing services, board and care, or intermediate care (except that assistance may be provided in assisted living facilities, such as: supportive living facilities in Illinois); units that are owned or controlled by an educational institution or its affiliate and are designated for occupancy by students; manufactured homes; and transitional housing.

In addition, the CHA will not provide PBV assistance for a unit occupied by an owner and by a family ineligible for participation in the PBV program. Homeownership assistance may not be provided in the PBV program. Units in the PBV program are not eligible for the CHA’s Homeownership Program.

High-rise Elevator Properties for Families with Children
The CHA will use elevator properties for families with children. The CHA has determined that there is no practical alternative to the use of elevator properties for families with children.

Subsidized Housing
The CHA will not provide PBV assistance to units in the following types of subsidized housing:

- A public housing unit;
- A unit subsidized with any other form of Section 8 assistance;
- A unit subsidized with any governmental rent subsidy (a subsidy that pays all or any part of the rent);
A unit subsidized with any governmental subsidy that covers all or any part of the operating costs of the housing;
A unit subsidized with Section 236 rental assistance payments (except that a CHA may attach assistance to a unit subsidized with Section 236 interest reduction payments);
Section 202 property for non-elderly with disabilities;
Section 811 property-based supportive housing for persons with disabilities;
Section 202 supportive housing for the elderly;
A Section 101 rent supplement property;
A unit subsidized with any form of tenant-based rental assistance;
A unit with any other duplicative federal, state, or local governmental housing subsidy, as determined by HUD or the CHA in accordance with HUD requirements.

17-II.E. Subsidy Layering Requirements
The subsidy layering review is intended to prevent excessive public assistance by combining (layering) housing assistance payment subsidy under the PBV program with other governmental housing assistance from federal, state, or local agencies, including assistance such as tax concessions or tax credits.

The HAP contract with CHA contains the owner's certification that the project has not received and will not receive (before or during the term of the HAP contract) any public assistance for acquisition, development, or operation of the housing other than assistance disclosed in the subsidy layering review.

In lieu of submitting PBV proposals to HUD for a subsidy layering review, the CHA will rely on the subsidy layering reviews conducted by the State of Illinois or the City of Chicago. By executing the HAP contract, the owner certifies that the property has not received and will not receive (before or during the term of the HAP contract) any public assistance for acquisition, development, or operation of the housing other than assistance disclosed in the subsidy layering review.

17-II.F. Cap on Number of PBV Units in Each Property
The CHA will cap the number of PBV units in each property on a case-by-case basis.

17-II.G. Site Selection Standards
Compliance with PBV Goals, Civil Rights Requirements, and HQS Site Standards
It is the CHA goal to select sites for PBV housing that provide for de-concentrating poverty and expanding housing and economic opportunities. To achieve this goal the CHA will limit approval of sites for PBV housing in census tracts that have poverty concentrations of 20 percent or less.

However, the CHA may grant exceptions to the 20 percent standard where the CHA determines that the PBV assistance will complement other local redevelopment activities designed to de-concentrate poverty and expand housing and economic opportunities in census tracts with poverty concentrations greater than 20 percent, such as sites in:

- A census tract in which the proposed PBV development will be located is in a HUD-designated Enterprise Zone, Economic Community, Renewal Community, or Neighborhood Stabilization Program Area;
- A census tract where the concentration of assisted units will be or has decreased as a result of public housing demolition and HOPE VI redevelopment;
A census tract in which the proposed PBV development will be located is undergoing significant revitalization as a result of State of Illinois or City of Chicago, or federal dollars invested in the area;

A census tract where new market rate units are being developed where such market rate units will positively impact the poverty rate in the area;

A census tract where there has been an overall decline in the poverty rate within the past five years; or

A census tract where there are meaningful opportunities for educational and economic advancement.

**Site and Neighborhood Standards for All PBV Assisted Developments**

The CHA will not enter into an AHAP for substantial rehabilitation and new construction nor enter into a HAP contract for existing housing until it has determined that the site complies with the following HUD site and neighborhood standards:

- Is adequate in size, exposure, and contour to accommodate the number and type of units proposed;
- Has adequate utilities and streets available to service the site;
- Is accessible to social, recreational, educational, commercial, and health facilities and services and other municipal facilities and services equivalent to those found in neighborhoods consisting largely of unassisted similar units;
- Promote a greater choice of housing opportunities and avoid undue concentration of assisted persons in areas containing a high proportion of low-income persons; and
- Except for housing designed for elderly persons, is located so that travel time and cost via public transportation or private automobile from the neighborhood to places of employment is not excessive.

**Additional Site and Neighborhood Standards for New Construction Developments Only**

Newly constructed housing must also meet the following HUD standards:

- The site must not be located in an area of minority concentration unless the CHA determines that sufficient, comparable opportunities exist for housing for minority families in the income range to be served by the proposed property outside areas of minority concentration or that the property is necessary to meet overriding housing needs that cannot be met in that housing market area;
- The site must not be located in a racially mixed area if the property will cause a significant increase in the proportion of minority to non-minority residents in the area; and
- The neighborhood must not be one that is seriously detrimental to family life or in which substandard dwellings or other undesirable conditions predominate.

**17-II.H. Environmental Review**

The CHA activities under the PBV program are subject to HUD environmental regulations in 24 CFR parts 50 and 58 and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.). The CHA will not enter into an AHAP to enter into a HAP contract nor enter into a HAP contract until it has complied with the environmental review requirements. For the purposes of performing the environmental review, the CHA will engage the City of Chicago or the State of Illinois, both of which are HUD-approved responsible entities, or HUD, as appropriate.

The CHA will supply all information necessary for the responsible entity to perform any required environmental review. If mitigating measures are required as a result of the environmental review, the CHA will require the owner to complete them before entering into an AHAP or HAP.
Part III: Dwelling Units

17-III.A. Overview
This part identifies the special housing quality standards, housing accessibility for persons with disabilities, and special procedures for conducting housing quality standards inspections that apply to the PBV program.

17-III.B. Housing Quality Standards
The housing quality standards (HQS) for the tenant-based program, including those for special housing types, generally apply to the PBV program. HQS requirements for shared housing, manufactured home space rental and the homeownership option do not apply because these housing types are not assisted under the PBV program.

The uniform physical condition standards (UPCS at 24 CFR 5.703) do not apply to the PBV program.

In general the CHA or its contractors will inspect units in accordance with the requirements stated below and in Chapter 8. Alternatively, subject to HUD approval of the CHA’s MTW Plan, the CHA may use the City of Chicago’s Certificate of Occupancy for the initial lease-up of newly constructed and substantially rehabilitated housing. In order to reduce duplicative inspections, the CHA may also utilize the City’s and/or the Illinois Housing Development Authority’s inspections for those properties that are receiving assistance and oversight from City agencies.

In addition, as approved in its MTW Plan, the CHA may approve owners/property managers to conduct HQS inspections for all units, emergency inspections and for turnover units. In such instances, the property manager will submit a certification that inspections were completed by the anniversary date and the CHA will conduct a comprehensive Quality Control Review (QC) and Asset Management Review (AMR) of such inspections to assure that they are performed in accordance with the inspection procedures. In addition, the property manager must provide the CHA with building certifications such as those for boilers and elevators as required by the City of Chicago. Owners that have maintained a two-year consecutive Asset Management Review (AMR) of “Stable Status” will be allowed to receive HQS inspections biennially by the CHA procured vendor. Owners who maintain a “Watchlist” or “Trouble” AMR status will continue to receive annual HQS inspections by the procured vendor. Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) covered properties will maintain annual inspections until the property has demonstrated a two year consecutive Asset Management Review (AMR) of “Stable Status.”

If the CHA is notified by the City of Chicago that a property leased under the PBV program does not meet the local building code, the CHA will consider the property as failing HQS. Owner failure to make the necessary repairs within the City’s required timeframe may result in termination of the HAP Contract.

If the property manager does not certify that the inspections were completed by the anniversary date, the CHA will abate the HAP for all units in the project until the required inspections are completed.

If a unit fails a CHA quality control inspection, the CHA will abate the HAP in accordance with the abatement procedures in Chapter 8- Housing Quality Standards and Rent Reasonableness Determinations.

Lead-based Paint
17-III.C. Housing Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities
The housing must comply with program accessibility requirements of \textit{section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794)} and implementing regulations at \textit{24 CFR part 8}. The CHA must ensure that the percentage of accessible dwelling units complies with the requirements of section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794), as implemented by HUD’s regulations at \textit{24 CFR 8, subpart C}.

Housing first occupied after March 13, 1991, must comply with design and construction requirements of the \textit{Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988} and implementing regulations at \textit{24 CFR 100.205}, as applicable. (\textit{24 CFR 983.102})

17-III.D. Inspecting Units

Pre-selection Inspection
In order to determine that the site meets site and neighborhood standards, the CHA will examine the proposed site for substantial rehabilitation and new construction housing before the proposal selection date.

Prior to the proposal selection date, existing housing must be inspected to determine that the property substantially complies with HQS. As authorized in its \textit{MTW Plan}, the CHA may use the City of Chicago’s Certificate of Occupancy for the initial lease-up of newly constructed and substantially rehabilitated housing of PRA and RAD2 properties. In order to reduce duplicative inspections, the CHA may also utilize the City’s and/or the Illinois Housing Development Authority’s inspections for those properties that are receiving assistance and oversight from City agencies. .

However, the CHA will not execute the HAP contract for existing housing until the units fully comply with HQS. An owner is eligible to have the HQS inspection once the unit is ready and have the HQS inspection valid for 90 days.

Pre-HAP Contract Inspections
For existing housing, the CHA may accept units for placement under a PRA HAP contract either by a documented HQS “pass” inspection report or by the City’s Certificate of Occupancy issued within 12 months of the PRA HAP contract execution.

If a unit passes an HQS pre-selection inspection, an additional inspection is not required if the HAP contract is entered into within a reasonable period of time not exceeding 12 months.

For properties involving new construction or substantial rehabilitation, the CHA will consider issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy by the City of Chicago as evidence of the property’s compliance with HQS.

If the unit passes the pre-HAP contract inspection a subsequent inspection is not required at the time of initial occupancy of the unit.

Turnover Inspections
As authorized in its \textit{MTW Plan}, the CHA may inspect or require the owner/agent to inspect the unit before providing assistance to a new family in a contract unit. The CHA will not provide assistance on behalf of the family until the unit fully complies with HQS based on the CHA’s inspection or the owner/agent’s certification that the unit meets HQS.

Annual Inspections
At least annually during the term of the HAP contract, the CHA will perform quality control inspections of a percentage of randomly selected contract units in each building to determine if the contract units and the premises are maintained in accordance with HQS.
Based on the inspection results, the CHA will determine if additional units need to be inspected and may inspect a larger sample or 100 percent of the contract units in a building or development.

Other Inspections
The CHA will inspect contract units whenever needed to determine that the contract units comply with HQS and that the owner is providing maintenance, utilities, and other services in accordance with the HAP contract. The CHA will take into account complaints and any other information coming to its attention in scheduling inspections. The CHA may rely on inspection reports by other governmental entities to determine compliance.

The CHA may conduct follow-up inspections needed to determine if the owner (or, if applicable, the family) has corrected an HQS violation, and will conduct inspections to determine the basis for exercise of contractual and other remedies for owner or family violation of HQS.

In conducting the CHA supervisory quality control HQS inspections, the CHA will include a representative sample of both tenant-based and property-based units.

Inspecting CHA-Owned Units
In the case of CHA-Owned units, the inspections must be performed by an independent agency approved by HUD. The independent entity must furnish a copy of each inspection report to the CHA and to the HUD field office where the property is located. The CHA must take all necessary actions in response to inspection reports from the independent agency.

PART IV: Substantial Rehabilitation and New Construction

17-IV.A. Overview
This part describes the PBV assistance requirements unique to substantially rehabilitated or newly constructed housing that do not apply to PBV assistance in existing housing.

Housing selected as substantial rehabilitation and new construction cannot at a later date be selected for PBV assistance as existing housing.

17-IV.B. Agreement to Enter into HAP Contract
In order to offer PBV assistance in substantially rehabilitated or newly constructed units, the CHA must enter into an Agreement to Enter into HAP Contract (AHAP) with the owner of the property. The AHAP must be in the form required by HUD.

In the AHAP, the owner agrees to develop the PBV contract units to comply with HQS, and the CHA agrees that upon timely completion of such development in accordance with the terms of the Agreement, the CHA will enter into a HAP contract with the owner for the contract units.

Execution of the AHAP
The CHA will enter into the AHAP with the owner after receiving both environmental approval and notice that subsidy layering requirements have been met.

17-IV.C. Conduct of Development Work
Labor Standards
If the development has nine or more units (whether or not completed in stages) proposed for PBV assistance, the owner, the owner’s contractors and subcontractors must pay Davis-Bacon wages to laborers and mechanics employed in the rehabilitation or new construction of housing.
The owner, contractors, and subcontractors must also comply with the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act, Department of Labor regulations in 29 CFR part 5, and other applicable federal labor relations laws and regulations. The CHA will monitor compliance with labor standards.

Equal Opportunity
The owner must comply with Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 and the implementing regulations at 24 CFR part 135. The owner must also comply with federal equal employment opportunity requirements.

Owner Disclosure
The AHAP and HAP contracts must include a certification that the owner and other property principals are not on the U.S. General Services Administration list of parties excluded from federal procurement and non-procurement programs.

The owner must also disclose any possible conflict of interest that would be a violation of the Agreement, the HAP contract, or HUD regulations.

17-IV.D. Completion of Housing
The AHAP must specify deadlines for completion of the housing and for submission by the owner of evidence of completion.

Evidence of Completion
The CHA will determine the need for the owner to submit additional documentation as evidence of housing completion on a case-by-case basis depending on the nature of the PBV property. The CHA will specify any additional documentation requirements in the AHAP.

CHA Acceptance of Completed Units
Upon notice from the owner that units have been completed and the City of Chicago has provided a Certificate of Occupancy, the CHA will determine if the housing has been completed in accordance with the AHAP and that the owner has submitted all required evidence of completion.

If the CHA determines the work has been completed in accordance with the AHAP and that the owner has submitted all required evidence of completion, the CHA will submit the HAP contract for execution by the owner and then execute the HAP contract.

If the work has not been completed in accordance with the AHAP, the CHA will not enter into the HAP contract.

PART V: Housing Assistance Payments Contract (HAP)
17-V.A. Overview
The CHA will enter into a HAP contract with an owner for units that are covered by PBV assistance, the HAP governs how the CHA will pay housing assistance for contract units leased and occupied by eligible families during the HAP contract term. The HAP contract must be in the form required by HUD or the form developed by the CHA under MTW.

Execution of the HAP Contract
For existing housing, the HAP contract will be executed after the CHA determines that units pass HQS.

For substantially rehabilitated or newly constructed housing, the HAP contract will be executed after the CHA determines that the units have been completed in accordance with the AHAP to enter into HAP, the City has
issued a Certificate of Occupancy for the units, and the owner has submitted all required evidence of completion.

The CHA may place units under HAP contract in stages. There is a single effective date, annual anniversary and expiration date for all units under a PBV HAP contract, even in cases where contract units are placed under the HAP contract in stages (on different dates), See Section 17.V.C. HAP Effective, Anniversary, and Expiration Dates.

Term of HAP Contract
The CHA under its MTW Program may enter into a HAP contract for an initial term of no less than one year and no more than thirty years subject to the availability of funding.

The term of all PBV HAP contracts will be negotiated with the owner on a case-by-case basis.

Within one year before expiration of the HAP contract, the CHA may extend the term of the contract for a maximum term, which shall not to exceed a total of 40 years per CHA Board authorization. In making this determination, the CHA will consider if an extension is appropriate to continue providing affordable housing for low-income families. All extensions are subject to the conditions prescribed by the CHA at the time of the extension. Through this activity, no contract will exceed a term totaling 40 years including the extensions.

When determining whether or not to extend an expiring PBV contract, the CHA will consider several factors including, but not limited to:

- The cost of extending the contract and the amount of available budget authority;
- The condition of the contract units;
- The owner’s record of compliance with obligations under the HAP contract and lease(s);
- Whether the location of the units continues to support the goals of de-concentrating poverty and expanding housing opportunities; and
- Whether the funding could be used more appropriately for tenant-based assistance.

Rent Payments during Initial Operating Period
To assure the financial integrity of the PBV property at the time of initial occupancy, the CHA may provide pre-occupancy payments to the owner during the initial occupancy phase following the execution of the PRA HAP contract. The CHA may make a payment of 50 percent of the contract rent for two months for any unoccupied PRA units. In some instances, the CHA may elect to make an additional payment of 100 percent of the contract rent for one month for unoccupied PRA units Under no circumstances will the CHA make pre-occupancy payments for a total of more than 90 calendar days for any unit in the property.

Termination by CHA
The HAP contract provides that the term of the CHA’s contractual commitment is subject to the availability of sufficient funding to make full payment of housing assistance payments payable to the owner for any contract year in accordance with the terms of the HAP contract.

If the CHA determines there is insufficient funding to continue housing assistance payments for all contract units and for the full term of the HAP contract, the CHA may terminate the HAP contract by providing notice in accordance with the HAP contract.

Termination by Owner
If in accordance with program requirements the amount of rent to an owner for any contract unit is reduced below the amount of the rent to owner at the beginning of the HAP contract term, the owner may terminate the HAP contract by giving notice to the CHA. If a contract is terminated or expires without extension, an
assisted family may elect to remain in the unit and will then be assisted under the tenant-based voucher program.

Remedies for HQS Violations
The CHA will abate and terminate units under PBV HAP contracts for non-compliance with HQS in accordance with the policies and procedures used in the tenant-based voucher program. These policies are contained in Section 8-II.G., Enforcing Owner Compliance.

17-V.B. Amendments to the HAP Contract
Substitution of Contract Units
At the CHA’s discretion and subject to all PBV requirements, the HAP contract may be amended to substitute a different unit with the same number of bedrooms in the same contiguous development or scattered site property as a previously covered contract unit. Prior to the contract amendment, the CHA must inspect the proposed unit to determine HQS compliance. However, for substantially rehabilitated or new construction housing where the proposed unit has never been occupied, the CHA may use the Certificate of Occupancy in lieu of an inspection. The CHA must also determine the reasonable rent for the unit or may use the current contract rents for comparable units in the development or scattered site.

Addition of Contract Units
The CHA may amend a HAP contract following the execution date of the HAP contract to add additional PBV units in the same property as long as the total does not exceed the Board-approved number of units. This type of amendment is subject to all PBV program requirements except that a new PBV proposal is not required. If the addition of PBV units is above the number of approved by the Board, a new proposal must be submitted.

The CHA will consider adding contract units to the HAP contract when the CHA determines that additional housing is needed to serve eligible low-income families. Circumstances may include, but are not limited to:

• The local housing inventory is reduced due to a disaster (either due to loss of housing units, or an influx of displaced families); and
• Voucher holders are having difficulty finding units that meet program requirements.

17-V.C. HAP Effective, Anniversary and Expiration Dates
The effective date for a PBV HAP contract is the date that initial units become eligible for HAP payment. There is a single effective and expiration date for each PBV HAP contract. The dates do not change even in cases where contract units are placed under the HAP contract in stages or units are added by amendment.

The annual anniversary is the first day of the calendar month that corresponds with the PBV HAP contract effective date.

There is a single annual anniversary and expiration date for all units under a particular HAP contract, even in cases where contract units are placed under the HAP contract in stages (on different dates) or units are added by amendment. The anniversary and expiration dates for all units coincide with the dates for the contract units that were originally placed under contract.

17-V.D. Owner Responsibilities Under the HAP
When the owner executes the HAP contract the owner certifies that at such execution and at all times during the term of the HAP contract:

• All contract units are in good condition and the owner is maintaining the premises and contract units in accordance with HQS;
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- The owner is providing all services, maintenance, equipment and utilities as agreed to under the HAP contract and the leases;
- Each contract unit for which the owner is receiving HAP, is leased to an eligible family referred by the CHA, and the lease is in accordance with the HAP contract and HUD requirements;
- To the best of the owner’s knowledge the family resides in the contract unit for which the owner is receiving HAP, and the unit is the family’s only residence;
- The owner (including a principal or other interested party) is not the spouse, parent, child, grandparent, grandchild, sister, or brother of any member of a family residing in a contract unit;
- The amount of the HAP the owner is receiving is correct under the HAP contract;
- The rent for contract units does not exceed rents charged by the owner for comparable unassisted units;
- Except for HAP and tenant rent, the owner has not received and will not receive any other payment or consideration for rental of the contract unit; and
- The family does not own or have any interest in the contract unit.

17-V.E. Additional HAP Requirements

Housing Quality and Design Requirements

The CHA will identify the need for any special features relating to the quality, architecture, and design of PBV housing on a case-by-case basis depending on the intended occupancy of the PBV property. The CHA will specify any special design standards or additional requirements in the invitation for PBV proposals, the AHAP, and the HAP contract.

The CHA requires the owner to maintain and operate the contract units and premises in accordance with HQS, including performance of ordinary and extraordinary maintenance. The owner must provide all the services, maintenance, equipment, and utilities specified in the HAP contract with the CHA and in the lease with each assisted family. In addition, maintenance, replacement and redecoration must be in accordance with the standard practice for the building as established by the owner.

Vacancy Payments

At the discretion of the CHA, the HAP contract may provide for vacancy payments to the owner for a CHA-determined period of vacancy extending from the beginning of the first calendar month after the move-out month for a period not exceeding two full months following the move-out month. The amount of the vacancy payment will be determined by the CHA and cannot exceed the monthly rent to owner under the assisted lease, minus any portion of the rental payment received by the owner (including amounts available from the tenant’s security deposit).

The CHA will decide on a case-by-case basis if the CHA will provide vacancy payments to the owner. The HAP contract with the owner will contain any such agreement, including the amount of the vacancy payment and the period for which the owner will qualify for these payments.

Part VI: Selection of PBV Program Participants

17-VI.A. Overview

This part describes policies related to eligibility and admission to the PBV program that are different from those for the tenant-based program.
17-VI.B. Eligibility For PBV Assistance
The CHA will determine an applicant family’s eligibility for the PBV program in accordance with the policies in Chapter 3. For voucher participants, eligibility was determined at original admission to the voucher program and does not need to be re-determined at the commencement of PBV assistance.

In-Place Families
An eligible family residing in a proposed PBV contract unit on the date the proposal is selected by the CHA is considered an “in-place family.” If a unit to be placed under contract (either an existing unit or a unit requiring substantial rehabilitation) is occupied by an eligible family on the date the proposal is selected, the CHA will process the family as a Special Admission. Admission of eligible in-place families is not subject to income targeting requirements. However, all other eligibility requirements apply.

17-VI.C. Organization of the Waiting List
For its PBV program, the CHA maintains: a CHA-managed Site-Based Wait List for properties and units receiving benefit of the Project-Based Voucher (PBV). Each PRA PBV property will have its own CHA-managed, site-based wait list or be grouped with other properties to form a combined wait list. CHA may group individual PRA buildings with fewer than fifty PRA units together with similar buildings on one site-based wait list, provided that the tenant selection criteria for the buildings so grouped are substantially similar. Groups of PBV units located in a community region or groups of PBV units having other common characteristic such as a single owner, similar screening criteria or providing supportive services for specific needs, shall have an individualized site-based wait list.

For properties participating in the CHA’s Property Rental Assistance Program, applicants will be selected from the state authorized lists, as well as relocates covered under the Relocation Rights Contract whose right of return or return preference to final replacement housing has not been satisfied. Exceptions are made for properties that have specific requirements such as age or geographic location, or special needs housing.

17-VI.D. Selection from the Waiting List
Applicants who will occupy units with PBV assistance will be selected from the CHA’s property-based waiting list. The CHA may establish selection criteria or preferences for occupancy of particular PBV units. The CHA will place families referred by the PBV owner on the property-based waiting list.

Units with Accessibility Features
When selecting families to occupy PBV units that have special accessibility features for persons with disabilities, the CHA will first refer to the property owner families who require such features.

Priorities
Priority for admission to PRA PBV developments will be given to wait list applicants that:
• Live in a property at the time of owner proposal selection for PRA assistance (this is the highest preference for occupancy of a unit in the property);
• Live in CHA public housing units but require supportive housing and will not be able to sustain lease compliance and therefore run the risk of becoming homeless; or
• Are covered under the Relocation Rights Contract and retain a right of return or return preference to final replacement housing that has not been satisfied.

Such families are not required to be on the PRA waiting list prior to admission to the program.
Preferences
The CHA will select families according to the preferences set forth in the property’s Tenant Selection Plan (TSP). If the property does not have a TSP or if the TSP is silent on selection preferences, the CHA will select families in order of preference as described for the tenant-based voucher program in Section 4-III.C. Selection Method.

The CHA will give preference to families that meet the specific requirements for occupancy, where the tenant selection plan of the PRA properties or PRA units is limited to occupancy by the homeless, seniors, families with persons with disabilities, families needing supportive services, veterans or families needing assisted living. The CHA will give preference to families that meet the specific requirements for occupancy. CHA will give preference to families that meet HUD’s definition of homelessness under the HEARTH Act for properties that include social services. Where occupancy of the PRA property requires that the family meet HUD’s definition of homelessness under the HEARTH Act and no such applicant exists on CHA’s managed wait list, applicants will be referred by the City of Chicago or Chicago Continuum of Care, through the Coordinated Entry System (CES).

The CHA maintains separate preferences for the tenant-based HCV program (See Chapter 4- Applicant, Waiting List, and Tenant Selection).

Verification of Preference Status
The CHA will verify eligibility for local preferences as follows:

- For families that qualify for the work preference:
  - The CHA will verify the preference using the verification procedures for work status as provided in ‘Chapter 7 of the Administrative Plan.
- For families who live or work in the neighborhood of properties receiving PBV assistance:
  - The CHA will verify residency using a recent copy of a utility bill mailed to the family, driver’s license, or similar document as evidence of residence. The CHA will use a recent pay stub or statement from the employer as evidence of the family’s employment in the neighborhood.
- For families living in the CHA public housing developments that, without supportive services, will not be able to sustain lease compliance and therefore run the risk of becoming homeless:
  - The CHA will verify that the family requires supportive services (for selection for supportive services units only.)
- For homeless families or individuals:
  - The CHA will verify the person’s eligibility with the City of Chicago or other entity that works with the provision of food, temporary shelter, or other services to the homeless population.

Owner Referrals
Beginning 120 days from initial occupancy of new construction and substantial rehabilitation developments the CHA may begin referring applicants from the property-based waiting list for screening by the owner.

For existing housing, the CHA may refer applicants for vacant contract units for the first 30-60 days prior to HAP contract execution.

17-VI.E. Offer of PBV Assistance

Refusal of Offer
Upon selection of an applicant from the CHA-managed waiting list and determination of family eligibility, the CHA will refer the family to the appropriate development for screening by the owner. If the applicant declines the first offer of a PRA unit without good cause, the CHA will remove the name from the waiting list.
an applicant decline to apply for a unit or accept an offer of a PRA PBV unit with verified good cause, the applicant will be allowed an opportunity to remain on the waitlist or change their PRA PBV waitlist selection.

Some families may qualify for more than one-unit size. CHA will refer wait list Applicants to a PRA property or property group in accordance with the first unit available based on the Number of Persons per Unit Standards. As an example, PRA PBV properties or property groups with a studio apartment will receive a wait list for single person households. Refusal to be screened for a unit or to not accept a unit offer at a particular site without good cause will result in the Applicant’s name being removed from the wait list. Applicants must take the first unit offered, regardless of unit size, or refuse it with good cause. Refusal of a unit offer solely because an Applicant is waiting for a larger unit for which they may also qualify is not good cause for refusal.

Removal from the PRA PBV wait list will not affect the family’s standing on CHA’s Housing Choice Voucher or Public Housing wait lists.

Any family that is removed from the PRA PBV wait list is eligible to reapply during any time the wait list is open. The date of the new application will be utilized for wait list order.

The CHA will not remove the family’s name from the property-based waiting list if the family’s refusal of the two offers is based on good cause approved by the CHA. Some examples of good cause include a unit that does not have the necessary accessibility features required by a person with disabilities, the unit is not convenient to public transportation needed for the family to work, or a serious illness, hospitalization or death of a family member.

Disapproval by Owner/property manager

If a PBV owner rejects a family for admission to the owner’s units, such rejection will not affect the family’s position on the property-based voucher waiting list. The CHA will review the owner’s rejections to ensure that it meets the property’s tenant selection criteria and does not conflict with City of Chicago, State of Illinois, and federal law. Should the CHA determine that the owner is rejecting families without good cause or in violation of the law, the CHA will exercise remedies under the HAP contract and other laws.

Acceptance of Offer

Family Briefing

When a family accepts an offer for PBV assistance, the CHA will brief the family information on how the program works and the responsibilities of the family and owner.

The CHA will provide a briefing packet that explains how the CHA determines the total tenant payment for a family, the family obligations under the program, and applicable fair housing information.

Persons with Disabilities

If an applicant family’s head or spouse is disabled, the CHA will assure effective communication, in accordance with its Reasonable Accommodation Policy. In addition, the CHA will have a process for referring a family that includes a member with mobility or visual/hearing impairments to an appropriate accessible PBV unit.

Persons with Limited English Proficiency

The CHA should take reasonable steps to assure meaningful access by persons with limited English proficiency in accordance with its Limited English Proficiency Policy.

17-VI.F. Owner Selection of Tenants

The owner is responsible for developing written tenant selection procedures that are consistent with the purpose of improving housing opportunities for very low-income families and reasonably related to program
eligibility and an applicant’s ability to fulfill their obligations under the lease. The owner must promptly notify the CHA in writing within 10 calendar days of rejecting an applicant, advise on the grounds of the rejection, and provide a copy of the rejection documentation.

Leasing
During the term of the HAP contract, the owner must lease contract units to eligible families that are selected and referred by the CHA from the CHA’s waiting list. The contract unit leased to the family must be the appropriate size unit for the size of the family, based on the CHA’s subsidy standards.

A family that holds a current voucher from the CHA may lease a unit in a property receiving PBV assistance. However, families wishing to move into a PBV property must relinquish their voucher to the CHA.

Filling Vacancies
The owner must notify the CHA in writing (mail, fax, or e-mail) within 10 calendar days of learning about any vacancy or expected vacancy.

The CHA will make every reasonable effort to refer families to the owner within 15 calendar days of receiving such notice from the owner.

Reduction in HAP Contract Units Due to Vacancies
If any contract units have been vacant for 120 days, the CHA will give notice to the owner that the HAP contract will be amended to reduce the number of contract units that have been vacant for this period. The CHA will provide the notice to the owner within 10 calendar days of the 120th day of the vacancy. The amendment to the HAP contract will be effective the 1st day of the month following the date of the CHA’s notice.

17-VI.G. Tenant Screening

CHA Responsibility
The CHA is not responsible or liable to the owner or any other person for the family’s behavior or suitability for tenancy.

The CHA will not conduct screening to determine a PBV applicant family’s suitability for tenancy for the owner.

The CHA will inform owners of their responsibility to screen prospective tenants, and will provide owners with the required known name and address information, at the time of the turnover HQS inspection or before. The CHA will not provide any additional information to the owner, such as tenancy or criminal histories.

Owner Responsibility
The owner is responsible for screening and selection of the family to occupy the owner’s unit. When screening families the owner may consider a family’s background with respect to the following factors:

- Payment of rent and utility bills;
- Caring for a unit and premises;
- Respecting the rights of other residents to the peaceful enjoyment of their housing;
- Drug-related criminal activity or other criminal activity that is a threat to the health, safety, or property of others; and
- Compliance with other essential conditions of tenancy.

17-VI.H. Screening Policies for Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) Properties
Households living in CHA Mod Rehab units that are converted to the RAD program under RAD’s Second Component are considered new admissions to the PRA program. The preferences and screening criteria presented in this chapter apply to those families, with the following exceptions:
For families in all Mod Rehab properties being converted to the RAD program, the CHA will use only the mandatory screening criteria required by HUD, listed in Section 3-III.B. Mandatory Denial of Assistance, at conversion. It will not use the additional discretionary screening criteria listed in Section 3-III.C. Other Permitted Reasons for Denial of Assistance.

For families in Mod Rehab Single Room Occupancy (SRO) properties, the CHA will use only the mandatory screening criteria required by HUD, listed in Section 3-III.B. Mandatory Denial of Assistance, on an ongoing basis. It will not use the additional discretionary screening criteria listed in Section 3-III.C. Other Permitted Reasons for Denial of Assistance.

Mod Rehab SRO properties that are converted to the RAD program will have a preference for homeless families in addition to the preferences described above. For the purposes of this preference, the CHA will use the definition used in the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act, as defined in the Federal Register (Vol. 76, No. 233).

For further policies related to the RAD program, including its First Component, see Chapter 18 of the Administrative Plan.

Part VII: Occupancy

17-VII.A. Overview
After an applicant has been selected from the waiting list, determined eligible by the CHA, referred to an owner and determined suitable by the owner, the family will sign the lease and occupancy of the unit will begin.

Under its MTW authorizations, the CHA may choose to approve qualified owners/property managers to conduct initial eligibility determination of income and family composition, regular reexaminations of family income and composition, and interim reexaminations. The CHA may also approve qualified property managers to calculate the family share and subsidy amount. In such instances the CHA will conduct a quality control review of the property manager’s determinations of eligibility and reexaminations of income and family composition to assure that they are performed in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Administrative Plan in Chapters 3, 6, 7, and 11.

17-VII.B. Lease
The tenant must have legal capacity to enter a lease under State of Illinois and City of Chicago law. Legal capacity means that the tenant is bound by the terms of the lease and may enforce the terms of the lease against the owner.

Form of Lease
The tenant and the owner must enter into a written lease that is signed by both parties. If an owner uses a standard lease form for rental units to unassisted tenants in the locality or premises, the same lease must be used for assisted tenants, except that the lease must include a HUD-required tenancy addendum. The tenancy addendum must include, word-for-word, all provisions required by HUD.

If the owner does not use a standard lease form for rental to unassisted tenants, the owner may use another form of lease.

The CHA will not review the owner’s lease for compliance with Chicago laws.

Lease Requirements
The lease for a PBV unit must specify all of the following information:

- The names of the owner and the tenant;
• The unit rented (address, apartment number, if any, and any other information needed to identify the leased contract unit);
• The term of the lease (initial term and any provision for renewal);
• The amount of the tenant rent to owner, which is subject to change during the term of the lease in accordance with HUD requirements;
• A specification of the services, maintenance, equipment, and utilities that will be provided by the owner; and
• The amount of any charges for food, furniture, or supportive services.

Tenancy Addendum
The owner will be required to enter into a tenancy addendum to the lease as provided by the CHA which shall include:

• The program tenancy requirements;
• The composition of the household as approved by the CHA (the names of family members and any CHA-approved live-in aide);
• All provisions in the HUD-required tenancy addendum must be included in the lease. The terms of the tenancy addendum prevail over other provisions of the lease.

Initial Term and Lease Renewal
The initial lease term must be for at least one year. Upon expiration of the lease, an owner may renew the lease, refuse to renew the lease for “good cause,” or refuse to renew the lease without good cause. If the owner refuses to renew the lease without good cause, the CHA will issue a tenant-based voucher to the family and remove the unit from the PBV HAP contract. The owner or managing agent must provide CHA a copy of the lease and any subsequent lease renewals.

Changes in the Lease
If the tenant and owner agree to any change in the lease, the change must be in writing, and the owner must immediately give the CHA a copy of all changes.

Owner Termination of Tenancy
With two exceptions, the owner of a PBV unit may terminate tenancy for the same reasons an owner may in the tenant-based voucher program (see Section 12-III.B. Grounds for Owner Termination of Tenancy and 24 CFR 982.310). In the PBV program, terminating tenancy for “good cause” does not include doing so for a business or economic reason, or a desire to use the unit for personal or family use or other non-residential purpose.

Non-Compliance with Supportive Services Requirement
If a family is living in a property-based unit in supportive housing, and the family fails to complete its supportive services requirement without good cause, such failure is grounds for lease termination by the owner.

Tenant Absence from the Unit
Notice is required when all household members will be absent from the unit for over 30 consecutive days. If the entire household is absent beyond 90 consecutive days even if they are paying rent and/or utilities, CHA will consider the unit to be abandoned and terminate the assistance. CHA may require the family to supply information to verify absence or residency in assisted unit. Exceptions will be made for instances related to reasonable accommodation or VAWA. The owner may specify in the lease a maximum period of tenant absence from the unit that is shorter than the maximum period permitted by the CHA policy.
Security Deposits
The CHA prohibits the owner from collecting security deposits from assisted families in excess of amounts charged by the owner to unassisted tenants.

When the tenant moves out of a contract unit, the owner, subject to state and local law, may use the security deposit, including any interest on the deposit, in accordance with the lease, as reimbursement for any unpaid tenant rent, damages to the unit, or other amounts owed by the tenant under the lease.

The owner must give the tenant a written list of all items charged against the security deposit and the amount of each item. After deducting the amount used to reimburse the owner, the owner must promptly refund the full amount of the balance to the tenant.

If the security deposit does not cover the amount owed by the tenant under the lease, the owner may seek to collect the balance from the tenant. The CHA has no liability or responsibility for payment of any amount owed by the family to the owner.

17-VII.C. Moves
Overcrowded, Under-Occupied, and Accessible Units
The CHA will notify the family and the owner of the family’s need to move based on the occupancy of a wrong-size or accessible unit within 10 calendar days of the CHA’s determination. The CHA will offer the family the following types of continued assistance in the following order, based on the availability of units:

1. PBV assistance in the same building or property
2. PBV assistance in another property
3. Tenant-based voucher assistance.

If the CHA offers the family a tenant-based voucher, the CHA must terminate the housing assistance payments for a wrong-sized or accessible unit at expiration of the term of the family’s voucher (including any extension granted by the CHA).

If the CHA offers the family another form of assistance that is not a tenant-based voucher, and the family does not accept the offer, does not move out of the PBV unit within a reasonable time as determined by the CHA, or both, the CHA must terminate the housing assistance payments for the unit at the expiration of a reasonable period as determined by the CHA.

When the CHA offers a family another form of assistance that is not a tenant-based voucher, the family will be given 10 days from the date of the offer to accept the offer and 30 days to move out of the PBV unit. If the family does not move out by the expiration of this 30-day period, the CHA will terminate the housing assistance payments on the 31st day.

The CHA may make exceptions to this 30-day period if needed for reasons beyond the family’s control such as death, serious illness, or other medical emergency of a family member.

Family Right to Move (Transfer to Tenant-Based Program)
The family may terminate the lease at any time after one year of occupancy provided that the family has not violated any of its family obligations. The family must give advance written notice to the owner in accordance with the lease and provide a copy of such notice to the CHA. If the family wishes to move with continued tenant-based assistance, the family must contact the CHA to request the rental assistance prior to providing notice to terminate the lease.
In the case of families living in supportive housing under the property-based voucher assistance, the family may terminate the lease at any time of occupancy provided that the family has not violated any of its family obligations and provided that the family no longer requires supportive housing.

If the family terminates the lease in accordance with these requirements, the CHA will offer the family the opportunity for continued tenant-based assistance, in the form of a voucher or other comparable tenant-based rental assistance, if it is available. If voucher or other comparable tenant-based assistance is not immediately available upon termination of the family’s lease in the PBV unit, the CHA will place the family’s name on the tenant-based HCV transfer list as specified in Chapter 4- Applicant, Waiting List, and Tenant Selection and the CHA must give the family priority to receive the next available opportunity for continued tenant-based assistance.

If the family terminates the assisted lease before the end of a year or in the case of a family that has not completed the supportive services requirements the family relinquishes the opportunity for continued tenant-based assistance.

If the family is living in a Single Room Occupancy (SRO) unit, the family will be offered tenant based assistance for an efficiency or a one-bedroom unit.

For persons receiving PBV assistance in a Single Room Occupancy (SRO) unit who either are occupying the wrong size unit with other family members who were not considered when assistance was first given, or who request to be transferred to a larger unit to accommodate additional family members, the CHA will not grant a transfer to a larger unit, unless the CHA investigation reveals unforeseen circumstances after the initial SRO occupancy qualify the family for a transfer to a larger unit.

17-VII.D. Exceptions to the Occupancy Cap
Under its MTW Agreement, the CHA is exempt from the occupancy cap.

17-VII.E. Participation in Special Programs by PBV Residents
Participants residing in property-based units are eligible for participation in the FSS and Homeownership Programs. However, property-based units are not eligible for purchase with Homeownership Program assistance.

17-VII.F. Encouraging Smoke-Free Properties
CHA strongly encourages all PBV/PRA properties to establish smoke-free policies.

Part VIII: Determining Rent to Owner
17-VIII.A. Overview
The amount of the initial rent to an owner of units receiving PBV assistance is established at the beginning of the HAP contract term. Although for substantially rehabilitated or newly constructed housing, the AHAP states the estimated amount of the initial rent to owner, the actual amount of the initial rent to owner is established at the beginning of the HAP contract term.

During the term of the HAP contract, the rent to owner is re-determined at the owner’s request, but no more than once per year, and at such time that there is a five percent or greater decrease in the published FMR.

17-VIII.B. Rent Limits
The rent to owner must not exceed the lowest of the following amounts:
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- An amount determined by the CHA, not to exceed 110 percent of the fair market rent (or the fair market rent exception authority, as outlined in the latest CHA MTW Plans and Reports) for the unit bedroom size minus any utility allowance;
- The reasonable rent; or
- The rent requested by the owner.

Such rent limits also apply to tax credit units, where the unassisted market rent is used for comparability purposes.

Rents at Initial Occupancy
To assure the financial integrity of the PBV property at the time of initial occupancy, the CHA may provide income to the owner during the initial lease up stage. The CHA may make a payment of 50 percent of the contract rent for two months for any units that are not occupied. In some instance, an additional payment of 100 percent of the contract rent may be made for one month for unoccupied units. Under no circumstances will the CHA make such pre-occupancy payments for a total of more than 90 days for any unit in the property.

Supportive Housing
Where services are provided, the owner must separately state the rent to owner and the rent attributable to the supportive services provided by the owner.

In cases where supportive services are essential to the development’s success, the CHA may include the costs of the supportive services in the rent to owner amounts when the owner has exhausted all other options for obtaining funding.

Use of FMRs, Exception Payment Standards, and Utility Allowances
When determining the initial rent to owner, the CHA must use the most recently published FMR in effect and the utility allowance schedule in effect at execution of the HAP contract. When re-determining the rent to owner, the CHA must use the most recently published FMR and the utility allowance schedule in effect at the time of redetermination. At its discretion, the CHA may for initial rent, use the amounts in effect at any time during the 30-day period immediately before the beginning date of the HAP contract, or for redeterminations of rent, the 30-day period immediately before the redetermination date.

Any HUD-approved exception payment standard amount under the tenant-based voucher program also applies to the property-based voucher program. HUD will not approve a different exception payment standard amount for use in the PBV program.

The CHA may not establish or apply different utility allowance amounts for the PBV program. The same utility allowance schedule applies to both the tenant-based and property-based voucher programs.

Redetermination of Rent
Rent Increase
An owner’s request for a rent increase must be submitted to the CHA 60 days prior to the anniversary date of the HAP contract, and must include the new rent amount the owner is proposing. The request must be in writing and in the form and manner required by the CHA.

The CHA under its MTW Program may also grant owners an annual rent increases based on a formula. The CHA may use this option in cases where it ensures long-term affordability, for example, it assists the owner in obtaining financing or reduced interest rates. In such cases, the CHA will write this into the AHAP, and will apply
the Table 1 Contract Rent annual adjustment factors (AAFs) published by HUD in the *Federal Register*. The CHA has the option to impose the reasonable rent as the cap on the resulting rent determined by applying the AAF taking into consideration factors such as supportive services and special design features.

The CHA may not approve and the owner may not receive any increase of rent to owner until and unless the owner has complied with requirements of the HAP contract, including compliance with HQS. The owner may not receive any retroactive increase of rent for any period of noncompliance.

**Rent Decrease**
If there is a decrease in the rent to owner, such as a change in the FMR or exception payment standard, or reasonable rent amount, the rent to owner will be decreased unless the HAP contract includes a cost escalation clause or the CHA documents that the long-term viability of the development is jeopardized. In any event, the CHA will not decrease the contract rent below the initial contract rent stated in the HAP Contract.

**Notice of Rent Change**
The CHA will provide the owner with at least 30 days written notice of any change in the amount of rent to owner.

**CHA-Owned Units**
For CHA-Owned units, the amount of the reasonable rent must be determined by an independent agency approved by HUD in accordance with PBV program requirements. The independent entity must provide a copy of the determination of reasonable rent for CHA-Owned units to the CHA and to the HUD field office where the property is located.

**17-VIII.C. Reasonable Rent**
At the time the initial rent is established and all times during the term of the HAP contract, the rent to owner for a contract unit may not exceed the reasonable rent for the unit as determined by the CHA.

The reasonable rent of a unit receiving PBV assistance must be determined by comparison to rent for other comparable unassisted units. When making this determination, the CHA will consider factors that affect market rent such as the location, quality, size, type and age of the unit, as well as the amenities, housing services maintenance, and utilities to be provided by the owner.

For each unit, the comparability analysis must use at least three comparable units in the private unassisted market. This may include unassisted units in the premises or property that is receiving property-based assistance. The analysis must show how the reasonable rent was determined, including major differences between the contract units and comparable unassisted units, and will be retained by the CHA. Those who conduct these analyses or are involved in determining the housing assistance payment based on the analyses may not have any direct or indirect interest in the property.

The CHA will not limit comparable properties to those that exist in the same general neighborhood as the PBV development because of the lack of comparable properties in those neighborhoods. Instead, the CHA will select comparable properties city-wide taking into consideration the condition of the properties relative to the PBV property as well as the amenities, services, and other factors related to the comparable properties.

In the case of PBV properties in which the owner provides supportive services, the CHA will determine comparability on the rent to owner excluding supportive services.
Owner Certification of Reasonable Rent
By accepting each monthly housing assistance payment, the owner certifies that the rent to owner is not more than rent charged by the owner for other comparable unassisted units in the premises. At any time, the CHA may require the owner to submit information on rents charged by the owner for other units in the premises or elsewhere.

17-VIII.D. Effect of Other Subsidy and Rent Control
In addition to the rent limits discussed in Section 17-VIII.B. Rent Limits above, other restrictions may limit the amount of rent to owner in a PBV unit.

Other Subsidy
For units in any of the following types of federally subsidized properties, the rent to owner may not exceed the subsidized rent (basic rent) as approved by HUD:

- An insured or non-insured Section 236 property;
- A formerly insured or non-insured Section 236 property that continues to receive Interest Reduction Payment following a decoupling action;
- A Section 221(d)(3) below market interest rate (BMIR) property;
- Any other type of federally subsidized property specified by HUD.

Combining Subsidy
Rent to owner may not exceed any limitation required to comply with HUD subsidy layering requirements.

Rent Control
In addition to the rent limits set by PBV program regulations, the amount of rent to owner may also be subject to rent control or other limits under City of Chicago, State of Illinois, or federal law.

Part IX: Payments to Owner
17-IX.A. Housing Assistance Payments
During the term of the HAP contract, the CHA must make housing assistance payments to the owner in accordance with the terms of the HAP contract. During the term of the HAP contract, payments will be made for each month that a contract unit complies with HQS, is leased to and occupied by an eligible family, and the owner complies with all provisions of the HAP contract. The housing assistance payment will be paid on or about the first day of the month for which payment is due.

Except for discretionary vacancy payments, the CHA will not make any housing assistance payment to the owner for any month after the month when the family moves out of the unit (even if household goods or property are left in the unit).

The amount of the housing assistance payment by the CHA is the rent to owner minus the tenant rent (total tenant payment minus the utility allowance).

17-IX.B. Vacancy
If an assisted family moves out of the unit, the owner may keep the housing assistance payment for the calendar month when the family moves out. However, the owner may not keep the payment if the CHA determines that the vacancy is the owner’s fault.

If the CHA determines that the owner is responsible for a vacancy and, as a result, is not entitled to keep the housing assistance payment, the CHA will notify the owner/property manager of the amount of housing
assistance payment that the owner must repay. The CHA will require the owner to repay the amount owed in accordance with the policies in Section 16-IV.B. Repayment Policy.

The CHA will only make vacancy payments if the vacancy payment provision has been selected in the HAP contract, and the owner:

- Gives the CHA written notice in the manner and form prescribed by the CHA, within 10 calendar days of the family vacating the unit. Such written notice will include the owner’s certification that the family has vacated and the date when the family moved out (to the best of the owner’s knowledge);
- Certifies that the vacancy is not the fault of the owner and that the unit was vacant during the period for which payment is claimed;
- Provides documentation as required by the CHA substantiating that the owner has taken every reasonable action to minimize the likelihood and length of vacancy; and
- Provides any additional information required and requested by the CHA to verify that the owner is entitled to the vacancy payment.

If the owner does not provide the information requested by the CHA within 10 calendar days of the family’s vacating the unit, no vacancy payments will be made.

17-IX.C. Tenant Rent to Owner
The tenant rent is the portion of the rent to owner paid by the family. The amount of tenant rent is determined by the CHA in accordance with HUD requirements. Any changes in the amount of tenant rent will be effective on the date stated in the CHA notice to the family and owner.

The family is responsible for paying the tenant rent (total tenant payment minus the utility allowance). The amount of the tenant rent determined by the CHA is the maximum amount the owner may charge the family for rental of a contract unit. The tenant rent covers all housing services, maintenance, equipment, and utilities to be provided by the owner. The owner may not demand or accept any rent payment from the tenant in excess of the tenant rent as determined by the CHA. The owner must immediately return any excess payment to the tenant.

Tenant and CHA Responsibilities
The family is not responsible for the portion of rent to owner that is covered by the housing assistance payment and the owner may not terminate the tenancy of an assisted family for nonpayment by the CHA.

Likewise, the CHA is responsible only for making the housing assistance payment to the owner in accordance with the HAP contract. The CHA is not responsible for paying tenant rent, or any other claim by the owner, including damage to the unit. The CHA may not use housing assistance payments or other program funds (including administrative fee reserves) to pay any part of the tenant rent or other claim by the owner.

Utility Reimbursements
If the amount of the utility allowance exceeds the total tenant payment, the CHA will pay the amount of such excess to the family as a reimbursement for tenant-paid utilities, and the tenant rent to the owner will be zero.
17-IX.D. Other Fees and Charges

Meals and Supportive Services
With the exception of PBVs in assisted living developments, the owner must not require the family to pay charges for meals or supportive services. Non-payment of such charges is not grounds for termination of tenancy.

Other Charges by Owner
The owner must not charge extra amounts for items customarily included in rent in Chicago or provided at no additional cost to unsubsidized tenants in the premises.

17-IX.E. CHA Monitoring of PBV Properties
To determine compliance with the property-based HAP contract, the CHA may monitor the HAP payments, management, tenant screening, occupancy, inspections, equipment, and supportive services. For supportive services, the CHA may monitor the types of services provided, tenant participation in the services, and may terminate families from the program for failure to meet support services requirements.

PART X: RHI

17-X.A. Introduction
The Regional Housing Initiative ("RHI") is a regional collaboration between public housing authorities in the Chicago metropolitan region to promote (i) housing and economic mobility, (ii) governmental and administrative efficiencies, and (iii) interjurisdictional collaboration and coordination between local housing authorities. RHI seeks to facilitate the development, rehabilitation, and preservation of quality rental housing in opportunity and/or revitalization areas that advance local and regional priorities throughout metropolitan Chicago.

Initially established in August 2002, CHA partners with Public Housing Authorities through an Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) and Supplemental Administrative Plan.

RHI provides Project Based Vouchers (PBVs) as a form of financial incentives to developers and owners of quality rental housing through a competitive application process to address the geographic mismatch between the growth in jobs and availability of affordable housing in the Chicago metropolitan region. Participating housing authorities commit a given number of PBVs to the RHI pool. RHI may select an Administrative Agency to provide operational oversite functions.

The following PHA's are Regional Housing Initiative partners: Chicago Housing Authority, DuPage Housing Authority, Housing Authority of Cook County, Housing Authority of Park Forest, Housing Authority of Joliet, Kendall Housing Authority, Lake County Housing Authority, McHenry County Housing Authority, Oak Park Housing Authority, and Waukegan Housing Authority.

17-X.B Chicago RHI Commitment
The CHA has committed project-based vouchers to RHI to create additional affordable housing opportunities throughout metropolitan Chicago.
Proposal Selection
The Administrative Agency will publish a Request for Proposals for RHI’s competitive application process for project-based vouchers. The proposals are reviewed by a selection committee comprised of the participating Public Housing Authorities (PHAs).

The Lead PHA is designated by RHI. In most cases, this is based on the jurisdiction in which the proposed development is located. The Lead PHA is responsible for the execution of the Agreement to enter into a Housing Assistance Payments (AHAP) and Housing Assistance Payments (HAP) contract.

Tenant Selection
When a development begins its leasing process, each housing authority may refer applicants according to established RHI applicant referral procedures and preferences.

Based on the development’s RHI-approved Tenant Selection Plan, the owner/developer accepts applications and screens the families in waiting list order. Should the referred applicant meet the property’s screening criteria, the application is referred back to the Lead PHA to complete the eligibility process using the Lead PHA’s policies and procedures.

The Lead PHA is responsible for administering the vouchers from other participating housing authorities under a Management and Operating Agreement. The Lead PHA is responsible for conducting inspections for initial, emergency and turnover unit inspections. CHA serves as the Lead PHA for any RHI-approved development located within the boundaries of the City of Chicago or where there is an executed Operating and Management Agreement designating the CHA as the Lead PHA.

For more information, please see RHI Supplement to the Administrative Plan.