



# PINEHURST APARTMENTS

## TENANT SELECTION CRITERIA

Thank you for considering **PINEHURST APARTMENTS** as your next residence. **PINEHURST APARTMENTS** is a multifamily housing property that provides affordable units to households earning **60%** and below the area median income in Union County.

This property is funded by the USDA Rural Development Multifamily Housing program, Section 42 of the IRC Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) program, and the HUD Section 8 program. Eligible households must qualify under the restrictive income limits and regulations set out by this program.

For rental inquiries or other information, please contact us using the information below.

**Phone:** (541) 963-9292

**Fax:** (541) 802-0799

**Website:** [www.viridianmgt.com](http://www.viridianmgt.com)

**Property Email:** [ph@viridianmgt.com](mailto:ph@viridianmgt.com)

**Location:** 1502 21<sup>st</sup> Street  
La Grande, OR 97850

### OCCUPANCY STANDARDS

Size	Minimum No. of Occupants	Maximum No. of Occupants
1 bdr	1	3
2 bdr	2	5

### RENT

The following information is subject to change prior to execution of rental agreement. Rents are subject to change annually. Please speak to the site manager for current rental rates. The following are minimum and maximum amounts. The actual rental amount charged will depend on unit size and other program qualifications.

Rents range from \$0 to \$1,295.

### SECURITY DEPOSIT

The following information is subject to change prior to execution of rental agreement. Security Deposits are subject to change annually. Please speak to the site manager for current Security Deposit rates. The following are minimum and maximum amounts. The actual Security Deposit amount charged will depend on unit size.

For RD/LITHC Units, Security Deposits range from \$1,116 to \$1,295.

For HUD Units, the Security Deposit is equal to one month of the resident monthly rent portion.



## **WAITING LIST**

The waiting list is open. Applications may be submitted in person to the leasing office or via mail, email, or fax. In addition, interested parties may apply online through the property listing at [www.viridianmgt.com](http://www.viridianmgt.com). If a disability prevents you from accessing an application or submitting it through one of the above options, please contact the leasing office so a reasonable alternative method for completing and submitting your application can be determined.

## **GOOD FAITH ESTIMATE**

Approximate number of units currently available, or will in the foreseeable future, be available: 1 estimated unit(s) available.

Approximate number of applications previously accepted, and currently on the waiting list in consideration for those unit(s) available: 150 applications on waiting list.

## **SCREENING**

Each adult must be screened for credit, criminal and eviction background checks when the application is selected from the waiting list for prospective tenancy. Landlord may obtain a consumer credit report and/or investigative consumer report which may include checking an applicant's credit, income, employment, rental history, and criminal background. This may include information as to their character, general reputation, personal characteristics and mode of living. You have the right to request additional disclosures provided under Section 606(b) of the Fair Credit Reporting Act and a written summary of your rights pursuant to Section 609 (c). You have the right to dispute the accuracy of the information provided to the Landlord by the screening company or the credit reporting agency as well as complete and accurate disclosure of the nature and scope of the investigation.

Although we are solely responsible for our rental decision, it was based in whole, or in part, on information contained in a tenant screening report provided to us by:

RentGrow, Inc.  
177 Huntington Ave, Suite 1703 #74213  
Boston, MA 02155-3153  
(800) 898-1351  
[www.rentgrow.com](http://www.rentgrow.com)

## 1. POLICY – NONDISCRIMINATION AND ACCOMMODATIONS

Viridian Management is committed to Fair Housing Policy and Equal Housing opportunity for prospective applicants. Viridian Management may not discriminate against an applicant because of race, color, religion, sex (gender), national origin, disabled status, familial or marital status, source of income, status as victim of domestic violence, sexual orientation, gender identification, or age. Viridian does not discriminate on the basis of disabled status in the admission or access to, treatment of, or employment in, its housing, programs or activities. Viridian complies with requirements of the Fair Housing Acts, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and all applicable federal, state or local laws.

Under the provisions of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, a person with a disability shall be provided with a reasonable accommodation to the extent necessary to provide such person with an opportunity to use, enjoy and occupy the apartment and apartment premises. A verification of disability as well as linking the accommodation to disability may be required. Under federal and state law, an individual is disabled if he/she has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, including: walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, thinking, communicating, learning, performing manual tasks, and caring for oneself. Applicants should contact the manager for further clarification related to reasonable accommodations, or how to make a request for reasonable accommodation.

## 2. APPLICATION AND WAITING LIST

All persons interested in Viridian-managed housing may request an application either in person, or through a designated individual, at the local on-site or regional designated site office during posted office hours; or request an application to be mailed by calling the local phone number listed on the cover sheet of this document. Fax requests for applications may be sent to the fax number listed on the cover sheet of this document. TTY telecommunication is available by calling the national relay number 711. It is Viridian Management's policy to assist wherever possible especially in the accommodation requests by persons with disabilities; applicants may request assistance in completing the application if necessary.

An application must be completed **in full** by the applicant. Applications may be submitted in person to the leasing office or via mail, email, or fax. In addition, interested parties may apply online through the property listing at [www.viridianmgt.com](http://www.viridianmgt.com). If a disability prevents you from accessing an application or submitting it through one of the above options, please contact the leasing office so a reasonable alternative method for completing and submitting your application can be determined. All applicants will be contacted in writing within 14 days of receipt of the application, to inform them of the status of their application. Applicants are placed on the waiting list, in order, by date and time the completed application is received.

Applicants that submit incomplete applications will be placed on the waitlist and contacted by mail with a request to complete the application in full. If the incomplete application is not returned completed within 10 days of notification, the household will be removed from the waiting list and sent notice of the removal.

Periodically, the manager will send 10-Day Waiting List Update letters out to all applicants on the waiting list to determine continued interest. Recipients of this letter have 10 days to respond. If no response is received within 10 days, the manager will send the applicant a letter to notify them that they

have been withdrawn from the waiting list. Applicants that respond and wish to be removed from the waiting list will be removed and sent a letter informing them that they have been withdrawn from the waiting list.

When the manager contacts an applicant to determine continued interest, the applicant will be asked if there is anything on the application that needs to be changed. If the applicant indicates that the information provided has changed, the site manager will schedule an appointment for the applicant to update the application. The application may be updated at an in-person meeting, via email, mail, fax, or by phone. If a disability prevents you from submitting an updated application through one of the above options, please contact the leasing office so a reasonable alternative method for completing your application update to provide the necessary information changes can be determined.

Applicants sent a Notice of Available Unit may refuse to begin processing for eligibility for that unit one time. The household will be skipped for that unit, but remain on the waiting list by their original application date. Applicants that refuse the second offered unit will be sent a notice of withdrawal from the waiting list, unless the applicant can demonstrate a need to turn down the unit due to an extenuating circumstance outside of their control. Additionally, if the property has project-based rental assistance but not available to all units, the applicant may request to remain on the waiting list until a unit with rental assistance becomes available.

Finally, if notices mailed to the applicant are returned as undeliverable, management will attempt to contact the applicant by any provided phone number or email address to obtain updated mailing information. If these attempts to contact the applicant fail, the household will be withdrawn from the waiting list.

All applicants must be willing to sign a release form to authorize verification of all items contained in the application, inclusive of; all income, assets and allowances along with credit, personal and landlord references. All households must provide positive identifications, as required by the funding program related to this project, of all persons who will be part of the household. Preliminary eligibility will be satisfied by using information on the application; placement of an application on the waiting list does not denote final tenant selection. Applicants may request information concerning the current status of their application by writing or calling the local site office at the number listed on the first page of this document or the Central Office at 1(541) 426-3820.

Applicants who have indicated the need for and requested the features of an accessible unit designed to assist individuals with disabilities, and have verified the need for the features of this type of unit and meet the definition of disabled, will have priority for those units. In the event, no households apply who would benefit from the features of an accessible unit, it will be offered to a non-disabled and income-eligible person on the waiting list. In this circumstance the applicants, as tenants, will be asked to sign a lease addendum agreeing to transfer (at their own expense) to another unit should an appropriately sized unit become available, and if there are households needing the features of the accessible unit.

Any applicant who requests modifications or accommodations related to their disability to non-adapted units will have consideration on those requests when selected, but with no priority for selection.

### **3. NUMBER OF OCCUPANTS**

The number of occupants residing in the unit must be in accordance with unit density standards as set forth by the Owner/Manager. In determining unit density standards, the intent of property policy is to

neither overcrowd nor underutilize space. Different properties may have different density standards depending on federal or state funding for the property, bedroom sizes, unit square footage and any local ordinances and restrictions; see page one for a table of the unit density standards. The Owner/Manager may change the unit density standard during the lease term if changes in laws, ordinances or regulations make such change necessary.

Households who become under or over-housed due to changes in household composition or changes in local, state or federal ordinances or restrictions will be asked to transfer to a more suitably sized unit within 30 days. If there are no suitably sized units existing at the property, the household will be asked to vacate the property within 30 days or at the end of their lease, whichever is longer.\*

**\*Project-Based HUD-Assisted Units Only.** Households who become under or over-housed due to changes in household composition or changes in local, state or federal ordinances or restrictions will be asked to transfer to a more suitably sized unit within 30 days should one exist at the property. If an appropriately sized unit does exist at the property and the household refuses to move to the correct sized unit, the household may remain in the unit, but will pay market rent.

The unit density standard is based on the number of persons in the household and includes all full-time members of the household, persons who are away at school but live with the applicant at recesses, unborn children or children in the process of being adopted or secured by custody action, foster children and live-in attendants. Children who live in a household 50% of the year or more are also counted; however, visitors, permanently confined/institutionalized household members and individuals on active military duty are not counted in this determination for occupancy eligibility.

A disabled applicant who would need a larger unit to accommodate a disability would be given such consideration, even if disallowed by the property unit density standard. For specifically designed units (i.e. barrier free), applicants needing those features would be given priority even if occupancy would otherwise be considered underutilization.

#### **4. ELIGIBILITY – GENERAL**

Applicants who meet the income/occupancy guidelines and have come to the top of the income and/or other preference lists still must meet all other eligibility criteria before being approved to move in. Management will notify the applicant when their application is ready to be processed for residency. Applicants will receive notice that they must contact the manager within 10 days to begin processing or they will be issued a letter of withdrawal from the waiting list.

Applicants, in addition to any property program requirements, must also meet application, interview and reference criteria as defined below.

Applicants who have been rejected for occupancy will receive a letter detailing any applicable appeal rights and a description of the reasons for the rejection.

As previously stated, any application which is incomplete will not be processed if the applicant fails to respond to the incomplete application notice within 10 days of notice. An applicant who refuses to sign any release to allow the verification of all items contained in the application, including all income, assets

and allowances along with credit, personal and landlord references, will be withdrawn from the waitlist and sent notice of withdrawal.

Applicants who exceed the maximum allowable income limits or unit density standards for a property, or who are found to have provided false answers on the application or at the interview, will be rejected.

Applicants who fail to come to a scheduled interview, unless there are extenuating circumstances, or who come to the interview under the influence of illegal drugs, intoxicated, or whose conduct is abusive, threatening, or disruptive will be rejected.

Any household containing a member(s) who was evicted in the last three years from federally assisted housing for drug related criminal activity will be rejected. There are two exceptions to this provision. A household containing a member(s) who was evicted in the last three years from federally assisted housing for drug related criminal activity will be rejected unless the household has successfully completed an approved, supervised drug rehabilitation program or the circumstances leading to eviction no longer exist (e.g. the household member no longer resides with the applicant).

A household in which any member is currently engaged in illegal use of drugs or for which the owner has reasonable cause to believe that member's use or pattern of illegal use of a drug may interfere with the health, safety, and right to peaceful enjoyment of the property by other residents' will be rejected.

Any household if there is reasonable cause to believe that member's behavior, from abuse or pattern of abused of alcohol, may interfere with the health, safety and right to peaceful enjoyment by other residents will be rejected.

Applicants will be rejected if it is determined that their presence or the presence of any of their household members would create an unsafe environment.

Total monthly unit rent should not exceed 50% of the household's net income (income after withholdings required by law or as a condition of employment). Food stamps will be included in the household income for this calculation. This requirement is waived if a portion of the rent will be paid by a rental subsidy. Applicants should contact the property manager if further explanation is required.

Applicants who wish to be a tenant or co-tenant must possess the legal capacity to sign all documents unless an accommodation determination for the individual to allow a guardian signature, if otherwise eligible, is made.

## **5. ELIGIBILITY – CRIMINAL HISTORY**

Upon receipt of the Rental Application and screening fee (if applicable), Landlord will conduct a search of public records to determine whether applicant or any proposed resident or occupant has a "Conviction" (which means: charges pending as of the date of the application; a conviction; a guilty plea; or no contest plea), for any of the following crimes as provided in ORS 90.30.303 (3): drug related crime; person crime; sex offense; crime involving financial fraud, including identity theft and forgery; or any other crime if the conduct for which applicant was convicted or is charged is of a nature that would adversely affect property of the landlord or a tenant or the health, safety or right of peaceful enjoyment of the premises of residents, the landlord or the landlord's agent. Landlord will not consider a previous arrest that did not result in a Conviction or expunged records.

If applicant, or any proposed occupant, has a Conviction in their past which would disqualify them under these criminal conviction criteria, and desire to submit additional information to Landlord along with the application so Landlord can engage in an individualized assessment (described below) upon receipt of the results of the public records search and prior to a denial, applicant should do so. Otherwise, applicant may request the review process after denial as set forth below, however, see item (c) under “Supplemental Evidence Individualized Assessment Review Process” below regarding holding the unit.

A single Conviction for any of the following, subject to the results of any review process, shall be grounds for denial of the Rental Application.

- a. Felonies involving: murder, manslaughter, arson, rape, kidnapping, child or other violent/predatory sex crimes or manufacturing or distribution of a controlled substance.
- b. Felonies not listed above involving: drug-related crime; person crime; sex offense; crime involving financial fraud, including identity theft or forgery; or any other crime if the conduct for which applicant was convicted or is charged is of a nature that would adversely affect property of the landlord or a tenant or the health, safety or right of peaceful enjoyment of the premises of the residents, the landlord or the landlord’s agent, where the date of disposition has occurred in the last seven (7) years.
- c. Misdemeanors involving: drug-related crimes, person crimes, sex offenses, domestic violence, violation of a restraining order, stalking, weapons, criminal impersonation, possession of burglary tools, financial fraud crimes, where the date of disposition has occurred in the last five (5) years.
- d. Misdemeanors not listed above involving: theft, criminal trespass, criminal mischief, property crimes or any other crime if the conduct for which applicant was convicted or is charged is of a nature that would adversely affect property of the landlord or a tenant or the health, safety or right of peaceful enjoyment of the premises of the residents, the landlord or landlord’s agent, where disposition has occurred in the last three (3) years.
- e. Conviction of any crime that requires lifetime registration as a sex offender, or for which applicant is currently registered as a sex offender, will result in denial.

### **Supplemental Evidence Individualized Assessment Review Process**

Landlord will engage in an individualized assessment of the applicants, or other proposed occupants, Convictions if applicant has satisfied all other criteria (the denial was based solely on one or more Convictions) as required by local, state and federal law, and:

- a. Applicant has submitted supporting documentation prior to the public records search; or
- b. Applicant is denied based on failure to satisfy these criminal criteria and has submitted a written request along with supporting documentation. Supporting documentation may include:
  - i. Letter from parole or probation office;
  - ii. Letter from caseworker, therapist, counselor, etc.;
  - iii. Certifications of treatments/rehab programs;
  - iv. Letter from employer, teacher, etc.
  - v. Certification of trainings completed;
  - vi. Proof of employment; and
  - vii. Statement of the applicant.

Landlord will also perform an individualized assessment if no supplemental information is received as required by any local, state or federal law. Landlord will:

- a. Consider relevant individualized evidence of mitigating factors, which may include: the facts or circumstances surrounding the criminal conduct; the age of the convicted person at the time of the conduct; time since the criminal conduct; time since release from incarceration or completion of parole; evidence that the individual has maintained a good tenant history before and/or after the conviction or conduct; and evidence of rehabilitation efforts. Landlord may request additional information and may consider whether there have been multiple Convictions as part of this process.
- b. Notify applicant of the results of Landlord's review within a reasonable time after receipt of all required information.
- c. Hold the unit for which the application as received for a reasonable time under all the circumstances to complete the review unless prior to receipt of applicant's written request (if made after denial) the unit was committed to another applicant.

## **6. ELIGIBILITY – CREDIT HISTORY**

To determine eligibility, credit history will be reviewed; however, lack of credit history will not be cause for denial. Credit reports containing unpaid utility collections or judgements (at properties with tenant paid utilities) or other housing-related debt will be cause for denial. Cable, cell phone, and internet debts are not considered utility or housing related expenses.

If you can provide proof of extenuating circumstances around specific debts, or can demonstrate actively working on debt resolution goals, it will be taken into consideration during the application review process.

## **7. ELIGIBILITY – PUBLIC RECORDS AND RENTAL REFERENCES**

Third party rental history will be verified. Please provide references that can be contacted. Lack of rental history will not be cause for denial. Some applicants may have no previous, or current, rental or credit references, but can still offer personal non-related references. Public records or rental history, including but not limited to, the following may be grounds for rejection of your rental application:

- a) Eviction from a residence within the past five years. Please note that evictions, unpaid rent (including rent reflected in judgments) or referrals of debt to a collection agency that accrued on or after April 1, 2020 and before March 1, 2022 will not be considered.
- b) Any household containing member(s) who was evicted in the last three years from federally assisted housing for drug related criminal activity are prohibited from admission.
- c) Rental references which indicate the applicant caused significant damage to the unit, vacated the unit owing rent, were late paying their rent on three or more occasions within one year, caused disturbances at the rental on more than one occasion, or maintained their unit in an unsanitary condition.
- d) References indicating the applicant used the rental for illegal activities or were found in non-compliance of their lease agreement on three or more occasions during the tenancy.

Applicants should be honest and disclose any information that may provide further context for an eviction, including past extenuating circumstances such as job loss and/or major medical. Successful

completion of an approved second chance renters program, or proving circumstances that led to an eviction no longer exist, will be taken into consideration during the application review process.

Any rejection would be issued in a written statement to the applicant with notification of Grievance and Appeal rights, when applicable.

## **8. TRANSFER POLICY**

Current tenants requiring a unit transfer for the following reasons will be logged on an in-house transfer waitlist and given preference for appropriate units over those on the applicant waitlist and the in-house transfer waitlist. Households with the need for a fully adapted, accessible unit, and those transferring under the protections on the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) are given priority on the in-house waitlist. Tenants must be pre-approved to transfer, and must meet tenant selection criteria, occupancy standards and program regulation as apply to the desired unit.

- a) A unit transfer for an accessible unit for a medical reason certified by a qualified professional, if disability is not apparent;
- b) A unit transfer in accordance with the VAWA Emergency Transfer policy;
- c) A required unit transfer due to family size or changes in family composition;
- d) A unit transfer for reasonable accommodation for a medical reason certified by a qualified professional, if disability is not apparent.

Current tenants requesting a unit transfer for any other reason that unit occupancy standard, reasonable accommodation, and VAWA protections will be added to the transfer waiting list and selected in order by date of request, after those with the priorities listed above are appropriately housed. Tenants must be pre-approved to transfer, and must meet tenant selection criteria, occupancy standards and program regulation as apply to the desired unit. In some cases, the household may be required to establish program and income eligibility for the desired unit if certain funding sources exist. Consideration and approval of transfer requests will be based on the following criteria, in addition to any funding requirements:

- a) Household must have been in residency at the property for at least one year;
- b) Tenants must be in good standing. Rent and other charges must be current and rental payment history is positive;
- c) Housekeeping history is satisfactory, and tenants have a positive tenancy record without ongoing or egregious lease violations.

Upon notification of an available unit, a tenant may refuse an apartment twice. In the event that a tenant refused an apartment a third time, the individual will be removed from the in-house transfer list and the request denied for that reason.

## **9. RENTERS INSURANCE**

Viridian Management strongly encourages that all tenants have a renter's insurance policy in effect for their lease term. If a tenant declines to obtain a renters insurance policy, the tenant agrees to hold the Landlord/Owner or any representative of the Landlord Owner harmless of any damage, theft, or loss that may occur to the tenant's personal possessions while leasing the unit. Renter's Insurance is recommended, but not required.

## 10. VAWA-VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

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

In determining eligibility for housing in cases where the Agent, acting on behalf of the Project Owners, has become aware that the household includes a victim of domestic violence, and when screening reveals negative and potentially disqualifying information, such as poor credit history, previous damage to an apartment, or a prior arrest, inquiries will be made regarding the circumstances contributing to this negative history, to ascertain whether these past events were the consequence of domestic violence against a member of the applicant household.

Any such inquiries will make clear that members of applicant households have a right to keep any history of domestic violence against them confidential.

When inquiries reveal that the negative history was the consequence of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, or stalking against a member of the applicant household, the applicant household will not be denied housing assistance on the basis of this reporting, provided that the perpetrator of domestic violence is not a member of the applicant household.

The Agent may ask for documentation establishing that the negative history was the consequence of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, or stalking. The applicant shall have fourteen business days (i.e. weekends and holidays will not count in determining the deadline) to provide such documentation. The Agent may grant extensions to the fourteen-day-deadline if the applicant demonstrates good cause. The applicant can satisfy the documentation requirement in any of the following ways:

- 1) Completing a certification form verifying that the individual is a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking, and that the incident or incidents in question are bona fide incidents of actual or threatened abuse. Such certification shall include the name of the perpetrator, if it is known; OR
- 2) Providing documentation signed by any of the following third parties:
  - a) an employee, agent, or volunteer of a victim service provider;
  - b) an attorney;
  - c) a medical professional; or
  - d) other knowledgeable professional.

The person signing the documentation must have assisted the victim in addressing domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking, or the effects of the abuse. The person signing the documentation must attest under penalty of perjury to his or her belief that the incident or incidents in question are bona fide incidents of abuse. The victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, or stalking must also sign the documentation; OR

- 3) Producing a Federal, State, tribal, territorial, or local police or court record.

All denial of assistance letters will notify applicants of VAWA's protections and that they may seek an informal review if they believe that the denial of assistance was related to acts of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, or stalking committed against the applicant.

If because of safety concerns a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, or stalking is unwilling or unable to provide information or identification ordinarily required to confirm eligibility, efforts will be made to otherwise establish eligibility and alternative sources and methods of verification will be accepted.

## **11. NON-DISCRIMINATION**

No person, applicant or resident shall be discriminated against or segregated on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, disability, age, sex (gender), familial or marital status, source of income, status as victim of domestic violence, sexual orientation or gender identification. Applications may not be rejected, and applicants and/or residents may not be denied housing, treated differently than others, harassed, or evicted from housing based on any of these discriminatory criteria.

To report a fair housing complaint, please contact:

Fair Housing Council of Oregon  
506 SW Sixth, Suite 1111  
Portland, OR 97204  
Information@FHCO.org  
(503) 228-8197 Ext. 2  
(800) 424-3247 Ext. 2 (TTY and translation available)

Alternatively, you may contact:

Region X Office of FHEO  
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development  
Seattle Federal Office Building  
909 First Avenue Suite 300  
Seattle, WA 98104  
(206) 220-5170; or (800) 877-0246

## **HUD SELECTION CRITERIA**

This document is intended to be an addendum to the Tenant Selection Criteria. It explains additional selection criteria based on requirements posed to the owner/agent by state and/or federal regulations due to funding used in the construction, acquisition and/or rehabilitation of the project.

Applicants who do not meet HUD income limits will be rejected (see page one of the Tenant Selection Criteria for more information).

Where there is layered funding at a project and conflicting tenancy criteria, the most restrictive standards will be used.

### **1. STUDENTS**

1. Student eligibility is determined at move in/initial certification and at each annual certification. Student eligibility may also be reviewed at interim certification if student status has changed since the last certification. All students are required to report any change in their student status.

2. For the Section 8 program, assistance shall **not** be provided to any individual who:
  - a. Is enrolled as either a part-time or full-time student at an institution of higher education for the purpose of obtaining a degree, certificate, or other program leading to a recognized educational credential;
  - b. Is under the age of 24;
  - c. Is not married;
  - d. Is not a veteran of the United States Military;
  - e. Does not have a dependent child;
  - f. Is not a person with disabilities, as such term is defined in 3(b)(3)(E) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437a(b)(3)(E)) and was not receiving section 8 assistance as of \*November 30, 2005.\*
  - g. Is not living with his or her parents who are receiving Section 8 assistance; and
  - h. Is not individually eligible to receive Section 8 assistance and has parents (the parents individually or jointly) who are not income eligible to receive Section 8 assistance.
  
1. For a student to be eligible independent of his or her parents (where the income of the parents is not relevant), the student must demonstrate the absence of, or his or her independence from, parents. While owners may use additional criteria for determining the student's independence from parents, owners must use, and the student must meet, at a minimum all of the following criteria to be eligible for Section 8 assistance. The student must:
  - a. Be of legal contract age under state law;
  - b. Have established a household separate from parents or legal guardians for at least one year prior to application for occupancy, or, meet the U.S. Department of Education's definition of an independent student;
  - c. Not be claimed as a dependent by parents or legal guardians pursuant to IRS regulations; and
  - d. Obtain a certification of the amount of financial assistance that will be provided by parents, signed by the individual providing the support. This certification is required even if no assistance will be provided.
  
2. Student eligibility is determined at move-in/initial certification and at each annual certification. Student eligibility may also be reviewed at interim certification if student status has changed since the last certification. All students are required to report any change in their student status.
  
3. A student who is enrolled as either a part time or full-time student at an institute of higher education for the purpose of obtaining a degree, certificate, or other program leading to a recognized educational credential **will** be eligible for assistance if the student meets all other eligibility requirements, meets screening criteria requirements and:
  - a. Is living with his or her parents/guardian or;
  - b. Is at least 24 years old or;
  - c. Is married or;
  - d. Is a veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States or is currently serving on active duty in the Armed Forces for other than training purposes or;
  - e. Has legal dependents other than a spouse or;
  - f. Is a person with disabilities who was receiving Section 8 assistance as of November 20,

- 2005;
- g. Is a graduate or professional student or;
  - h. Is an independent student, defined as an individual who is:
    - i. 24 or older by 12/31 of the award year
    - ii. An orphan, in foster care, or a ward of the court or was at any time when the individual was 13 years of age or older
    - iii. Is or was immediately prior to attaining the age of majority, an emancipated minor or in legal guardianship as determined by a court of competent jurisdiction in the individual's State of Legal residence;
    - iv. Is a veteran of the Armed Forces or is currently serving on active duty other than training purposes
    - v. Is a graduate or professional student
    - vi. Is married
    - vii. Has legal dependents
    - viii. Is a student for whom a financial aid administrator makes a documented determination of independence by reason of other unusual circumstances
    - ix. independence
    - x. Has been verified during the school year in which the application is submitted as either an unaccompanied youth who is a homeless child or youth (defined by section 725 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act), or at risk of homelessness, by:
      - 1. A local educational agency homeless liaison; or
      - 2. Director, or designee, of a program funded under the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act; or
      - 3. Director, or designee, of a program funded under Subtitle B of title IV of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act; or
      - 4. A financial aid administrator
    - i. Has parents who are income eligible for the Section 8 program; or
    - j. Student resides with their parents in a Section 8 assisted unit or who resides with parents who are applying to receive Section 8 assistance.
4. Any financial assistance a student receives under the Higher Education Act of 1965, from private sources, or from an institution of higher education that is in excess of amounts received for tuition and other fees is included in annual income, except:
    - a. If the student is over the age of 23 with dependent children or
    - b. If the student is living with his or her parents who are receiving Section 8 assistance
  5. Financial assistance that is provided by persons not living in the unit is not part of annual income if the student meets the Department of Education's definition of "vulnerable youth".
  6. If an ineligible student is a member of an existing household receiving Section 8 assistance, the assistance for the household will not be prorated but will be terminated.
  7. Any financial assistance a student receives (1) under the Higher Education Act of 1965, (2) from private sources, or (3) from an institution of higher education that is in excess of amounts received for tuition is included in annual income, except if the student is over the age of 23 with dependent children or if the student is living with his or her parents who are receiving Section 8 assistance.

8. Noncitizen students and their noncitizen families may not receive assistance. Noncitizen students are not eligible for continuation of assistance, prorated assistance, or temporary deferral of termination of assistance. This prohibition applies to the noncitizen student's noncitizen spouse and children. However, spouses and children who are citizens may receive assistance. For example, a family that includes a noncitizen student married to a U.S. citizen is a mixed family.

## **2. INCOME TARGETING**

At least 40% of all vacancies in a fiscal year must be rented to households with incomes that are at or below 30% of the area median income. Where the project is needing to meet this requirement, persons with incomes at or below 30% of the area median income will have priority on the waiting list and may skip other applicants with household incomes above the 30% area median income. Waiting lists are prioritized based on income, selecting first from the lowest income categories.

At least quarterly, management will review the households selected for occupancy in the fiscal year to ensure at least 40% were under 30% of the area median income at move-in. If this requirement has not been met, and no applicants on the waitlist meets this criteria, management will conduct outreach and advertise to draw applicants with extremely-low household income. Applicants meeting this income restriction will be given priority on the waitlist.

## **3. EIV SCREENING**

Each applicant, or any member of the applicant's household, at the time of being selected from the wait list will have their social security number run against the HUD Enterprise Income Verification (EIV) system Existing Tenant Search. The EIV Existing Tenant Search will be used to ensure that applicants to the property are not already receiving a federal housing subsidy. Applicants are not eligible for admission while receiving a federal housing subsidy elsewhere.

## **4. CRIMINAL SCREENING**

Each applicant, or any adult member of the applicant's household, at the time of being selected from the waiting list will have their name, date of birth, and social security number ran through the lifetime sex offender registry check. Applications containing a household member who is subject to, or whose name is contained in any federal, state or local sex offender registry will be rejected.

## **5. CITIZENSHIP**

By law, only U.S. citizens and eligible noncitizens may benefit from federal rental assistance. In order to comply with these laws, assistance will not be provided for members who are not U.S. Citizens or Nationals, or for non-citizens that do not have eligible immigration status. All family members, regardless of age, must declare their citizenship or immigration status. Applicants who hold a non-citizen student visa are ineligible for assistance, as are any non-citizen family members living with the student. Non-citizen applicants will be required to submit evidence of eligible immigration status at the time of application and will be verified through the U.S. Immigration & Customs Enforcement, Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) Program.

## **6. DISCLOSURE OF SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER**

Applicants must disclose social security numbers in order for an eligibility determination prior to admission. Applicants will have ninety (90) days to provide documentation of SSN at the time the applicant is at the top of the waiting list or offered a unit. (This does not mean the available unit will be held for 90 days.) After ninety (90) days, if SSN documentation has not been provided, the applicant will be determined ineligible and removed from the waiting list. Members exempt from this policy include those who are 62 years of age or older and who were receiving federal assistance as of January 31, 2010 and without an SSN, and those who are not contending eligible immigration status. If no social security number has been assigned to an exempt member, the applicant must sign a certification stating that no social security number has been assigned to that member.

Additionally, applicant households with applicant family members under the age of 6 and was added to the household 6 months or less from the move-in date, who do not yet have a Social Security Number assigned to him/her will not be denied occupancy for lack of SSN. Households such as these will have 90-days from the effective date of move-in to provide SSN documentation for the child. An additional 90-days will be granted in the event of failure to provide the documentation of a SSN due to circumstances that are outside the control of the household. Examples of such an event include, but are not limited to: delayed processing of the SSN application by the Social Security Administration, natural disaster, fire, death in the family, etc.

Applicants do not need to disclose or provide verification of a Social Security Number (SSN) for all non-exempt household members at time of application and for placement on the waiting list. However, if all non-exempt household members have not disclosed and/or provided verification of their SSNs at the time a unit becomes available, the next eligible applicant will be offered the available unit.

## **7. OPENING AND CLOSING OF THE WAITING LIST**

The waiting list may be closed for one, or more unit sizes when the average wait is excessive (e.g., one year or more). If the waitlist will be closed, Management will advise potential applicants that the waiting list is closed and refuse to take additional applications. Additionally, Management will publish a notice of closed waitlist, specifying which waitlist(s) will be closed by unit type and the reason for closure, in a publication most likely to be read by potential applicants.

When Management decides accept applications again, notice of this action will be announced in a publication likely to be read by potential applicants in the same manner (if possible, in the same publications) as the notification that the waiting list was closed. The notification(s) will include the rules for applying and the order in which applications will be processed, as well as where and when to apply.

## **8. NON-DISCRIMINATION**

No person, applicant or resident shall be discriminated against or segregated on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, handicap, age, sex (gender), familial or marital status, source of income, status as victim of domestic violence, sexual orientation, gender identification or veteran/military status. Applications may not be rejected, and applicants and/or residents may not be denied housing, treated differently than others, harassed, or evicted from housing based on any of these discriminatory criteria. Landlord shall follow all federal, state and local non-discrimination law as it relates to applicants for housing.

## USDA RD SELECTION CRITERIA

This document is intended to be an addendum to the Tenant Selection Criteria. It explains additional selection criteria based on requirements posed to the owner/agent by state and/or federal regulations due to funding used in the construction, acquisition and/or rehabilitation of the property.

Applicants who do not meet USDA Rural Development income limits will be rejected (see page one of the Tenant Selection Criteria for more information).

Where there is layered funding at a property and conflicting tenancy criteria, the most restrictive standards will be used.

### 1. STUDENTS

Project Eligibility:

1. A student household is not eligible for tenancy except where:
  - a. The student is of legal age in accordance with the applicable state law or is otherwise legally able to enter into a binding contract under state law;
  - b. The person seeking occupancy has established a household separate and distinct from the person's parents or legal guardians;
  - c. The person seeking occupancy is no longer claimed as a dependent by the person's parents or legal guardians pursuant to Internal Revenue Service regulations, and evidence is provided to this effect; and
  - d. The person seeking occupancy signs a written statement indicating whether or not the person's parents, legal guardians, or others provide any financial assistance and this financial assistance is considered as part of current annual income and is verified in writing by the borrower.

Eligibility for the USDA RD rental assistance program (if applicable):

3. Assistance shall not be provided to households where any household member:
  - i. Is enrolled as either a part-time or full-time student at an institution of higher education for the purpose of obtaining a degree, certificate, or other program leading to a recognized educational credential;
  - j. Is under the age of 24;
  - k. Is not married;
  - l. Is not a veteran of the United States Military;
  - m. Does not have a dependent child;
  - n. Is not a person with disabilities, as such term is defined in 3(b)(3)(E) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437a(b)(3)(E)) and was not receiving section 8 assistance as of \*November 30, 2005.\* (See Definition E in Figure 3-6);
  - o. Is not living with his or her parents who are receiving Section 8 assistance; and
  - p. Is not individually eligible to receive Section 8 assistance and has parents (the parents individually or jointly) who are not income eligible to receive Section 8 assistance.
9. For a student to be eligible independent of his or her parents (where the income of the parents is not relevant), the student must demonstrate the absence of, or his or her independence from, parents. While owners may use additional criteria for

determining the student's independence from parents, owners must use, and the student must meet, at a minimum all of the following criteria to be eligible for Section 8 assistance. The student must:

- e. Be of legal contract age under state law;
  - f. Have established a household separate from parents or legal guardians for at least one year prior to application for occupancy, or, meet the U.S. Department of Education's definition of an independent student;
  - g. Not be claimed as a dependent by parents or legal guardians pursuant to IRS regulations; and
  - h. Obtain a certification of the amount of financial assistance that will be provided by parents, signed by the individual providing the support. This certification is required even if no assistance will be provided.
10. If an ineligible student is a member of an existing household receiving assistance, the assistance for the household will not be prorated but will be terminated.

## **2. INCOME TARGETING**

USDA Rural Development regulations give priority for available units first to households who have an annual income at or below 50% of the area median income (Very Low), second to households who have an annual income at or below 80% of the area median income (Low), then to households who have an annual income at the Low-income plus \$5,500 (Moderate).

Priority for assigning available rental assistance follows these guidelines: First priority is always to eligible very low-income tenants paying the highest percentage of their adjusted annual income in shelter costs. Second priority is to very low-income applicants on the waiting list, considering the applicant's unit size and type needed. Third priority is to eligible low income-tenant paying the highest percentage of their adjusted annual income in shelter costs. Fourth priority is to eligible low-income applicants on the waiting list. Final priority is to households that are residing in a rental unit for which they don't qualify on the basis of an occupancy waiver or other special approval situations.

## **3. UNIT DENSITY**

The unit density standard is listed on page one of the Tenant Selection Criteria. The Owner/Manager will make exceptions to the minimum number of occupants in the unit density standard should there be any instance where there are applicants on the waiting list but none who would qualify for the larger unit size. In this case the applicant would have to sign an agreement to transfer to a more suitably sized unit, at their own expense, when one comes available in accordance with paragraph 3 of the Tenant Selection Criteria, Number of Occupants.

## **4. TRANSFERS BETWEEN UNITS**

Transfers between units will be authorized only if: required due to a reasonable accommodation, changes in family size or composition, the over or under-utilization of the unit or a transfer is needed to maintain an appropriate unit mix if the household's income coincides with a specific income set-aside of another unit. Transfers based on other compelling reason may also be approved by management after verifying that the existing household does not have any record of lease violations, late rent payments and the unit is being maintained in accordance with the lease agreement.

## **5. DISCLOSURE OF SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER**

Family members 6 years of age and older must provide the borrower with a complete and accurate social security number. For any members of the family who do not have a social security number, the applicant or family member must certify that the individual has never received a social security number.

## **6. HARDSHIP EXEMPTION FOR HEALTH/MEDICAL CARE EXPENSES AND REASONABLE ATTENDANT CARE AND AUXILIARY APPARATUS EXPENSES-GENERAL RELIEF**

A household claiming medical, or disability assistance expenses, may only deduct as an expense, the amount of the expense that exceeds 10% of the household's gross annual income. In order to claim unreimbursed health and medical care expenses, the family must have a head, co-head, or spouse that is elderly or a person with disability. In order to claim unreimbursed reasonable attendant care and auxiliary apparatus expenses, the family must include a person with a disability, and the expenses must enable any member of the family (including the member who is a person with disability) to be employed.

If a change in circumstance, such as a large medical bill or loss of income, results in a household's inability to pay rent the household can request a general hardship exemption to allow the household to deduct (as an expense) that amount of the expense that exceeds 5% of the household's gross annual income. An increase in health and medical care, reasonable attendant care, and auxiliary apparatus expenses constitute a qualifying eligibility factor, so long as it exceeds 5% of the household's annual income. All expenses must meet the definition of health, medical care, reasonable attendant care, and auxiliary apparatus' per 24 CFR 5.

If granted, a hardship exemption would allow the household to deduct medical or disability assistance expenses in excess of 5% for a 90-day period. After the conclusion of the 90-day period, the household's income and rent will be recalculated, and a 30-day notice of rent increase will be provided (if applicable). A household may not request an extension, and General Relief will end without any further notice and a 30-day notice of rent increase will be provided (if applicable).

In order to be eligible for the exemption, a household must:

- Demonstrate that the household has experienced a hardship such as loss of income, decrease in household size, large medical expense, etc. Expenses must be third party verified.
- The completion of a Zero Income Checklist in which the household's income and living expenses are listed. Income must be third party verified. This must show that the household's total tenant payment, plus the expense amount, exceeds 45% of the household's adjusted income.

Management will provide written notification within 7 days to notify a household whether the exemption or extension of exemption is approved or denied. If the exemption is approved, the notice will state when the exemption begins and when the 90-day hardship exemption period expires. It will also include the change in rent resulting from the adjusted income change. Households must report any change in circumstance of the hardship in which they may no longer qualify for the exception. At that time, the household will receive written notice within 7 days, which states the termination date of the hardship and a 30-day notice of rent increase. Management will notify the household in writing, within 7 days, if they are denied the initial hardship exemption. The notification will state, for the household the reason for denial.

## **7. HARDSHIP EXEMPTION FOR HEALTH/MEDICAL CARE EXPENSES AND REASONABLE ATTENDANT CARE AND AUXILIARY APPARATUS EXPENSES-PHASED IN RELIEF**

All families who received a deduction for unreimbursed health and/or medical care and/or reasonable attendant care or auxiliary apparatus expenses based on their most recent income review prior to July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025 will begin receiving the 24-month phased in relief at their next annual or interim recertification, whichever occurs first, on or after the date Management complies with HOTMA.

Families who received phased-in relief will have eligible expense deducted as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup> 12 months: in excess of 5% of annual income.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> 12 months: in excess of 7.5% of annual income.
- After 24 months: in excess of 10% threshold will phase in and remain in effect unless the family qualifies for general relief.

Once a household chooses to obtain general relief, a household may no longer be eligible for phased in relief. Management will not continue phased-in relief for new admissions.

## **8. HARDSHIP EXEMPTION TO CONTINUE CHILDCARE EXPENSES**

If a household claims child care expenses to allow an adult household member to work or go to school, and the household's eligibility for the expense is ending as the household member is no longer working or going to school, a hardship exemption may be requested during the time of annual or interim recertifications. The hardship exemption will only be granted if the loss of the expense would result in the household's inability to pay rent. When a household requests a hardship exemption to continue receiving a childcare expense deduction that is ending, Management must recalculate the family's adjusted income. The expense will continue if the household demonstrates the inability to pay rent because of the loss of the childcare expense and the ability to show the deduction is still necessary even though the family member is no longer working, looking for work, or furthering their education. If the household is granted a hardship exemption the household will be able to continue the expense for a 90-day period. After the conclusion of the 90-day period, the household's income and rent will be recalculated, and a 30-day notice of rent increase will be provided (if applicable). A household may not request an extension, and child care expenses will end without any further notice and a 30-day notice of rent increase will be provided (if applicable).

In order to be eligible for the exemption, a household must:

- a. Demonstrate why the childcare is still needed, even though the household member is no longer working or going to school. Examples may include, but are not limited to, health treatments, care of family members, loss of childcare if placement is not maintained, maintaining spot on child care waiting list, etc.
- b. The completion of a Zero Income Checklist in which the household's income and living expenses are listed. Income sources must be third party verified. This must show that the household's total tenant rent payment, plus the expense amount, would exceed 45% of the household's adjusted income, when the expense is removed.

Management will provide written notification to a household within 7 days to notify households whether or not the exemption or extension of exemption is approved or denied. If the exemption is approved, the notice will state when the exemption begins and when the 90-day hardship exemption period expires. It

will also include the change in rent resulting from the adjusted income change. Households must report any change in circumstance of the hardship in which they may no longer qualify for the exception. At that time, the household will receive written notice within 7 days, which states the termination date of the hardship and a 30-day notice of rent increase (if applicable). Management will notify the household in writing, within 7 days, if they are denied the initial hardship. The notification will state, for the household, the reason for denial.

## **9. NON-DISCRIMINATION**

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs (including Landlord) are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, source of income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident. Landlord follows all federal, state and local laws related to non-discrimination.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) Fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) Email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

## **LIHTC (IRC SECTION 42) SELECTION CRITERIA**

This document is intended to be an addendum to the Tenant Selection Criteria. It explains additional selection criteria based on requirements posed to the owner/agent by state and/or federal regulations due to funding used in the construction, acquisition and/or rehabilitation of the project.

Applicants who do not meet LIHTC income limits will be rejected.

Where there is layered funding at a project and conflicting tenancy criteria, the most restrictive standards will be used.

## **1. STUDENTS**

The LIHTC program prohibits the rental of set-aside units to entirely full-time student households not qualifying for a specific exception.

### **A. Student Defined.**

A Student is defined as “an individual who during each of five calendar months during the calendar year is a full-time student at an educational institution.”

A full-time student is one who is enrolled for some part of five calendar months for the number of hours or courses, which is considered to be a full-time attendance. The five calendar months need not be consecutive. School attendance exclusively at night does not constitute full-time attendance. However, full-time attendance at an educational institution may include some attendance at night in connection to a full-time course of study.

In addition, individuals pursuing a full-time course of institutional on-farm training under the supervision of an accredited agent of such educational institution, of a state or political subdivision of the state, are also deemed full-time students.

### **B. Student Status Exemptions.**

As a general rule, the household may not be occupied in its entirety by full-time students. Thus, if any one single individual in the household is not a full-time student, the application will still qualify under the student status requirements.

If all household members are full-time students, the applicants may still qualify for residency if:

- The students are married and file a joint federal income tax return. A copy of the joint tax return or marriage license should be included in the file; or
- The household consists of a single parent (with custody) and a school age child or children, all of whom are not dependents of a third party; or
- One or more of the students receive assistance under the TANF program as such program activities and participation are related to families with dependent children; or
- One or more students is enrolled in and receiving assistance under the Workforce Investment Act or similar governmental job-training program, or
- One or more students previously received foster care assistance under part B or E of Title IV of the Social Security Act.

If at any time during the term of the lease agreement, or any extension thereof, the entire household becomes composed of full time students, the entire household will no longer qualify and will be asked to move within 30 days or at the end of their lease term; whichever is longer.

Students in K-12 are not considered an exception solely by virtue of their age and grade in school.

## **2. ADDING MEMBERS AFTER MOVE-IN**

No additional household members may apply and be screened to be added to a household within the first six (6) months of the initial lease, except in the event of pregnancy, adoption and live-in aides qualified via the reasonable accommodation process.

## **3. RENT TARGETING REQUIREMENTS**

If this property has designated deeper rent set-asides in order to provide lower rents to lower income tenants, reasonable attempts will be made to ensure that these units are being utilized in the best manner possible.

If during the income recertification process it is determined that a lower set-aside unit household's income has increased to the point where it meets a higher set-aside within the property, the lower set-aside the household currently has will be floated to another unit.

First priority to receive the lower rent set-aside will be given to existing households who meet the lower set-aside income restriction and would benefit from the lower rent. If multiple existing households would qualify for the lower set-aside, the household with the greatest rent-burden (paying the highest percentage of income for current rent) will be selected for the designation. If multiple households have the same rent-burden, then the household who has been rent-burdened for the longest time will receive the designation.

Second priority for designation of the lower rent set-aside will be given to the next person on the wait list who meets the lower set-aside limits.

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

## **Document Package for Applicant's/Tenant's Consent to the Release Of Information**

**This Package contains the following documents:**

- 1. HUD-9887/A Fact Sheet describing the necessary verifications**
- 2. Form HUD-9887 (to be signed by the Applicant or Tenant)**
- 3. Form HUD-9887-A (to be signed by the Applicant or Tenant and Housing Owner)**
- 4. Relevant Verifications (to be signed by the Applicant or Tenant)**

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Each household must receive a copy of the 9887/A Fact Sheet, form HUD-9887, and form HUD-9887-A.

## Verification of Information Provided by Applicants and Tenants of Assisted Housing

### What Verification Involves

To receive housing assistance, applicants and tenants who are at least 18 years of age and each family head, spouse, or co-head regardless of age must provide the owner or management agent (O/A) or public housing agency (PHA) with certain information specified by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

To make sure that the assistance is used properly, Federal laws require that the information you provide be verified. This information is verified in two ways:

1. HUD, O/As, and PHAs may verify the information you provide by checking with the records kept by certain public agencies (e.g., Social Security Administration (SSA), State agency that keeps wage and unemployment compensation claim information, and the Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) National Directory of New Hires (NDNH) database that stores wage, new hires, and unemployment compensation). HUD (only) may verify information covered in your tax returns from the U.S. Internal Revenue Service (IRS). You give your consent to the release of this information by signing form HUD-9887. Only HUD, O/As, and PHAs can receive information authorized by this form.
2. The O/A must verify the information that is used to determine your eligibility and the amount of rent you pay. You give your consent to the release of this information by signing the form HUD-9887, the form HUD-9887-A, and the individual verification and consent forms that apply to you. Federal laws limit the kinds of information the O/A can receive about you. The amount of income you receive helps to determine the amount of rent you will pay. The O/A will verify all of the sources of income that you report. There are certain allowances that reduce the income used in determining tenant rents.

**Example:** Mrs. Anderson is 62 years old. Her age qualifies her for a medical allowance. Her annual income will be adjusted because of this allowance. Because Mrs. Anderson's medical expenses will help determine the amount of rent she pays, the O/A is required to verify any medical expenses that she reports.

**Example:** Mr. Harris does not qualify for the medical allowance because he is not at least 62 years of age and he is not handicapped or disabled. Because he is not eligible for the medical allowance, the amount of his medical expenses does not change the amount of rent he pays. Therefore, the O/A cannot ask Mr. Harris anything about his medical expenses and cannot verify with a third party about any medical expenses he has.

### Customer Protections

Information received by HUD is protected by the Federal Privacy Act. Information received by the O/A or the PHA is subject to State privacy laws. Employees of HUD, the O/A, and the PHA are subject to penalties for using these consent forms improperly. You do not have to sign the form HUD-9887, the form HUD-9887-A, or the individual verification consent forms when they are given to you at your certification or recertification interview. You may take them home with you to read or to discuss with a third party of your choice. The O/A will give you another date when you can return to sign these forms.

If you cannot read and/or sign a consent form due to a disability, the O/A shall make a reasonable accommodation in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Such accommodations may include: home visits when the applicant's or tenant's disability prevents him/her from coming to the office to complete the forms; the applicant or tenant authorizing another person to sign on his/her behalf; and for persons with visual impairments, accommodations may include providing the forms in large script or braille or providing readers.

If an adult member of your household, due to extenuating circumstances, is unable to sign the form HUD-9887 or the individual verification forms on time, the O/A may document the file as to the reason for the delay and the specific plans to obtain the proper signature as soon as possible.

The O/A must tell you, or a third party which you choose, of the findings made as a result of the O/A verifications authorized by your consent. The O/A must give you the opportunity to contest such findings in accordance with HUD Handbook 4350.3 Rev. 1. However, for information received under the form HUD-9887 or form HUD-9887-A, HUD, the O/A, or the PHA, may inform you of these findings.

O/As must keep tenant files in a location that ensures confidentiality. Any employee of the O/A who fails to keep tenant information confidential is subject to the enforcement provisions of the State Privacy Act and is subject to enforcement actions by HUD. Also, any applicant or tenant affected by negligent disclosure or improper use of information may bring civil action for damages, and seek other relief, as may be appropriate, against the employee.

HUD-9887/A requires the O/A to give each household a copy of the Fact Sheet, and forms HUD-9887, HUD-9887-A along with appropriate individual consent forms. The package you will receive will include the following documents:

1. **HUD-9887/A Fact Sheet:** Describes the requirement to verify information provided by individuals who apply for housing assistance. This fact sheet also describes consumer protections under the verification process.
2. **Form HUD-9887:** Allows the release of information between government agencies.
3. **Form HUD-9887-A:** Describes the requirement of third party verification along with consumer protections.
4. **Individual verification consents:** Used to verify the relevant information provided by applicants/tenants to determine their eligibility and level of benefits.

### Consequences for Not Signing the Consent Forms

If you fail to sign the form HUD-9887, the form HUD-9887-A, or the individual verification forms, this may result in your assistance being denied (for applicants) or your assistance being terminated (for tenants). See further explanation on the forms HUD-9887 and 9887-A.

If you are an applicant and are denied assistance for this reason, the O/A must notify you of the reason for your rejection and give you an opportunity to appeal the decision.

If you are a tenant and your assistance is terminated for this reason, the O/A must follow the procedures set out in the Lease. This includes the opportunity for you to meet with the O/A.

### Programs Covered by this Fact Sheet

- Rental Assistance Program (RAP)
- Rent Supplement
- Section 8 Housing Assistance Payments Programs (administered by the Office of Housing)
- Section 202
- Sections 202 and 811 PRAC
- Section 202/162 PAC
- Section 221(d)(3) Below Market Interest Rate
- Section 236
- HOPE 2 Home Ownership of Multifamily Units

O/As must give a copy of this HUD Fact Sheet to each household. See the Instructions on form HUD-9887-A.

# Notice and Consent for the Release of Information

U.S. Department of Housing  
and Urban Development  
Office of Housing  
Federal Housing Commissioner

to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and to an Owner and Management Agent (O/A), and to a Public Housing Agency (PHA)

HUD Office requesting release of information (Owner should provide the full address of the HUD Field Office, Attention: Director, Multifamily Division.):	O/A requesting release of information (Owner should provide the full name and address of the Owner.):	PHA requesting release of information (Owner should provide the full name and address of the PHA and the title of the director or administrator. If there is no PHA Owner or PHA contract administrator for this project, mark an X through this entire box.):
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**Notice To Tenant: Do not sign this form if the space above for organizations requesting release of information is left blank. You do not have to sign this form when it is given to you. You may take the form home with you to read or discuss with a third party of your choice and return to sign the consent on a date you have worked out with the housing owner/manager.**

**Authority:** Section 217 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2004 (Pub L. 108-199). This law is found at 42 U.S.C.653(J). This law authorizes HHS to disclose to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) information in the NDNH portion of the "Location and Collection System of Records" for the purposes of verifying employment and income of individuals participating in specified programs and, after removal of personal identifiers, to conduct analyses of the employment and income reporting of these individuals. Information may be disclosed by the Secretary of HUD to a private owner, a management agent, and a contract administrator in the administration of rental housing assistance.

Section 904 of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Amendments Act of 1988, as amended by section 903 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992 and section 3003 of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993. This law is found at 42 U.S.C. 3544. This law requires you to sign a consent form authorizing: (1) HUD and the PHA to request wage and unemployment compensation claim information from the state agency responsible for keeping that information; and (2) HUD, O/A, and the PHA responsible for determining eligibility to verify salary and wage information pertinent to the applicant's or participant's eligibility or level of benefits; (3) HUD to request certain tax return information from the U.S. Social Security Administration (SSA) and the U.S. Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

**Purpose:** In signing this consent form, you are authorizing HUD, the above-named O/A, and the PHA to request income information from the government agencies listed on the form. HUD, the O/A, and the PHA need this information to verify your household's income to ensure that you are eligible for assisted housing benefits and that these benefits are set at the correct level. HUD, the O/A, and the PHA may participate in computer matching programs with these sources to verify your eligibility and level of benefits. This form also authorizes HUD, the O/A, and the PHA to seek wage, new hire (W-4), and unemployment claim information from current or former employers to verify information obtained through computer matching.

**Uses of Information to be Obtained:** HUD is required to protect the income information it obtains in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974, 5 U.S.C. 552a. The O/A and the PHA is also required to protect the income

information it obtains in accordance with any applicable State privacy law. After receiving the information covered by this notice of consent, HUD, the O/A, and the PHA may inform you that your eligibility for, or level of, assistance is uncertain and needs to be verified and nothing else.

HUD, O/A, and PHA employees may be subject to penalties for unauthorized disclosures or improper uses of the income information that is obtained based on the consent form.

**Who Must Sign the Consent Form:** Each member of your household who is at least 18 years of age and each family head, spouse or co-head, regardless of age, must sign the consent form at the initial certification and at each recertification. Additional signatures must be obtained from new adult members when they join the household or when members of the household become 18 years of age.

Persons who apply for or receive assistance under the following programs are required to sign this consent form:

Rental Assistance Program (RAP)

Rent Supplement

Section 8 Housing Assistance Payments Programs (administered by the Office of Housing)

Section 202; Sections 202 and 811 PRAC; Section 202/162 PAC Section 221(d)(3) Below Market Interest Rate

Section 236

HOPE 2 Homeownership of Multifamily Units

**Failure to Sign Consent Form:** Your failure to sign the consent form may result in the denial of assistance or termination of assisted housing benefits. If an applicant is denied assistance for this reason, the owner must follow the notification procedures in Handbook 4350.3 Rev. 1. If a tenant is denied assistance for this reason, the owner or managing agent must follow the procedures set out in the lease.

**Consent: I consent to allow HUD, the O/A, or the PHA to request and obtain income information from the federal and state agencies listed on the back of this form for the purpose of verifying my eligibility and level of benefits under HUD's assisted housing programs.**

Signatures:

Additional Signatures, if needed:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Head of Household

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Other Family Members 18 and Over

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Spouse

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Other Family Members 18 and Over

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Other Family Members 18 and Over

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Other Family Members 18 and Over

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Other Family Members 18 and Over

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Other Family Members 18 and Over

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## Agencies To Provide Information

State Wage Information Collection Agencies. (HUD and PHA). This consent is limited to wages and unemployment compensation you have received during period(s) within the last 5 years when you have received assisted housing benefits.

U.S. Social Security Administration (HUD only). This consent is limited to the wage and self employment information from your current form W-2.

National Directory of New Hires contained in the Department of Health and Human Services' system of records. This consent is limited to wages and unemployment compensation you have received during period(s) within the last 5 years when you have received assisted housing benefits.

U.S. Internal Revenue Service (HUD only). This consent is limited to information covered in your current tax return.

This consent is limited to the following information that may appear on your current tax return:

1099-S Statement for Recipients of Proceeds from Real Estate Transactions

1099-B Statement for Recipients of Proceeds from Real Estate Brokers and Barter Exchange Transactions

1099-A Information Return for Acquisition or Abandonment of Secured Property

1099-G Statement for Recipients of Certain Government Payments

1099-DIV Statement for Recipients of Dividends and Distributions

1099 INT Statement for Recipients of Interest Income

1099-MISC Statement for Recipients of Miscellaneous Income

1099-OID Statement for Recipients of Original Issue Discount

1099-PATR Statement for Recipients of Taxable Distributions Received from Cooperatives

1099-R Statement for Recipients of Retirement Plans W2-G

Statement of Gambling Winnings

1065-K1 Partners Share of Income, Credits, Deductions, etc.

1041-K1 Beneficiary's Share of Income, Credits, Deductions, etc.

1120S-K1 Shareholder's Share of Undistributed Taxable Income, Credits, Deductions, etc.

I understand that income information obtained from these sources will be used to verify information that I provide in determining initial or continued eligibility for assisted housing programs and the level of benefits.

No action can be taken to terminate, deny, suspend, or reduce the assistance your household receives based on information obtained about you under this consent until the HUD Office, Office of Inspector General (OIG) or the PHA (whichever is applicable) and the O/A have independently verified: 1) the amount of the income, wages, or unemployment compensation involved, 2) whether you actually have (or had) access to such income, wages, or benefits for your own use, and 3) the period or periods when, or with respect to which you actually received such income, wages, or benefits. A photocopy of the signed consent may be used to request a third party to verify any information received under this consent (e.g., employer).

HUD, the O/A, or the PHA shall inform you, or a third party which you designate, of the findings made on the basis of information verified under this consent and shall give you an opportunity to contest such findings in accordance with Handbook 4350.3 Rev. 1.

If a member of the household who is required to sign the consent form is unable to sign the form on time due to extenuating circumstances, the O/A may document the file as to the reason for the delay and the specific plans to obtain the proper signature as soon as possible.

This consent form expires 15 months after signed.

**Privacy Act Statement.** The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is authorized to collect this information by the U.S. Housing Act of 1937, as amended (42 U.S.C. 1437 et. seq.); the Housing and Urban-Rural Recovery Act of 1983 (P.L. 98-181); the Housing and Community Development Technical Amendments of 1984 (P.L. 98-479); and by the Housing and Community Development Act of 1987 (42 U.S.C. 3543). The information is being collected by HUD to determine an applicant's eligibility, the recommended unit size, and the amount the tenant(s) must pay toward rent and utilities. HUD uses this information to assist in managing certain HUD properties, to protect the Government's financial interest, and to verify the accuracy of the information furnished. HUD, the owner or management agent (O/A), or a public housing agency (PHA) may conduct a computer match to verify the information you provide. This information may be released to appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies, when relevant, and to civil, criminal, or regulatory investigators and prosecutors. However, the information will not be otherwise disclosed or released outside of HUD, except as permitted or required by law. You must provide all of the information requested. Failure to provide any information may result in a delay or rejection of your eligibility approval.

### Penalties for Misusing this Consent:

HUD, the O/A, and any PHA (or any employee of HUD, the O/A, or the PHA) may be subject to penalties for unauthorized disclosures or improper uses of information collected based on the consent form.

Use of the information collected based on the form HUD 9887 is restricted to the purposes cited on the form HUD 9887. Any person who knowingly or willfully requests, obtains, or discloses any information under false pretenses concerning an applicant or tenant may be subject to a misdemeanor and fined not more than \$5,000.

Any applicant or tenant affected by negligent disclosure of information may bring civil action for damages, and seek other relief, as may be appropriate, against the officer or employee of HUD, the Owner or the PHA responsible for the unauthorized disclosure or improper use.

# Applicant's/Tenant's Consent to the Release of Information

Verification by Owners of Information  
Supplied by Individuals Who Apply for Housing Assistance

U.S. Department of Housing  
and Urban Development  
Office of Housing  
Federal Housing Commissioner

## Instructions to Owners

1. Give the documents listed below to the applicants/tenants to sign. Staple or clip them together in one package in the order listed.
  - a. The HUD-9887/A Fact Sheet.
  - b. Form HUD-9887.
  - c. Form HUD-9887-A.
  - d. Relevant verifications (HUD Handbook 4350.3 Rev. 1).
2. Verbally inform applicants and tenants that
  - a. They may take these forms home with them to read or to discuss with a third party of their choice and to return to sign them on a date they have worked out with you, and
  - b. If they have a disability that prevents them from reading and/or signing any consent, that you, the Owner, are required to provide reasonable accommodations.
3. Owners are required to give each household a copy of the HUD9887/A Fact Sheet, form HUD-9887, and form HUD-9887-A after obtaining the required applicants/tenants signature(s). Also, owners must give the applicants/tenants a copy of the signed individual verification forms upon their request.

## Instructions to Applicants and Tenants

This Form HUD-9887-A contains customer information and protections concerning the HUD-required verifications that Owners must perform.

1. Read this material which explains:
  - HUD's requirements concerning the release of information, and
  - Other customer protections.
2. Sign on the last page that:
  - you have read this form, or
  - the Owner or a third party of your choice has explained it to you, and
  - you consent to the release of information for the purposes and uses described.

## Authority for Requiring Applicant's/Tenant's Consent to the Release of Information

Section 904 of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Amendments Act of 1988, as amended by section 903 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992. This law is found at 42 U.S.C. 3544.

In part, this law requires you to sign a consent form authorizing the Owner to request current or previous employers to verify salary and wage information pertinent to your eligibility or level of benefits.

In addition, HUD regulations (24 CFR 5.659, Family Information and Verification) require as a condition of receiving housing assistance that you must sign a HUD-approved release and consent authorizing any depository or private source of income to furnish such information that is necessary in determining your eligibility or level of benefits. This includes information that you have provided which will affect the amount of rent you pay. The information includes income and assets, such as salary, welfare benefits, and interest earned on savings accounts. They also include certain adjustments to your income, such as the allowances for dependents and for households whose heads or spouses are elderly handicapped, or disabled; and allowances for child care expenses, medical expenses, and handicap assistance expenses.

## Purpose of Requiring Consent to the Release of Information

In signing this consent form, you are authorizing the Owner of the housing project to which you are applying for assistance to request information from a third party about you. HUD requires the housing owner to verify all of the information you provide that affects your eligibility and level of benefits to ensure that you are eligible for assisted housing benefits and that these benefits are set at the correct levels. Upon the request of the HUD office or the PHA (as Contract Administrator), the housing Owner may provide HUD or the PHA with the information you have submitted and the information the Owner receives under this consent.

## Uses of Information to be Obtained

The individual listed on the verification form may request and receive the information requested by the verification, subject to the limitations of this form. HUD is required to protect the income information it obtains in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974, 5 U.S.C. 552a. The Owner and the PHA are also required to protect the income information they obtain in accordance with any applicable state privacy law. Should the Owner receive information from a third party that is inconsistent with the information you have provided, the Owner is required to notify you in writing identifying the information believed to be incorrect. If this should occur, you will have the opportunity to meet with the Owner to discuss any discrepancies.

## Who Must Sign the Consent Form

Each member of your household who is at least 18 years of age, and each family head, spouse or co-head, regardless of age must sign the relevant consent forms at the initial certification, at each recertification and at each interim certification, if applicable. In addition, when new adult members join the household and when members of the household become 18 years of age they must also sign the relevant consent forms.

Persons who apply for or receive assistance under the following programs must sign the relevant consent forms:

Rental Assistance Program (RAP)  
Rent Supplement  
Section 8 Housing Assistance Payments Programs (administered by the Office of Housing)  
Section 202  
Sections 202 and 811 PRAC  
Section 202/162 PAC  
Section 221(d)(3) Below Market Interest Rate  
Section 236  
HOPE 2 Home Ownership of Multifamily Units

**Failure to Sign the Consent Form**

Failure to sign any required consent form may result in the denial of assistance or termination of assisted housing benefits. If an applicant is denied assistance for this reason, the O/A must follow the notification procedures in Handbook 4350.3 Rev. 1. If a tenant is denied assistance for this reason, the O/A must follow the procedures set out in the lease.

**Conditions**

No action can be taken to terminate, deny, suspend or reduce the assistance your household receives based on information obtained about you under this consent until the O/A has independently 1) verified the information you have provided with respect to your eligibility and level of benefits and 2) with respect to income (including both earned and unearned income), the O/A has verified whether you actually have (or had) access to such income for your own use, and verified the period or periods when, or with respect to which you actually received such income, wages, or benefits.

A photocopy of the signed consent may be used to request the information authorized by your signature on the individual consent forms. This would occur if the O/A does not have another individual verification consent with an original signature and the O/A is required to send out another request for verification (for example, the third party fails to respond). If this happens, the O/A may attach a photocopy of this consent to a photocopy of the individual verification form that you sign. To avoid the use of photocopies, the O/A and the individual may agree to sign more than one consent for each type of verification that is needed. The O/A shall inform you, or a third party which you designate, of the findings made on the basis of information verified under this consent and shall give you an opportunity to contest such findings in accordance with Handbook 4350.3 Rev. 1.

The O/A must provide you with information obtained under this consent in accordance with State privacy laws.

If a member of the household who is required to sign the consent forms is unable to sign the required forms on time, due to extenuating circum-

stances, the O/A may document the file as to the reason for the delay and the specific plans to obtain the proper signature as soon as possible.

Individual consents to the release of information expire 15 months after they are signed. The O/A may use these individual consent forms during the 120 days preceding the certification period. The O/A may also use these forms during the certification period, but only in cases where the O/A receives information indicating that the information you have provided may be incorrect. Other uses are prohibited.

The O/A may not make inquiries into information that is older than 12 months unless he/she has received inconsistent information and has reason to believe that the information that you have supplied is incorrect. If this occurs, the O/A may obtain information within the last 5 years when you have received assistance.

**I have read and understand this information on the purposes and uses of information that is verified and consent to the release of information for these purposes and uses.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Applicant or Tenant (Print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant or Tenant & Date

**I have read and understand the purpose of this consent and its uses and I understand that misuse of this consent can lead to personal penalties to me.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Project Owner or his/her representative

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature & Date  
cc:Applicant/Tenant  
Owner file

**Penalties for Misusing this Consent:**

HUD, the O/A, and any PHA (or any employee of HUD, the O/A, or the PHA) may be subject to penalties for unauthorized disclosures or improper uses of information collected based on the consent form.

Use of the information collected based on the form HUD 9887-A is restricted to the purposes cited on the form HUD 9887-A. Any person who knowingly or willfully requests, obtains or discloses any information under false pretenses concerning an applicant or tenant may be subject to a misdemeanor and fined not more than \$5,000.

Any applicant or tenant affected by negligent disclosure of information may bring civil action for damages, and seek other relief, as may be appropriate, against the officer or employee of HUD, the O/A or the PHA responsible for the unauthorized disclosure or improper use.



# RESIDENT RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES



## OFFICE OF MULTIFAMILY HOUSING PROGRAMS

This brochure applies to assisted housing programs administered by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Office of Multifamily Housing Programs. This brochure does not apply to the Public Housing Program, the Section 8 Moderate Rehabilitation Program or the Housing Choice Voucher Program.

# AS A RESIDENT, YOU HAVE RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES THAT HELP MAKE YOUR HUD-ASSISTED HOUSING A BETTER HOME FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY.

This brochure is being distributed to you because the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), which regulates the property in which you live, has provided some form of assistance or subsidy for your apartment. The brochure briefly lists some of the most important rights and responsibilities to help you get the most out of your home.

As part of its dedication to maintaining the best possible living environment for all residents, your local HUD office encourages and supports the following:

- Property management agents and property owners communicating with residents on any relevant issues or concerns
- Property managers and property owners giving prompt consideration to all valid resident complaints and resolving them as quickly as possible
- Your right to file complaints with management, owners, or government agencies without retaliation, harassment or intimidation
- Your right to organize and participate in certain decisions regarding the well-being of the property and your home
- Your right to appeal a decision made by the local HUD office to the Office of Asset Management and Portfolio Oversight at HUD Headquarters

Along with the owner/management agent, you play an important role in making your apartment, the grounds, and other common areas a better place to live.



# YOUR RIGHTS

As a resident of a HUD-assisted multifamily housing property, you should be aware of your rights.

## **Rights: *Involving Your Apartment***

- The right to live in decent, safe, and sanitary housing that is free from deteriorating paint and environmental hazards, including lead-based paint hazards.
- The right to receive a lead disclosure form disclosing the landlord's knowledge of any lead-based paint or lead-based paint hazards, available records and reports, and a lead hazard information pamphlet before you are obligated under your lease.
- The right to have repairs performed in a timely manner, upon request.
- The right to be given reasonable notice, in writing, of any non-emergency inspection or other entry into your apartment.
- The right to protection from eviction except for specific causes stated in your lease.
- The right to request that your rent be recalculated if your income decreases.
- The right to access your tenant file.

## **Rights: *Involving Resident Organizations***

- The right to organize as residents without obstruction, harassment, or retaliation from property owners or management.
- The right to provide leaflets and post materials in common areas informing other residents of their rights and opportunities to involve themselves in their property.
- The right to be recognized by property owners/management company as having a voice in residential community affairs.
- The right to use appropriate common space or meeting facilities to organize (this may be subject to a reasonable, HUD-approved fee).
- The right to meet without representatives or employees of the owner/management company present.



### **Rights: *Involving Nondiscrimination***

The right, under the Fair Housing Act of 1968 and other civil rights laws, to equal and fair treatment and use of your building's services and facilities, without regard to race, color, religion, sex, disability, familial status (having children under 18) or national origin (ethnicity or language). Residents with disabilities are also reserved the right to reasonable accommodations. In some cases, the prohibition against age discrimination under the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 may also apply.

In addition, residents have the right, under HUD's Equal Access Rule, to equal access to HUD programs without regard to a person's actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status.

## **YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES**

As a resident of a HUD-assisted multifamily housing property, you also have certain responsibilities to ensure that your building remains a suitable home for you and your neighbors. By signing your lease, you, the owner, and the management company have entered into a legal, enforceable contract. You are responsible for complying with your lease, house rules, and local laws governing your property. If you have any questions about your lease or do not have a copy of it, contact your property management company or the local HUD office. You should be aware of the following responsibilities:

### **Responsibilities: *To Your Property Owner or Management Company***

- Complying with the rules and guidelines that govern your lease.
- Paying the correct amount of rent on time each month.
- Providing accurate information to the owner/management agent's company at the certification or recertification interview to determine your total tenant payment, and consenting to the release of information by a third party to allow for verification.
- Reporting changes in the family's income or composition to the owner/management company in a timely manner.

### **Responsibilities: *To the Property and Your Fellow Residents***

- Complying with rules and guidelines that govern your lease.
- Conducting yourself in a manner that will not disturb your neighbors.



- Not engaging in criminal activity in your apartment, common areas or grounds.
- Keeping your apartment reasonably clean, with exits and entrances free of debris, clutter or fire hazards and not littering the grounds or common areas.
- Disposing of garbage and waste in the proper manner.
- Maintaining your apartment and common areas in the same general physical condition as when you moved in.
- Reporting any apparent environmental hazards to the management company (such as peeling paint (which is a hazard if it is a lead-based paint) and any defects in building systems, fixtures, appliances, or other parts of the apartment, the grounds, or related facilities.

## **YOUR RIGHT TO BE INVOLVED**

### **In Decisions Affecting Your Home**

As a resident in HUD-assisted multifamily housing, you play an important role in decisions that affect your community. Different HUD programs provide for specific resident rights. You have the right to know under which HUD program your building is assisted. To find out if your apartment building is covered under any of the following programs, contact your management company, Section 8 Contract Administrator, or the HUD office nearest you. If your building was funded or currently receives assistance under HUD's Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD), Section 236 (including the Rental Assistance Program (RAP), Section 221(d) (3)/below market interest rate (BMIR), Section 202 Direct Loan, Rent Supplement, Section 202/811 Capital Advance programs, 811 (Project Rental Assistance), or is assisted under any applicable project-based Section 8 program (except for the Section 8 Moderate Rehabilitation program), you have the right to be notified of or, in some instances, to comment on the following:

- Nonrenewal of a project based Section 8 contract at the end of its term
- An increase in the maximum permissible rent
- Conversion of a project from project-paid utilities to tenant-paid utilities
- A proposed reduction in tenant utility allowance
- Conversion of residential apartments in a multifamily housing property to nonresidential use or to condominiums, or the transfer of the housing property to a cooperative housing mortgagor corporation or association



- Transfer of the project-based Section 8 contract in your property to one or more buildings at other locations
- Partial release of mortgage security
- Capital improvements that represent a substantial addition to the property
- Prepayment of mortgage (if prior HUD approval is required before owner can prepay)
- Other actions identified by the Uniform Relocation Act that could ultimately lead to involuntary, temporary or permanent relocation of residents
- If you live in a building that is owned by HUD and is being sold, you have the right to be notified of and comment on HUD's plans for disposing of the building.

## **ELIGIBILITY FOR ENHANCED VOUCHERS**

If your apartment is assisted under a project-based Section 8 contract that is ending, and if the owner decides not to renew it, the owner is required by law to notify you in writing of that decision at least one year before the contract expires. Under these circumstances, you may be eligible for an Enhanced Voucher (EV), which would give you the right to remain in an apartment at your property, provided that you are in compliance with your lease and the property remains as rental housing. HUD will select a local Public Housing Agency (PHA) to provide an EV for eligible families who decide to remain at the property and to administer this assistance.

If you decide to remain at your property using an EV, a higher payment standard will be used to determine the amount of Section 8 assistance that is paid on your behalf, if the gross rent for the apartment is more than the PHA's payment standard. However, the PHA must determine that the rent the owner charges for your apartment is reasonable, and you must continue paying at least the amount of rent that you were previously paying.

If you are eligible for an EV, you can instead choose to move out of the property and use the voucher to rent an apartment anywhere in the United States where the owner will accept the voucher and the rents are in an allowable range, subject to approval. If you move out, however, the voucher is no longer "enhanced," and the amount of Section 8 assistance that is paid on your behalf will be based on the PHA's normally applicable payment standard.



## ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE

### For additional help or information, you may contact:

- Your property owner or the management company
- The Account Executive for your property in HUD's Multifamily Regional Center or Satellite Office. Refer to on-line resources for contact information
- HUD's National Multifamily Housing Clearinghouse at 1-800-685-8470 to report maintenance or management concerns
- HUD's Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity at 1-800-669-9777, if you believe you have been discriminated against
- HUD's Office of Inspector General Hot Line at 1-800-347-3735 to report fraud, waste, or mismanagement
- HUD's Housing Counseling Service locator at 1-800-569-4287 for the housing counseling agency in your community
- The HUD-EPA National Lead Information Center 1-800-424-LEAD
- Your local government tenant/landlord affairs office, legal services office, or tenant organizations to obtain information on additional rights under local and state law

If appealing a local HUD Office decision, you may contact the Director of the Office of Asset Management and Portfolio Oversight in Washington, DC at 202-708-3730.

Persons who are deaf or hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may reach the numbers above through the Federal Relay (FedRelay) teletype (TTY) number, 800-877-8339, or by other methods shown at [www.gsa.gov/fedrelay](http://www.gsa.gov/fedrelay).

### ON-LINE RESOURCES:

- Department of Housing and Urban Development website: [www.hud.gov](http://www.hud.gov)
- The local HUD Field Offices: <http://www.hud.gov/local> *Note: To locate your local field office, select: Contact My Local Office (under the I Want To section)*



**U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development**  
Office of Multifamily Housing Programs  
**Washington, DC 20410-0002 Official Business**  
**Penalty for Private Use \$300**



This brochure about your rights and responsibilities as a resident of HUD assisted multifamily housing is available in 13 alternate languages in addition to English and Braille. To determine if your language is available, please contact HUD's National Multifamily Housing Clearinghouse at 1-800-685-8470 or visit <http://www.hud.gov/offices/ftheo/lep.xml>

# FACT SHEET

## For HUD ASSISTED RESIDENTS

### Project-Based Section 8

## “HOW YOUR RENT IS DETERMINED”

Office of Housing

September 2010

*This Fact Sheet is a general guide to inform the Owner/Management Agents (OA) and HUD-assisted residents of the responsibilities and rights regarding income disclosure and verification.*

### Why Determining Income and Rent Correctly is Important

Department of Housing and Urban Development studies show that many resident families pay incorrect rent. The main causes of this problem are:

- Under-reporting of income by resident families, and
- OAs not granting exclusions and deductions to which resident families are entitled.

OAs and residents all have a responsibility in ensuring that the correct rent is paid.

### OAs' Responsibilities:

- Obtain accurate income information
- Verify resident income
- Ensure residents receive the exclusions and deductions to which they are entitled
- Accurately calculate Tenant Rent
- Provide tenants a copy of lease agreement and income and rent determinations Recalculate rent when changes in family composition are reported
- Recalculate rent when resident income decreases
- Recalculate rent when resident income increases by \$200 or more per month
- Recalculate rent every 90 days when resident claims minimum rent hardship exemption
- Provide information on OA policies upon request
- Notify residents of any changes in requirements or practices for reporting income or determining rent

### Residents' Responsibilities:

- Provide accurate family composition information
- Report all income
- Keep copies of papers, forms, and receipts which document income and expenses
- Report changes in family composition and income occurring between annual recertifications
- Sign consent forms for income verification
- Follow lease requirements and house rules

### Income Determinations

A family's anticipated gross income determines not only eligibility for assistance, but also determines the rent a family will pay and the subsidy required. The anticipated income, subject to exclusions and deductions the family will receive during the next twelve (12) months, is used to determine the family's rent.

### What is Annual Income?

Gross Income – Income Exclusions = Annual Income

### What is Adjusted Income?

Annual Income – Deductions = Adjusted Income

### Determining Tenant Rent

### **Project-Based Section 8 Rent Formula:**

The rent a family will pay is the **highest** of the following amounts:

- 30% of the family's monthly *adjusted* income
  - 10% of the family's monthly income
  - Welfare rent or welfare payment from agency to assist family in paying housing costs.
- OR
- \$25.00 Minimum Rent

## **Income and Assets**

HUD assisted residents are required to report **all** income from all sources to the Owner or Agent (OA).

Exclusions to income and deductions are part of the tenant rent process.

When determining the amount of income from assets to be included in annual income, the actual income derived from the assets is included except when the cash value of all of the assets is in excess of \$5,000, then the amount included in annual income is the higher of 2% of the total assets or the actual income derived from the assets.

### **Annual Income Includes:**

- Full amount (before payroll deductions) of wages and salaries, overtime pay, commissions, fees, tips and bonuses and other compensation for personal services
- Net income from the operation of a business or profession
- Interest, dividends and other net income of any kind from real or personal property (See Assets Include/Assets Do Not Include below)
- Full amount of periodic amounts received from Social Security, annuities, insurance policies, retirement funds, pensions, disability or death benefits and other similar types of periodic receipts, including lump-sum amount or prospective monthly amounts for the delayed start of a periodic amount (except for deferred periodic payments of supplemental security income and social security benefits, see Exclusions from Annual Income, below)
- Payments in lieu of earnings, such as unemployment and disability compensation, worker's compensation and severance pay (except for lump-sum additions to

family assets, see Exclusions from Annual Income, below Welfare assistance

- Periodic and determinable allowances, such as alimony and child support payments and regular contributions or gifts received from organizations or from persons not residing in the dwelling
- All regular pay, special pay and allowances of a member of the Armed Forces (except for special pay for exposure to hostile fire)
- For Section 8 programs only, any financial assistance, in excess of amounts received for tuition, that an individual receives under the Higher Education Act of 1965, shall be considered income to that individual, except that financial assistance is not considered annual income for persons over the age of 23 with dependent children or if a student is living with his or her parents who are receiving section 8 assistance. For the purpose of this paragraph, "financial assistance" does not include loan proceeds for the purpose of determining income.

### **Assets Include:**

- Stocks, bonds, Treasury bills, certificates of deposit, money market accounts
- Individual retirement and Keogh accounts
- Retirement and pension funds
- Cash held in savings and checking accounts, safe deposit boxes, homes, etc.
- Cash value of whole life insurance policies available to the individual before death
- Equity in rental property and other capital investments
- Personal property held as an investment
- Lump sum receipts or one-time receipts
- Mortgage or deed of trust held by an applicant
- Assets disposed of for less than fair market value.

### **Assets Do Not Include:**

- Necessary personal property (clothing, furniture, cars, wedding ring, vehicles specially equipped for persons with disabilities)
- Interests in Indian trust land
- Term life insurance policies
- Equity in the cooperative unit in which the family lives
- Assets that are part of an active business
- Assets that are not effectively owned by the applicant

or are held in an individual's name but:

- The assets and any income they earn accrue to the benefit of someone else who is not a member of the household, and
- that other person is responsible for income taxes incurred on income generated by the assets
- Assets that are not accessible to the applicant and provide no income to the applicant (Example: A battered spouse owns a house with her husband. Due to the domestic situation, she receives no income from the asset and cannot convert the asset to cash.)
- Assets disposed of for less than fair market value as a result of:
  - Foreclosure
  - Bankruptcy
  - Divorce or separation agreement if the applicant or resident receives important consideration not necessarily in dollars.

#### **Exclusions from Annual Income:**

- Income from the employment of children (including foster children) under the age of 18
- Payment received for the care of foster children or foster adults (usually persons with disabilities, unrelated to the tenant family, who are unable to live alone
- Lump-sum additions to family assets, such as inheritances, insurance payments (including payments under health and accident insurance and worker's compensation), capital gains and settlement for personal or property losses
- Amounts received by the family that are specifically for, or in reimbursement of, the cost of medical expenses for any family member
- Income of a live-in aide
- Subject to the inclusion of income for the Section 8 program for students who are enrolled in an institution of higher education under Annual Income Includes, above, the full amount of student financial assistance either paid directly to the student or to the educational institution
- The special pay to a family member serving in the Armed Forces who is exposed to hostile fire
- Amounts received under training programs funded by HUD
- 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)

- Amounts received by a participant in other publicly assisted programs which are specifically for or in reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses incurred (special equipment, clothing, transportation, child care, etc.) and which are made solely to allow participation in a specific program
- Resident service stipend (not to exceed \$200 per month)
- Incremental earnings and benefits resulting to any family member from participation in qualifying State or local employment training programs and training of a family member as resident management staff
- Temporary, non-recurring or sporadic income (including gifts)
- 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
- Earnings in excess of \$480 for each full time student 18 years old or older (excluding head of household, co-head or spouse)
- Adoption assistance payments in excess of \$480 per adopted child
- Deferred periodic payments of supplemental security income and social security benefits that are received in a lump sum amount or in prospective monthly amounts
- Amounts received by the family in the form of refunds or rebates under State or local law for property taxes paid on the dwelling unit
- 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

#### **Federally Mandated Exclusions:**

- Value of the allotment provided to an eligible household under the Food Stamp Act of 1977
- Payments to Volunteers under the Domestic Volunteer Services Act of 1973
- Payments received under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act
- Income derived from certain submarginal land of the US that is held in trust for certain Indian Tribes

- Payments or allowances made under the Department of Health and Human Services' Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program
- Payments received under programs funded in whole or in part under the Job Training Partnership Act
- Income derived from the disposition of funds to the Grand River Band of Ottawa Indians
- The first \$2000 of per capita shares received from judgment funds awarded by the Indian Claims Commission or the US. Claims Court, the interests of individual Indians in trust or restricted lands, including the first \$2000 per year of income received by individual Indians from funds derived from interests held in such trust or restricted lands
- Payments received from programs funded under Title V of the Older Americans Act of 1985
- 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*
- Payments received under the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act of 1980
- 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
- Earned income tax credit (EITC) refund payments on or after January 1, 1991
- Payments by the Indian Claims Commission to the Confederated Tribes and Bands of Yakima Indian Nation or the Apache Tribe of Mescalero Reservation
- Allowance, earnings and payments to AmeriCorps participants under the National and Community Service Act of 1990
- Any allowance paid under the provisions of 38U.S.C. 1805 to a child suffering from spina bifida who is the child of a Vietnam veteran
- 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
- Allowances, earnings and payments to individuals participating under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998.

## Deductions:

- \$480 for each dependent including full time students or persons with a disability
- \$400 for any elderly family or disabled family
- Unreimbursed medical expenses of any elderly family or disabled family that total more than 3% of Annual Income
- Unreimbursed reasonable attendant care and auxiliary apparatus expenses for disabled family member(s) to allow family member(s) to work that total more than 3% of Annual Income
- If an elderly family has both unreimbursed medical expenses and disability assistance expenses, the family's 3% of income expenditure is applied only one time.
- Any reasonable child care expenses for children under age 13 necessary to enable a member of the family to be employed or to further his or her education.

## Reference Materials

### Legislation:

- Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act of 1998, Public Law 105-276, 112 Stat. 2518 which amended the United States Housing Act of 1937, 42 USC 2437, et seq.

### Regulations:

- General HUD Program Requirements; 24 CFR Part 5

### Handbook:

- 4350.3, Occupancy Requirements of Subsidized Multifamily Housing Programs

### Notices:

**“Federally Mandated Exclusions” Notice 66 FR 4669, April 20, 2001**

### For More Information:

Find out more about HUD's programs on HUD's Internet homepage at <http://www.hud.gov>

# FACT SHEET

## For HUD ASSISTED RESIDENTS

### Section 202/162 – Project Assistance Contract (PAC) Section 202/811 – Project Rental Assistance Contract (PRAC)

## “HOW YOUR RENT IS DETERMINED”

Office of Housing

\*\*June 2007\*\*

*This Fact Sheet is a general guide to inform the Owner/Management Agents (OA) and HUD-assisted residents of the responsibilities and rights regarding income disclosure and verification.*

### Why Determining Income and Rent Correctly is Important

Department of Housing and Urban Development studies show that many resident families pay incorrect rent. The main causes of this problem are:

- Under-reporting of income by resident families, and
- OAs not granting exclusions and deductions to which resident families are entitled.

OAs and residents all have a responsibility in ensuring that the correct rent is paid.

#### OAs' Responsibilities:

- Obtain accurate income information

- Verify resident income
- Ensure residents receive the exclusions and deductions to which they are entitled
- Accurately calculate Tenant Rent
- Provide tenants a copy of lease agreement and income and rent determinations
- Recalculate rent when changes in family composition and decreases or increases in income are reported by \$200 more per month
- Provide information on OA policies upon request
- Notify residents of any changes in requirements or practices for reporting income or determining rent

#### Residents' Responsibilities:

- Provide accurate family composition information
- Report all income
- Keep copies of papers, forms, and receipts which document income and expenses
- Report changes in family composition and income occurring between annual recertifications
- Sign consent forms for income verification
- Follow lease requirements and house rules

### Income Determinations

A family's anticipated gross income determines not only eligibility for assistance, but also determines the rent a family will pay and the subsidy required. The anticipated income, subject to exclusions and deductions the family will receive during the next twelve (12) months, is used to determine the family's rent.

#### What is Annual Income?

Gross Income – Income Exclusions = Annual Income

#### What is Adjusted Income?

Annual Income – Deductions = Adjusted Income

### Determining Tenant Rent

The rent a family will pay is the **highest** of the following amounts:

- 30% of the family's monthly *adjusted* income
- 10% of the family's monthly income
- Welfare rent or welfare payment from agency to assist family in paying housing costs.

**Note:** An owner may admit an applicant to the PAC program only if the Total Tenant Payment is less than the gross rent. This note does not apply to the PRAC program. In some instances under the PRAC program a

tenant's Total Tenant Payment will exceed the PRAC operating rent (gross rent).

## Income and Assets

HUD assisted residents are required to report **all** income from all sources to the Owner or Agent (OA).

Exclusions to income and deductions are part of the tenant rent process.

When determining the amount of income from assets to be included in annual income, the actual income derived from the assets is included except when the cash value of all of the assets is in excess of \$5,000, then the amount included in annual income is the higher of 2% of the total assets or the actual income derived from the assets.

### Annual Income Includes:

- Full amount (before payroll deductions) of wages and salaries, overtime pay, commissions, fees, tips and bonuses and other compensation for personal services
- Net income from the operation of a business or profession
- Interest, dividends and other net income of any kind from real or personal property (See Assets Include/Assets Do Not Include below)
- Full amount of periodic amounts received from Social Security, annuities, insurance policies, retirement funds, pensions, disability or death benefits and other similar types of periodic receipts, including lump-sum amount or prospective monthly amounts for the delayed start of a periodic amount **\*\***(except for deferred periodic payments of supplemental security income and social security benefits, see Exclusions from annual Income, below)**\*\***
- Payments in lieu of earnings, such as unemployment and disability compensation, worker's compensation and severance pay **\*\***(except for lump-sum additions to family assets, see Exclusions from Annual Income, below)**\*\***
- Welfare assistance
- Periodic and determinable allowances, such as alimony and child support payments and regular contributions or gifts received from organizations or from persons not residing in the dwelling
- All regular pay, special pay and allowances of a member of the Armed Forces (except for special pay for exposure to hostile fire)
- **\*\***For Section 8 programs only, in excess of amounts received for tuition, that an individual receives under the Higher Education Act of 1965,

shall be considered income to that individual, except that financial assistance is not considered annual income for persons over the age of 23 with dependent children or if a student is living with his or her parents who are receiving section 8 assistance. For the purpose of this paragraph, "financial assistance" does not include loan proceeds for the purpose of determining income.**\*\***

### Assets Include:

- Stocks, bonds, Treasury bills, certificates of deposit, money market accounts
- Individual retirement and Keogh accounts
- Retirement and pension funds
- Cash held in savings and checking accounts, safe deposit boxes, homes, etc.
- Cash value of whole life insurance policies available to the individual before death
- Equity in rental property and other capital investments
- Personal property held as an investment
- Lump sum receipts or one-time receipts
- Mortgage or deed of trust held by an applicant
- Assets disposed of for less than fair market value.

### Assets Do Not Include:

- Necessary personal property (clothing, furniture, cars, wedding ring, vehicles specially equipped for persons with disabilities)
- Interests in Indian trust land
- Term life insurance policies
- Equity in the cooperative unit in which the family lives
- Assets that are part of an active business
- Assets that are not effectively owned by the applicant or are held in an individual's name but:
  - The assets and any income they earn accrue to the benefit of someone else who is not a member of the household, and
  - that other person is responsible for income taxes incurred on income generated by the assets
- Assets that are not accessible to the applicant and provide no income to the applicant (Example: A battered spouse owns a house with her husband. Due to the domestic situation, she receives no income from the asset and cannot convert the asset to cash.)
- Assets disposed of for less than fair market value as a result of:
  - Foreclosure
  - Bankruptcy
  - Divorce or separation agreement if the applicant

or resident receives important consideration not necessarily in dollars.

### **Exclusions from Annual Income:**

- Income from the employment of children (including foster children) under the age of 18
- Payment received for the care of foster children or foster adults (usually persons with disabilities, unrelated to the tenant family, who are unable to live alone)
- Lump-sum additions to family assets, such as inheritances, insurance payments (including payments under health and accident insurance and worker's compensation), capital gains and settlement for personal or property losses
- Amounts received by the family that are specifically for, or in reimbursement of, the cost of medical expenses for any family member
- Income of a live-in aide
- \*\*Subject to the inclusion of income for the Section 8 program for students who are enrolled in an institution of higher education under Annual Income Includes, above,\*\*The full amount of student financial assistance either paid directly to the student or to the educational institution
- The special pay to a family member serving in the Armed Forces who is exposed to hostile fire
- Amounts received under training programs funded by HUD
- 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)
- Amounts received by a participant in other publicly assisted programs which are specifically for or in reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses incurred (special equipment, clothing, transportation, child care, etc.) and which are made solely to allow participation in a specific program
- Resident service stipend (not to exceed \$200 per month)
- Incremental earnings and benefits resulting to any family member from participation in qualifying State or local employment training programs and training of a family member as resident management staff
- Temporary, non-recurring or sporadic income (including gifts)

- 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
- Earnings in excess of \$480 for each full time student 18 years old or older (excluding head of household, co-head or spouse)
- Adoption assistance payments in excess of \$480 per adopted child
- Deferred periodic payments of supplemental security income and social security benefits that are received in a lump sum amount or in prospective monthly amounts
- Amounts received by the family in the form of refunds or rebates under State or local law for property taxes paid on the dwelling unit
- 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

### **Federally Mandated Exclusions:**

- Value of the allotment provided to an eligible household under the Food Stamp Act of 1977
- Payments to Volunteers under the Domestic Volunteer Services Act of 1973
- Payments received under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act
- Income derived from certain submarginal land of the US that is held in trust for certain Indian Tribes
- Payments or allowances made under the Department of Health and Human Services' Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program
- Payments received under programs funded in whole or in part under the Job Training Partnership Act
- Income derived from the disposition of funds to the Grand River Band of Ottawa Indians
- The first \$2000 of per capita shares received from judgment funds awarded by the Indian Claims Commission or the US. Claims Court, the interests of individual Indians in trust or restricted lands, including the first \$2000 per year of income received by individual Indians from funds derived from interests held in such trust or restricted lands
- Amounts of scholarships funded under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, including awards under the Federal work-study program or under the Bureau of Indian Affairs student assistance programs
- Payments received from programs funded under Title V of the Older Americans Act of 1985
- 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*

- Payments received under the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act of 1980
- 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
- Earned income tax credit (EITC) refund payments on or after January 1, 1991
- Payments by the Indian Claims Commission to the Confederated Tribes and Bands of Yakima Indian Nation or the Apache Tribe of Mescalero Reservation
- Allowance, earnings and payments to AmeriCorps participants under the National and Community Service Act of 1990
- Any allowance paid under the provisions of 38U.S.C. 1805 to a child suffering from spina bifida who is the child of a Vietnam veteran
- 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
- Allowances, earnings and payments to individuals participating under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998

## **Deductions:**

- \$480 for each dependent including full time students or persons with a disability
- \$400 for any elderly family or disabled family
- Unreimbursed medical expenses of any elderly family or disabled family that total more than 3% of Annual Income the expenditure is applied only one time
- Unreimbursed reasonable attendant care and auxiliary apparatus expenses for disabled family member(s) to allow family member(s) to work that total more than 3% of Annual Income
- If an elderly family has both unreimbursed medical expenses and disability assistance expenses, the family's 3% of income expenditure is applied only one time
- Any reasonable child care expenses for children under age 13 necessary to enable a member of the family to be employed or to further his or her education.

## **Reference Materials**

### **Regulations:**

- General HUD Program Requirements; 24 CFR Part 5 and CFR 24 Part 891.

### **Handbook:**

- 4350.3, Occupancy Requirements of Subsidized Multifamily Housing Programs

### **Notices:**

- "Federally Mandated Exclusions" Notice 66 FR 4669, April 20, 2001

### **For More Information:**

Find out more about HUD's programs on HUD's Internet homepage at <http://www.hud.gov>



## RENTAL HOUSING INTEGRITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

# EIV & You

### ENTERPRISE INCOME VERIFICATION



**What YOU Should Know  
if You are Applying for or are Receiving  
Rental Assistance through the Department of  
Housing and Urban Development (HUD)**

### What is EIV?

EIV is a web-based computer system containing employment and income information on individuals participating in HUD's rental assistance programs. This information assists HUD in making sure "the right benefits go to the right persons".



### What income information is in EIV and where does it come from?

#### The Social Security Administration:

- Social Security (SS) benefits
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits
- Dual Entitlement SS benefits

#### The Department of Health and Human Services (HSS) National Directory of New Hires (NDNH):

- Wages
- Unemployment compensation
- New Hire (W-4)

### What is the information in EIV used for?

The EIV system provides the owner and/or manager of the property where you live with your income information and employment history. This information is used to meet HUD's requirement to independently verify your employment and/or income when you recertify for continued rental assistance. Getting the information from the EIV system is more accurate and less time consuming and costly to the owner or manager than contacting your income source directly for verification.

Property owners and managers are able to use the EIV system to determine if you:

- correctly reported your income

They will also be able to determine if you:

- Used a false social security number
- Failed to report or under reported the income of a spouse or other household member
- Receive rental assistance at another property

### Is my consent required to get information about me from EIV?

Yes. When you sign form HUD-9887, Notice and Consent for the Release of Information, and form HUD-9887-A, Applicant's/Tenant's Consent to the Release of Information, you are giving your consent for HUD and the property owner or manager to obtain information about you to verify your employment and/or income and determine your eligibility for HUD rental assistance. Your failure to sign the consent forms may result in the denial of assistance or termination of assisted housing benefits.

### Who has access to the EIV information?

Only you and those parties listed on the consent form HUD-9887 that you must sign have access to the information in EIV pertaining to you.

### What are my responsibilities?

As a tenant in a HUD assisted property, you must certify that information provided on an application for housing assistance and the form used to certify and recertify your assistance (form HUD-50059) is accurate and honest. This is also described in the *Tenants Rights & Responsibilities* brochure that your property owner or manager is required to give to you every year.

### Penalties for providing false information

Providing false information is fraud. Penalties for those who commit fraud could include eviction, repayment of overpaid assistance received, fines up to \$10,000, imprisonment for up to 5 years, prohibition from receiving any future rental assistance and/or state and local government penalties.

### Protect yourself, follow HUD reporting requirements

When completing applications and recertifications, you must include all sources of income you or any member of your household receives. Some sources include:

- Income from wages
- Welfare payments
- Unemployment benefits
- Social Security (SS) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits
- Veteran benefits
- Pensions, retirement, etc.
- Income from assets
- Monies received on behalf of a child such as:
  - *Child support*
  - *AFDC payments*
  - *Social security for children, etc.*

If you have any questions on whether money received should be counted as income, ask your property owner or manager.

When changes occur in your household income or family composition, immediately contact your property owner or manager to determine if this will affect your rental assistance.



Your property owner or manager is required to provide you with a copy of the fact sheet "How Your Rent Is Determined" which includes a listing of what is included or excluded from income.

### What if I disagree with the EIV information?

If you do not agree with the employment and/or income information in EIV, you must tell your property owner or manager. Your property owner or manager will contact the income source directly to obtain verification of the employment and/or income you disagree with. Once the property owner or manager receives the information from the income source, you will be notified in writing of the results.

### What if I did not report income previously and it is now being reported in EIV?

If the EIV report discloses income from a prior period that you did not report, you have two options: 1) you can agree with the EIV report if it is correct, or 2) you can dispute the report if you believe it is incorrect. The property owner or manager will then conduct a written third party verification with the reporting source of income. If the source confirms this income is accurate, you will be required to repay any overpaid rental assistance as far back as five (5) years and you may be subject to penalties if it is determined that you deliberately tried to conceal your income.

### What if the information in EIV is not about me?

EIV has the capability to uncover cases of potential identity theft; someone could be using your social security number. If this is discovered, you must notify the Social Security Administration by calling them toll-free at 1-800-772-1213. Further information on identity theft is available on the Social Security Administration website at: <http://www.ssa.gov/pubs/10064.html>.

### Who do I contact if my income or rental assistance is not being calculated correctly?

First, contact your property owner or manager for an explanation.

If you need further assistance, you may contact the contract administrator for the property you live in; and if it is not resolved to your satisfaction, you may contact HUD. For help locating the HUD office nearest you, which can also provide you contact information for the contract administrator, please call the Multifamily Housing Clearinghouse at: 1-800-685-8470.



### Where can I obtain more information on EIV and the income verification process?

Your property owner or manager can provide you with additional information on EIV and the income verification process. They can also refer you to the appropriate contract administrator or your local HUD office for additional information.

If you have access to a computer, you can read more about EIV and the income verification process on HUD's Multifamily EIV homepage at: [www.hud.gov/offices/hsg/mfh/rhiip/eiv/eivhome.cfm](http://www.hud.gov/offices/hsg/mfh/rhiip/eiv/eivhome.cfm).



JULY 2009

Supplemental and Optional Contact Information for HUD-Assisted Housing Applicants

**SUPPLEMENT TO APPLICATION FOR FEDERALLY ASSISTED HOUSING**

This form is to be provided to each applicant for federally assisted housing

**Instructions: Optional Contact Person or Organization:** You have the right by law to include as part of your application for housing, the name, address, telephone number, and other relevant information of a family member, friend, or social, health, advocacy, or other organization. This contact information is for the purpose of identifying a person or organization that may be able to help in resolving any issues that may arise during your tenancy or to assist in providing any special care or services you may require. **You may update, remove, or change the information you provide on this form at any time.** You are not required to provide this contact information, but if you choose to do so, please include the relevant information on this form.

<b>Applicant Name:</b>	
<b>Mailing Address:</b>	
<b>Telephone No:</b>	<b>Cell Phone No:</b>
<b>Name of Additional Contact Person or Organization:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	
<b>Telephone No:</b>	<b>Cell Phone No:</b>
<b>E-Mail Address (if applicable):</b>	
<b>Relationship to Applicant:</b>	
<b>Reason for Contact:</b> (Check all that apply)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Emergency	<input type="checkbox"/> Assist with Recertification Process
<input type="checkbox"/> Unable to contact you	<input type="checkbox"/> Change in lease terms
<input type="checkbox"/> Termination of rental assistance	<input type="checkbox"/> Change in house rules
<input type="checkbox"/> Eviction from unit	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Late payment of rent	
<b>Commitment of Housing Authority or Owner:</b> If you are approved for housing, this information will be kept as part of your tenant file. If issues arise during your tenancy or if you require any services or special care, we may contact the person or organization you listed to assist in resolving the issues or in providing any services or special care to you.	
<b>Confidentiality Statement:</b> The information provided on this form is confidential and will not be disclosed to anyone except as permitted by the applicant or applicable law.	
<b>Legal Notification:</b> Section 644 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992 (Public Law 102-550, approved October 28, 1992) requires each applicant for federally assisted housing to be offered the option of providing information regarding an additional contact person or organization. By accepting the applicant's application, the housing provider agrees to comply with the non-discrimination and equal opportunity requirements of 24 CFR section 5.105, including the prohibitions on discrimination in admission to or participation in federally assisted housing programs on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, and familial status under the Fair Housing Act, and the prohibition on age discrimination under the Age Discrimination Act of 1975.	

Check this box if you choose not to provide the contact information.

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**Signature of Applicant**

**Date**

The information collection requirements contained in this form were submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501-3520). The public reporting burden is estimated at 15 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Section 644 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 13604) imposed on HUD the obligation to require housing providers participating in HUD's assisted housing programs to provide any individual or family applying for occupancy in HUD-assisted housing with the option to include in the application for occupancy the name, address, telephone number, and other relevant information of a family member, friend, or person associated with a social, health, advocacy, or similar organization. The objective of providing such information is to facilitate contact by the housing provider with the person or organization identified by the tenant to assist in providing any delivery of services or special care to the tenant and assist with resolving any tenancy issues arising during the tenancy of such tenant. This supplemental application information is to be maintained by the housing provider and maintained as confidential information. Providing the information is basic to the operations of the HUD Assisted-Housing Program and is voluntary. It supports statutory requirements and program and management controls that prevent fraud, waste and mismanagement. In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information, unless the collection displays a currently valid OMB control number.

**Privacy Statement:** Public Law 102-550, authorizes the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to collect all the information (except the Social Security Number (SSN)) which will be used by HUD to protect disbursement data from fraudulent actions.



# Rural Housing and Community Programs

## Things You Should Know About USDA Rural Rental Housing

***Don't risk losing your chances for federally assisted housing by providing false, incomplete, or inaccurate information on your application or recertification***

### ***Penalties for Committing Fraud***

You must provide information about your household status and income when you apply for assisted housing in apartments financed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). USDA places a high priority on preventing fraud. If you deliberately omit information or give false information to the management company on your application or recertification forms, you may be:

- Evicted from your apartment;
- Required to repay all the extra rental assistance you received based on faulty information;
- Fined;
- Put in prison and/or barred from receiving future assistance.

Your State and local governments also may have laws that allow them to impose other penalties for fraud in addition to the ones listed here.

### ***How To Complete Your Application***

When you meet with the landlord to complete your application, you must provide information about:

- **All Household Income.** List all sources of money that you receive. If any other adults will be living with you in the apartment, you must also list all of their income. Sources of money include:
  - Wages, unemployment and disability compensation, welfare payments, alimony, Social Security benefits, pensions, etc.;
  - Any money you receive on behalf of your children, such as child support, children's Social Security, etc.;
  - Income from assets such as interest from a savings account, credit union, certificate of deposit, stock dividends, etc.;
  - Any income you expect to receive, such as a pay raise or bonus.
- **All Household Assets.** List all assets that you have. If any other adults will be living with you, you must also list all of their assets. Assets include:
  - Bank accounts, savings bonds, certificates of deposit, stocks, real estate, etc.;
  - Any business or asset you sold in the last 2 years for less than its full value, such as selling your home to your children.

- **All Household Members.** List the names of all the people, including adults and children, who will actually live with you in the apartment, whether or not they are related to you.

### ***Ask for Help if You Need It***

If you are having problems understanding any part of the application, let the landlord know and ask for help with any questions you may have. The landlord is trained to help you with the application process.

### ***Before You Sign the Application***

- Make sure that you read the entire application and understand everything it says;
- Check it carefully to ensure that all the questions have been answered completely and accurately;
- Don't sign it unless you are sure that there aren't any errors or missing information.

By signing the application and certification forms, you are stating that they are complete to the best of your knowledge and belief. Signing a form when you know it contains misinformation is considered fraud.

- The management company will verify your information. USDA may conduct computer matches with other Federal, State or private agencies to verify that the income you reported is correct;
- Ask for a copy of your signed application and keep a copy of it for your records.

### ***Tenant Recertification***

Residents in USDA-financed assisted housing must provide updated information to the management company at least once a year. Ask your landlord when you must recertify your income.

You must **immediately** report:

- Any changes in income of \$100 or more per month;
- Any changes in the number of household members.

For your annual recertification, you must report:

- All income changes, such as increases in pay or benefits, job change or job loss, loss of benefits, etc., for any adult household member;

- Any household member who has moved in or out;
- All assets that you or your adult housemates own, or any assets that were sold in the last 2 years for less than their full value.

## Avoid Fraud, Report Abuse

Prevent fraudulent schemes through these steps:

- Don't pay any money to file your application;
- Don't pay any money to move up on the waiting list;
- Don't pay for anything not covered by your lease;
- Get receipts for any money you do pay;
- Get a written explanation for any money you are required to pay besides rent, such as maintenance charges.

**Report Abuse:** If you know anyone who has falsified an application, or who tries to persuade you to make false statements, report him or her to the manager. If you cannot report to your manager, call your local or state USDA office at 1 (800) 670-6553, or write: USDA, STOP 0782, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250.

## If You Disagree With a Decision

Tenants may file a grievance in writing with the complex owner in response to the owner's actions, or failure to act, that result in a denial, significant reduction, or termination of benefits. Grievances may also be filed when a tenant disputes the owner's notice of proposed adverse action.

### Notice of Adverse Action

The complex owner must notify tenants in writing about any proposed actions that may have adverse consequences, such as denial of occupancy and changes in the occupancy rules or lease. The written notice must give specific reasons for the proposed action, and must also advise tenants of the "right to respond to the notice within 10 calendar days after the date of the notice" and of "the right to a hearing." Housing complexes in areas with a concentration of non-English-speaking people must send notices in English and in the majority non-English language.

### Grievance Process Overview

USDA believes that the best way to resolve grievances is through an informal meeting between tenants and the landlord or owner. Once the owner learns about a tenant grievance, the process should begin with an informal meeting between the two parties. Owners must offer to meet with tenants to discuss the grievance within 10 calendar days of receipt of the complaint. USDA encourages owners and tenants to try to reach a mutually satisfactory resolution to the problem at the meeting.

If the grievance is not resolved, the tenant must request a hearing within 10 days of receipt of the meeting findings. The parties will then select a hearing panel or hearing officer to govern the hearing. All parties are notified of the decision 10 days after the hearing.

### When a Grievance Is Legitimate

The landlord must determine if a grievance is within the established rules for the program. For example, "I want to file a complaint because the manager doesn't speak to me" is not a legitimate complaint. However, "I want to file a complaint because the manager isn't maintaining the property according to USDA guidelines" is a legitimate complaint. Below are examples of cases in which tenants may and may not file a complaint.

A complaint may not be filed with the owner/management if:	A complaint may be filed with the owner/management if:
USDA has authorized a proposed rent change.	There is a modification of the lease, or changes in the rules or rent that are not authorized by USDA.
A tenant believes that he/she has been discriminated against because of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, familial status, or disability. Discrimination complaints should be filed with USDA and/or the Department of U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD), not with the owner/management.	The owner or management fails to maintain the property in a decent, safe, and sanitary manner.
The complex has formed a tenant's association and all parties have agreed to use the association to settle grievances.	The owner violates a lease provision or occupancy rule.
USDA has required a change in the rules and proper notices have been given.	A tenant is denied admission to the complex.
The tenant is in violation of the lease and the result is termination of tenancy.	
There are disputes between tenants that do not involve the owner/management.	
Tenants are displaced or other adverse effects occur as a result of loan prepayment.	

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To file a complaint of discrimination write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.