



# **Julia West House Apartments: Tenant Selection Plan**

Thank you for your interest in applying to live at Julia West House Apartments. Guardian Management LLC is an Equal Housing Opportunity provider and seeks to process all applicants in a fair and consistent manner.

## Occupancy Policy

Guardian Management, LLC has established standards on occupancy to permit the tenant to select the apartment size they deem appropriate to their needs while preventing overcrowding and underutilization of the apartment. Occupancy is based on the number of bedrooms in an apartment. There will be a minimum of one person per bedroom with a maximum of two persons allowed per bedroom, plus one additional occupant for the household. Applicants wishing to appeal this policy may do so in writing to:

Fair Housing Officer  
PO Box 5668  
Portland, OR 97228

[FHO@gres.com](mailto:FHO@gres.com)

Julia West House has studio and one-bedroom apartment homes.

## Privacy Policy

We are dedicated to protecting the privacy of your personal information used to determine your eligibility. We have adopted a Privacy Policy to ensure your personal information is kept secure.

We are pledged to the letter and spirit of the U.S. policy for the achievement of equal housing opportunity throughout the nation. We encourage and support an affirmative advertising and marketing program in which there are no barriers to obtaining housing because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin. TDD 1- 800-735-2900.

## General Requirements

Applicants must be at least 18 years of age, or under the age of 18 and married or emancipated.

To initiate the application process, one form of identification will be required. Acceptable forms of photo identification for positive identification include a state-issued driver's license, identification card or a passport regardless of expiration date. Acceptable forms of positive identification (other than photo ID) include a Certified birth certificate, Individual Taxpayer Identification Number, Social Security number, Immigrant or Non-Immigrant Visa, or legal alien documentation. Any non-governmental ID or combination of ID that reasonably verify identity. Copies of identification may be required. Information from such identification will be required to appear on the application and will be used to complete the screening process.

Applicants are charged a screening fee equal to the amount the project is charged.

## Project Specific Requirements

Julia West House Apartments is funded by and operated by the requirements as per these Affordable Housing Programs/Funders:

- Low Income Housing Tax Credit 60% AMI
- HOME
- BOND
- Local Innovation Fast Track (LIFT)
- Other OHCS Funding Programs:
  - Community Development Block Grant
  - Conduit
  - Farmworker-Agriculture Worker Housing Tax Credit Program
  - General Housing Account Program
  - Housing Preservation Fund
  - Multifamily Energy Program-Weatherization
  - Oregon Affordable Housing Tax Credit
  - Operating Agreement
  - Trust Fund-HDGP
  - OHCS PSH
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## Income/Asset Requirements

Gross annual income shall not exceed the applicable program income limits. All forms of income must be disclosed. Information on the limits is available from the Community Manager. Detailed information on the income limits can be found on the applicable funder(s) website(s).

<https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/mtsp.html>

All forms of income and assets are required to be directly 3rd party verified. Contact information must be supplied by the applicant/resident for management to accomplish this requirement. Other documentation may be requested or required to prove eligibility. Individual verification forms will be signed. Applicant has the right to not sign verification forms if either the requesting organization and/or the organization supplying the information is left blank. All forms of income must be disclosed. Gross annual income shall not exceed the applicable program income limits.

# Student Requirement

## Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) Student Requirements

Units comprised of full-time students (no one of whom is entitled to file a joint return) do not qualify as low-income units.

However, there are exceptions:

- A student receiving assistance under Title IV of the Social Security Act (TANF).
- A student who was previously under the care and placement responsibility of the State agency responsible for administering a plan under part B or part E of title IV of the Social Security Act (State Foster Care).
- A student enrolled in a job training program receiving assistance under the Job Training Partnership Act or Workforce Investment Act or under other similar Federal, State, or local laws.
- Entirely by full-time students if such students are:
  - Single parents and their children and such parents are not dependents (as defined in IRC §152, determined without regard to subsections (b)(1), (b)(2), and (d)(1)(B) thereof) of another individual and such children are not dependents (as so defined) of another individual other than a parent of such children,
  - Married and file a joint return.

In the case of a single parent with children, the legislative history explains that none of the tenants (parent or children) can be a dependent of a third party.

## Requirements

A credit report will be obtained to review credit history, applications are not rejected for poor credit or financial history, poor or lack of rental history, history of eviction, most criminal convictions or behaviors that indicate a lack of “housing readiness”. Use of drugs or alcohol in and of itself is not considered a reason for eviction unless a requirement under a federal program.

- If an applicant is or is perceived to be or has been or has been perceived to be, a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, sexual assault, or has a prior eviction on his/her record due to being the victim of domestic violence is not an appropriate basis for denial of tenancy. Landlord may request that an individual certify that the individual is a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, and that the incident or incidents in question are bona fide incidents of such actual or threatened abuse. The individual shall provide a copy of such certification within 14 days after an owner, Community Manager, public housing agency, or assisted housing provider requests such certification. An individual may satisfy the certification requirement by providing the requesting owner, Community Manager, public housing agency, or assisted housing provider with documentation signed by an employee, agent, or volunteer of a victim service provider, an attorney, a member of the clergy, a medical professional, or any other professional, from whom the victim has sought assistance in addressing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking or the effects of the abuse.

- All information provided to an owner, Community Manager, public housing agency, or assisted housing provider, including the fact that an individual is a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, shall be retained in the strictest confidence by such owner, Community Manager, public housing agency, or assisted housing provider, and shall neither be entered into any shared database, nor provided to any related entity, except to the extent that disclosure is requested or consented to by the individual in writing or otherwise required by applicable law.

## Criminal Conviction Criteria

Upon receipt of the Rental Application, Owner/Agent will conduct a search of public records to determine whether applicant or any proposed resident or occupant has a “Conviction” (which means: a conviction; a guilty plea; or no contest plea) or pending charges that have not yet been adjudicated for any of the following crimes as provided: 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 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. Owner/Agent will not consider a previous arrest that did not result in a conviction, pending charges, or expunged records or any other type of conviction or adjudication not permissible to consider under local, state, or federal law.

If applicant, or any proposed occupant, has a conviction or pending charges that have not yet been adjudicated in their past which would disqualify them under these criteria, and desires to submit additional information to Owner/Agent along with the application so Owner/Agent 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, applicants may request the review process after denial as set forth below, however, see item (c) under “Criminal Conviction Review Process” below regarding holding the unit.

A lifetime screening is conducted, and any single conviction or any pending criminal charges that have not yet been adjudicated for any of the following:

- Felonies involving murder, manslaughter, arson, rape, kidnapping, or child sex crimes in the last 7 years.
- Felonies not listed above involving: drug-related crime; person crime; sex offense; 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 5 years.
- 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 there are two misdemeanors in which dates of disposition have occurred in the last 3 years.
- Conviction of any crime that requires lifetime registration as a sex offender will result in denial.

## Criminal Conviction Review Process

Owner/Agent will engage in an individualized assessment of the applicants, or other proposed occupant's, convictions if:

1. Applicant has submitted supporting documentation prior to the public records search; or
2. Applicant is denied based on failure to satisfy these criminal criteria and has submitted a written request along with supporting documentation. Supporting documentation MUST include:
  - a. Statement from the applicant.
  - b. Statement from one of the following:
    - i. Letter from parole or probation officer; or
    - ii. Letter from caseworker, therapist, counselor, or support providing like services; or
    - iii. Certifications of various treatments/rehab programs

Owner/Agent will:

- 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. Owner/Agent may request additional information and may consider whether there have been multiple Convictions as part of this process.
- Notify applicant of the results of Owner/Agent's review within a reasonable time after receipt of all required information.
- Hold the unit for which the application was 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.

## Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Protections

- An applicant's or program participant's status as a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking is not a basis for denial of rental assistance or for denial of admission, if the applicant otherwise qualifies for assistance or admission.
- An incident or incidents of actual or threatened domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking will not be construed as serious or repeated violations of the lease or other "good cause" for terminating the assistance, tenancy, or occupancy rights of a victim of abuse.
- Criminal activity directly related to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, engaged in by a member of a tenant's household or any guest or other person under the tenant's control, shall not be cause for termination of assistance, tenancy, or occupancy rights of the victim of the criminal acts.

- Assistance may be terminated, or a lease “bifurcated” in order to remove an offending household member from the home. Whether or not the individual is a signatory to the lease and lawful tenant, if he/she engages in a criminal act of physical violence against family members or others, he/she stands to be evicted, removed, or have his/her occupancy rights terminated. This action is taken while allowing the victim, who is a tenant or a lawful occupant, to remain.
- The provisions protecting victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking engaged in by a member of the household, may not be construed to limit the O/A, when notified, from honoring various court orders issued to either protect the victim or address the distribution of property in case a family breaks up.
- The authority to evict or terminate assistance is not limited with respect to a victim that commits unrelated criminal activity. Furthermore, if an O/A can show an actual and imminent threat to other tenants or those employed at or providing service to Julia West House Apartments if an unlawful tenant’s residency is not terminated, then evicting a victim is an option, the VAWA notwithstanding. Ultimately, O/As may not subject victims to more demanding standards than other tenants.
- The VAWA protections shall not supersede any provision of any federal, state, or local law that provides greater protection for victims of domestic violence, dating violence or stalking. The laws offering greater protection are applied in instances of domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking.

## Disabled Accessibility

- Guardian Management LLC complies with section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, the Fair Housing Act, and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and will not discriminate in any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance from HUD.
- Guardian Management LLC is committed to making the apartment community readily accessible to and usable by individuals with handicaps. Guardian Management LLC will consider any request by or on behalf of a disabled resident or applicant for: a) a reasonable accommodation relating to a change in its rules and/or policies; or b) a reasonable modification relating to alterations of the common areas or an individual unit. Any such request should be made in writing to the Portfolio Manager/Section 504 Coordinator located at Guardian Management LLC, PO Box 5668, Portland, OR 97228-5668. If it is not possible to make the request in writing, Guardian Management LLC will assist the person making the request by providing the necessary information.
- In most instances, Guardian Management LLC will allow a disabled person to have an assistance animal which is related to and necessary for the disabled person to enjoy the benefits of the housing, and lawful and reasonable to have in a multifamily housing setting A particular assistance animal may be rejected if:
  - the animal poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others that cannot be reduced or eliminated by a reasonable accommodation.
  - the animal would cause substantial physical damage to the property of others;
  - the presence of the animal would pose an undue financial and administrative burden to the apartment community owner or Guardian Management LLC; or

- the presence of the assistance animal would fundamentally alter the nature of the services provided by the apartment community owner or Guardian Management LLC. No fees or additional security deposit will be imposed as a condition of allowing an assistance animal.
- If a reasonable accommodation or reasonable modification request is granted, the cost to perform the modification will be paid by the resident. If the project receives Federal assistance through HOME, the approved modification may be paid for out of project funds unless it creates an undue administrative or financial burden.

## **Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, The Fair Housing Act Amendments of 1988, \*\*Title VI of the Civil Rights act of 1964\*\*, and HUD Notice 16-137**

- Guardian Management, LLC complies with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 which prohibits discrimination based on disability in any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance from HUD.
- Guardian Management, LLC complies with The Fair Housing Act which prohibits discrimination in housing and housing related transactions based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, and familial status. It applies to housing, regardless of the presence of federal financial assistance.
- Guardian Management, LLC complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 which prohibits discrimination based on race, color or national origin in any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance from HUD.
- Guardian Management, LLC complies with HUD Notice 16-137, The Final Rule – Providing Equal Access to Housing in HUD Programs regardless of Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity to ensure that housing is open to all eligible individuals and families regardless of actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity or marital status.
- Guardian Management, LLC complies with all other federal, state, or local law related to Fair Housing.

## **Preferences & Priorities**

It is the policy of Julia West House Apartments that a preference does not guarantee admission. Every applicant must still meet the property's Tenant Selection Standards for acceptance as a resident. Current residents on the waitlist shall have priority consideration over outside applicants if under/over housed, require a transfer due to domestic violence or have made a request for a reasonable accommodation.

Households who apply that have been displaced by government action, or a declared presidential emergency with appropriate documentation will take priority over other outside applicants.

## Preferences applicable to Julia West House Apartments:

Julia West House Apartments has units with established preferences for applicants who qualify for the PSH services and will be referred by NW Pilot Project and NARA NW through the Joint Office of Homeless Services.

OHCS Permanent Supportive Housing Vouchers

Julia West House will have eighty-nine units consisting of 60 studios and 29 one-bedroom units.

Referral Agency: Joint Office of Homeless Services (JOHS)

Referral Process:

1. The JOHS will refer applicants from NW Pilot Project and NARA NW.
2. Guardian will provide application materials to applicant. Once the applicant has completed the application, Guardian will screen applicant.
  - a. If approved, a move in date will be established.
  - b. If denied, the applicant can submit an appeal for reconsideration.
3. Case manager will attend application meetings with applicant.
4. Waitlist will be coming from the JOHS for the PSH units.

## Preference for Accessible or Adaptable Units

For units accessible to or adaptable for persons with mobility, visual or hearing impairments, households containing at least one person with such impairment will have priority (as applicable for a unit's features).

NOTE: Current residents requiring accessible/adaptable units shall be given priority over applicants requiring the same type of unit. Where no such applicants or current residents are waiting, management reserves the right to hold such units available while outreach efforts are in process to obtain applicants with need for such units. Where non-disabled persons are moved into units designed to meet special needs, they shall do so only after signing an addendum to move to a unit with no such design features should an applicant or current household require an accessible unit of the same type.

## Preference for Victims of Domestic Violence

An applicant declaring themselves a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking and is deemed eligible by Guardian Management, LLC policies, and will receive waiting list preference.

**As a result of the above listed priorities and preferences, applicants may be skipped over. Applicants that are skipped over will remain on the waitlist and will retain their placement in line once another apartment becomes available.**

## Pet Policy

If checked, property has a no pet policy.

Management must pre-approve all pets before the pets are allowed in any apartment or on the property. There is a maximum of two (2) pre-approved pets per household. An aquarium of 15 gallons or more or a cage will be considered one pet.

Apartment Community reserves the right to restrict pets that demonstrate aggressive, threatening, or violent behavior. Breeds that are specifically prohibited include, but are not limited to: Doberman Pinchers, German Shepherds, Pit Bulls, Rottweilers, or any similar breeds/mixes.

## Application Process

Our staff is prepared to assist any applicant who requires assistance completing any of the application forms. This assistance might include answering questions about how to complete the application, helping applicants who might have literacy, vision, hearing, mobility, or language difficulties and, in general, making it possible for interested parties to apply for housing.

If the assistance requested is "unreasonable", the interviewer must inform their supervisor. An assessment must be made to identify and provide reasonable accommodation.

Management may make and document exceptions to the procedures described herein to consider circumstances beyond the applicant's control, for example, medical situations.

## Live-in Care Attendant/Aide

A qualified care attendant/aide will be subject only to criminal background search. Credit and income verifications will not apply.

## Rejection Policy

You have the right to dispute the accuracy of any information provided to the landlord by a screening service or credit reporting agency. If your application is denied due to unfavorable information received during the screening process, you will be notified in writing. You have the right to respond to the owner/agent in writing or request a meeting within 14 days to dispute the rejection.

1. Contact the screening company in the adverse action letter provided with your screening results.
2. Contact the credit reporting agency to identify who is reporting unfavorable information.
3. Correct any incorrect information through the credit reporting agent as per their policy.
4. Request the credit reporting agency submit a corrected credit check to the appropriate screening company.
5. Upon verbal request to dispute the denial and/or receipt of the corrected and satisfactory information, your application will be evaluated again for the next available apartment.

If you are a person with a disability and would like to request a waiver of the screening criteria, you may appeal the decision within 14 calendar days by sending a letter or requesting a meeting. In Portland, applicants will have 30 days to submit an appeal.

Guardian Management, LLC  
Equal Housing Opportunity Manager,

P.O. Box 5668, Portland, OR 97228-5668  
503-802-3600

In the letter explain the reasons you believe your application should be approved and request a review of your file. Please indicate in the letter which apartment community you have applied to. Within 5 working days of receipt, your application will be reviewed, and you will be notified of the outcome of the review. Persons with disabilities have the right to request reasonable accommodations to participate in the hearing process.

## Security Deposit

Security Deposits will not be required as part of the move in process at Julia West House.

## Unit Transfer Process

Current residents shall have priority over the outside applicants when any of the following conditions exist:

- The household develops a need for an accessible unit (if available).
- A unit transfer is needed for medical reasons.
- The household has been determined as eligible for an emergency transfer in accordance with Guardian Management's VAWA Emergency Transfer Plan
- An accessible unit is occupied by a household that does not require the accessible features and there is an applicant or current household requiring the accessibility.

A current household that would like to transfer to a different unit size but does not meet one of the criteria listed above will be placed on the waiting list by the date and time the request is received. These households will not have priority over outside applicants and will be selected from the waiting list based upon date and time application was received.

A current household may request a unit wherein only part of the household will move to the new unit and remaining members will continue to reside in the original unit. This is not considered a transfer but rather a new household is being created. In this case the new household will be placed on the waiting list according to the date and time received. The new household must meet all eligibility criteria in the same manner as outside applicants. These households will not have priority over outside applicants and will be selected from the waiting list based upon date and time application was received.

For any transfers dependent on the LIHTC 86098b election per property, a new qualification certification may need to be processed to determine eligibility for the transfer.

## Additions to Existing Household

Household compositions may change over time. Additions to households do not need to be placed on the waiting list to be added to an existing household. The request for the additional resident will need to be reported to the office and approval will need to be obtained by management before the new household members take occupancy. Household changes may not occur within the first 6 months of residency.

If the initial qualifying household moves out within one year of the new household members being added, the entire household must vacate. Exceptions to this will be determined on a case-by-case basis, when extenuating circumstances exist.

## **Unit Designation Swaps – LIHTC/Market Rate Communities Only**

Upon recertification, if household's income has increased above 140% of the current AMI (area median income) of the occupied unit type assignment, the Community Manager must take the necessary steps to rent the next available unit to a qualifying household that meets the lower set-aside requirements. Once a new unit is leased to a lower income household, the over-income household's designation will be swapped to meet the appropriate set-aside and the rent will be increased in accordance with the lease terms.

If at recertification, a household's income decreases below the current AMI limits applicable to the property, that household can request to be placed on our in-house waiting list for a lower set-aside once one is available. Upon availability, the household's designation will be swapped to the lower designation (applicable to the property) and the rent will be adjusted accordingly. Households on our in-house waiting list requiring a lower unit designation will take precedence over in-house transfers and move-ins.