



# Jacksonville Housing

## Housing Choice Voucher Program Administrative Plan

**Fiscal Year 2025**

**EFFECTIVE  
JANUARY 1, 2025**

*Jacksonville Housing  
1300 Broad Street N.  
Jacksonville, FL 32202*

Approved by the Jacksonville Housing Board of Commissioners: \_\_\_\_\_

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## **CHAPTER 1 STATEMENT OF POLICIES AND OBJECTIVES**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The U.S. Housing Act of 1937 authorized local Public Housing Agencies (Public Housing Authorities/PHAs) to be established by individual states. Jacksonville Housing (JH known as PHA) current Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program evolved from various acts, amendments, and rules. The most recent changes are the Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act of 1998 (QHWRA) and the 1999 Housing and Urban Development (HUD) rule that provided for the merger of the certificate and voucher programs into one housing choice voucher program. This Administrative Plan clarifies PHA policies to facilitate the operation of the HCV Program. Administration of the HCV Program and the functions and responsibilities of PHA staff shall be in compliance with the PHA's personnel policy, HUD regulations, and all federal and state laws including fair housing laws and regulations.

On July 29, 2016, the Housing Opportunity Through Modernization Act of 2016 (HOTMA) was signed into law. HOTMA made numerous changes to statutes governing HUD programs, including sections of the United States Housing Act of 1937. Title I of HOTMA contains 14 different sections that impact the public housing and Section 8 programs. The Final Rule implementing broad changes to income and assets in Sections 102 and 104 of HOTMA, and for PHAs that administer the public housing program over-income provisions in Section 103, was officially published in the *Federal Register* on February 14, 2023. On September 29, 2023, HUD issued Notice PIH 2023-27, which provided guidance to PHAs on the implementation of the program changes described in the Final Rule.

### **A. ORGANIZATION AND STRUCTURE OF THE PHA**

The Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) (formerly known as Section 8) assistance program is funded by the federal government and administered by the Jacksonville Housing for the jurisdiction of the City of Jacksonville/Duval County.

The officials of a PHA are known as commissioners or, collectively, as the board of commissioners. Commissioners are appointed in accordance with state housing law and generally serve in the same capacity as the directors of a corporation, establishing policies under which the PHA conducts business, ensuring that policies are followed by PHA staff, and ensuring that the PHA is successful in its mission. The board is responsible for preserving and expanding the agency's resources and assuring the agency's continued viability.

Formal actions of the PHA are taken through written resolutions, adopted by the board of commissioners, and entered into the official records of the PHA.

The principal staff member of the PHA is the executive director (ED) or Chief Executive Officer (CEO), hired and appointed by the board of commissioners. The executive director/CEO is directly responsible for carrying out the policies established by the board and is delegated the responsibility for hiring, training, and supervising the PHA staff in order to manage the day-to-day operations of the PHA. The executive director/CEO is responsible for ensuring compliance with federal and state laws and directives for the programs managed. In addition, the executive director's duties include budgeting and financial planning for the agency.

## **B. HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER PROGRAM MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of the HCV Program is to promote adequate and affordable housing, economic opportunity, and a suitable living environment free from discrimination.

Our mission is performed with:

1. Dignity - allowing each applicant and participant a sense of self-esteem;
2. Fairness - remaining objective at all times, remembering that there are two sides to every story;
3. Respect - treating others in a non-judgmental manner; and
4. Sensitivity - demonstrating empathy by ensuring that the program information provided is complete and accurate.

## **C. LOCAL OBJECTIVES**

The Housing Choice Voucher Program is designed to achieve these major objectives:

1. To provide access to decent, safe, and sanitary housing for very low-income families while maintaining their rent payments at a fair and affordable level.
2. Improve the housing stock in the Jacksonville Metropolitan Statistical Area as defined by the United States Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD)
3. To promote fair housing and the opportunity for very low-income families of all ethnic backgrounds to have access to the widest possible choice of housing to meet their housing needs;
4. To encourage the self-sufficiency of participant families and assist in the identification of opportunities that address educational and socio-economic needs;
5. To ensure that all units meet NSPIRE standards;
6. To administer an efficient, high-performing PHA through continuous improvement of the PHA's support systems and commitment to its employees, their development, and the maintenance of high standards and professionalism;
7. To administer a housing program that provides an incentive to private property owners to rent to very low-income families;
8. To expand affordable housing opportunities in areas of low poverty concentration;
9. To create positive public awareness and expand the level of family, owner, and community support in accomplishing the PHA's mission;
10. To ensure compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and all other applicable federal laws and regulations so the admissions and continued occupancy are conducted without regard to race, color, sex, religion, creed, national or ethnic origin, age, familial or marital status, disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity; and
11. To promote a safe environment by denying initial assistance to applicants and continued assistance to participants who have demonstrated a history of violent criminal or drug-related activity.

## **D. PURPOSE OF THE PLAN**

The purpose of this Administrative Plan is to establish guidelines for PHA staff to follow in determining eligibility for admission and continued eligibility. These policies are governed by

the requirements of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) with latitude for local policies and procedures. These policies and procedures for admissions and continued occupancy are binding upon applicants, participants, owners, and the PHA. References to the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) in the title of a section or paragraph are intended for reference only and not to restrict the PHA from setting its own policies, as permitted by law.

The PHA is responsible for complying with all changes in HUD regulations pertaining to its programs. If any changes conflict with this Administrative Plan, HUD regulations will take precedence.

This Administrative Plan is set forth to define the PHA's local policies for the operation of the housing programs in the context of federal laws and regulations. All issues related to the Housing Choice Voucher Program that are not addressed in this document are governed by such federal regulations, HUD memos, notices, policies, or other applicable federal, state or local law. The PHA may opt to implement the Streamlining Administrative Regulations as set forth by PIH Notice 2016-05. The PHA's Commission and/or its other governing bodies will approve any significant amendment to this Administrative Plan.

A significant amendment to the Administrative Plan is defined in the PHA Annual Plan.

### **Mandatory vs. Discretionary Policy**

HUD makes a distinction between:

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

HUD expects PHAs to adopt local policies and procedures that are consistent with mandatory policies in areas where HUD gives the PHA discretion. The PHA's administrative plan is the foundation of those policies and procedures. HUD's directions require PHAs to make policy choices that provide sufficient guidance to staff and ensure consistency to program applicants and participants.

Creating policies based upon HUD guidance is not mandatory but provides a PHA with a "safe harbor." HUD has already determined that the recommendations and suggestions it makes are consistent with mandatory policies. If a PHA adopts an alternative strategy, it must make its own determination that the alternative approach is consistent with legislation, regulations, and other mandatory requirements. There may be very good reasons for adopting a policy or procedure that is different than HUD's safe harbor, but PHAs should carefully think through those decisions.

### **E. THE PHA'S COMMITMENT TO ETHICS AND SERVICE**

As a public service agency, the PHA is committed to providing excellent service to HCV program participants, owners, and to the community. The PHA's standards include:

- Administer applicable federal and state laws and regulations to achieve high ratings in performance measurement indicators while maintaining efficiency in program operation to ensure fair and consistent treatment of clients served.
- Provide decent, safe, and sanitary housing – in compliance with program housing quality standards – for very low-income families while ensuring that family rents are fair, reasonable, and affordable.
- Encourage self-sufficiency of participant families and assist in the expansion of family opportunities that address educational, socio-economic, recreational, and other human services needs.
- Promote fair housing and equal opportunity for very low-income families of all ethnic backgrounds to experience the freedom of housing choice.
- Promote a housing program that maintains quality service and integrity while providing an incentive to private property owners to rent to very low-income families.
- Promote a market-driven housing program that will help qualified low-income families be successful in obtaining affordable housing and increase the supply of housing choices for such families.
- Create positive public awareness and expand the level of family, owner, and community support in accomplishing the PHA's mission.
- Attain and maintain a high level of standards and professionalism in the day-to-day management of all program components.
- Administer an efficient, high-performing agency through continuous improvement of the PHA's support systems and a high level of commitment to our employees and their development.

Jacksonville Housing will make every effort to keep program participants informed of HCV program rules and regulations and to advise participants of how the program rules affect them.

#### **F. FAMILY OUTREACH**

The PHA will publicize and disseminate information to make known the availability of housing assistance and related services for low-income families on a regular basis, when appropriate. When the PHA's wait list is opened, the PHA will publicize the availability and nature of housing assistance for low-income families in newspapers of general circulation, non-English speaking media, and by other suitable means.

To reach persons who do not have access to newspapers, the PHA will distribute fact sheets to the broadcasting media and initiate personal contact with members of the news media and community service personnel. The PHA may also utilize public service announcements.

The PHA will communicate the status of housing availability to other service providers in the community and advise them of housing eligibility factors and guidelines so they can make proper referrals for housing assistance.

## **G. PRIVACY RIGHTS**

Applicants and participants, including all adults in their households, are required to sign the HUD 9886 Authorization for Release of Information. This document incorporates the Federal Privacy Act Statement and describes the conditions under which HUD and the PHA will release family information. The PHA's policy regarding release of information is in accordance with State and local laws that may restrict the release of family information.

The PHA will maintain all accommodation records in a confidential manner. Under federal privacy laws, a PHA is required to keep confidential any personal information about an applicant or tenant obtained in a confidential manner or from a confidential source.

Per HUD Guidelines at 24 CFR §5.212 (Compliance with the Privacy Act and other requirements), the PHA adheres to the following practices and procedures that are designed to safeguard the privacy of applicants and program participants:

- All applicant and participant files are stored in a secure location, which is only accessible to authorized staff.
- Files are never left unattended in common areas.
- PHA staff will not discuss family information contained in files unless it is related to the enforcement of the program.
- PHA staff will be required to disclose whether they have relatives living in PHA housing or receiving assistance from PHA housing programs.
- PHA staff will disclose information to third-party contacts with the proper release of information from the client and with the client's consent.

## **H. OWNER OUTREACH**

The PHA encourages property owners to participate in the HCV Program. Owners may list their units for rent at [www.affordablehousing.com](http://www.affordablehousing.com).

Jacksonville Housing staff responds to and initiates personal contact with private property owners and managers by conducting meetings and formal and informal discussions. Printed and online material is offered to familiarize owners and managers with the opportunities available under the program. Jacksonville Housing may also actively participate in a community-based organization(s) comprised of owners and managers of single-family and multi-family rental units.

Jacksonville Housing highly encourages program participation by owners of units located outside areas of poverty or minority concentration. Jacksonville Housing may periodically evaluate the demographic distribution of assisted families to identify these areas. The purpose of these activities is to provide choices and improved housing opportunities to families. Voucher holders are informed of areas where they may lease units inside the PHA's jurisdiction. Families are given a list of resources to help them locate units outside areas of poverty or minority concentration. Jacksonville Housing may periodically request the HUD Field Office to furnish a list of HUD-held, tax credits and HOME properties available for rent.

Jacksonville Housing will advertise the opening of the waiting list(s) in various newspapers and minority media as well as notify social service agencies of the opening and closing dates for applications. Persons interested in applying can do so at [www.jaxha.org/rent-cafe](http://www.jaxha.org/rent-cafe). Paper applications are made available upon request at Jacksonville Housing.

### **I. MANAGEMENT ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES**

Jacksonville Housing operates its housing assistance programs with efficiency and can demonstrate to HUD auditors that the PHA is using its resources in a manner that reflects its commitment to quality and service. The PHA policies and practices are consistent with the goals and objectives of the following HUD Section Eight Management Assessment Program (SEMAP) indicators:

1. Selection from the Wait List
2. Reasonable Rent
3. Determination of Adjusted Income
4. Utility Allowance Schedule
5. NSPIRE standard Quality Control Inspections
6. NSPIRE Enforcement
7. Expanding Housing Opportunities
8. Fair Market Rent (FMR) / Exception Rent & Payment Standards
9. Annual Reexaminations
10. Correct Tenant Rent Calculations
11. Pre-Contract NSPIRE Inspections
12. Annual Inspections
13. Lease-up
14. Family Self-Sufficiency Enrollment
- 14a. Percent of FSS Participants with Escrow Account Balances
15. Bonus Indicator (De-concentration)

Quality control reviews are performed by Jacksonville Housing Supervisors or other qualified personnel (other than the person who performed the work), as required by HUD, on the following SEMAP factors:

1. Selection from the wait list
2. Rent reasonableness
3. Determination of adjusted income
4. NSPIRE standards enforcement
5. Quality control inspections

File and record samples will be drawn in an unbiased manner, leaving a clear audit trail. The minimum sample size for review will relate directly to each factor.

### **J. RECORDS FOR MONITORING PHA PERFORMANCE**

In order to demonstrate compliance with HUD and other pertinent regulations, Jacksonville Housing will maintain records, reports and other documentation for a time that is in accordance with HUD requirements. This documentation will be organized in a manner that will allow an

auditor, housing professional or other interested party to follow, monitor and or assess the PHA's operational procedures objectively and with accuracy.

Jacksonville Housing acknowledges that its performance ratings are important to sustain its capacity to maintain flexibility and authority. Jacksonville Housing intends to diligently manage its current program operations and continuously make efforts to be in full compliance with HCV SEMAP. The PHA's policies and procedures of this HUD program are established so the SEMAP standards are adhered to and can be objectively reviewed by an auditor whose purpose is to evaluate performance.

#### **K. LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE FOR LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY (LEP) PERSONS**

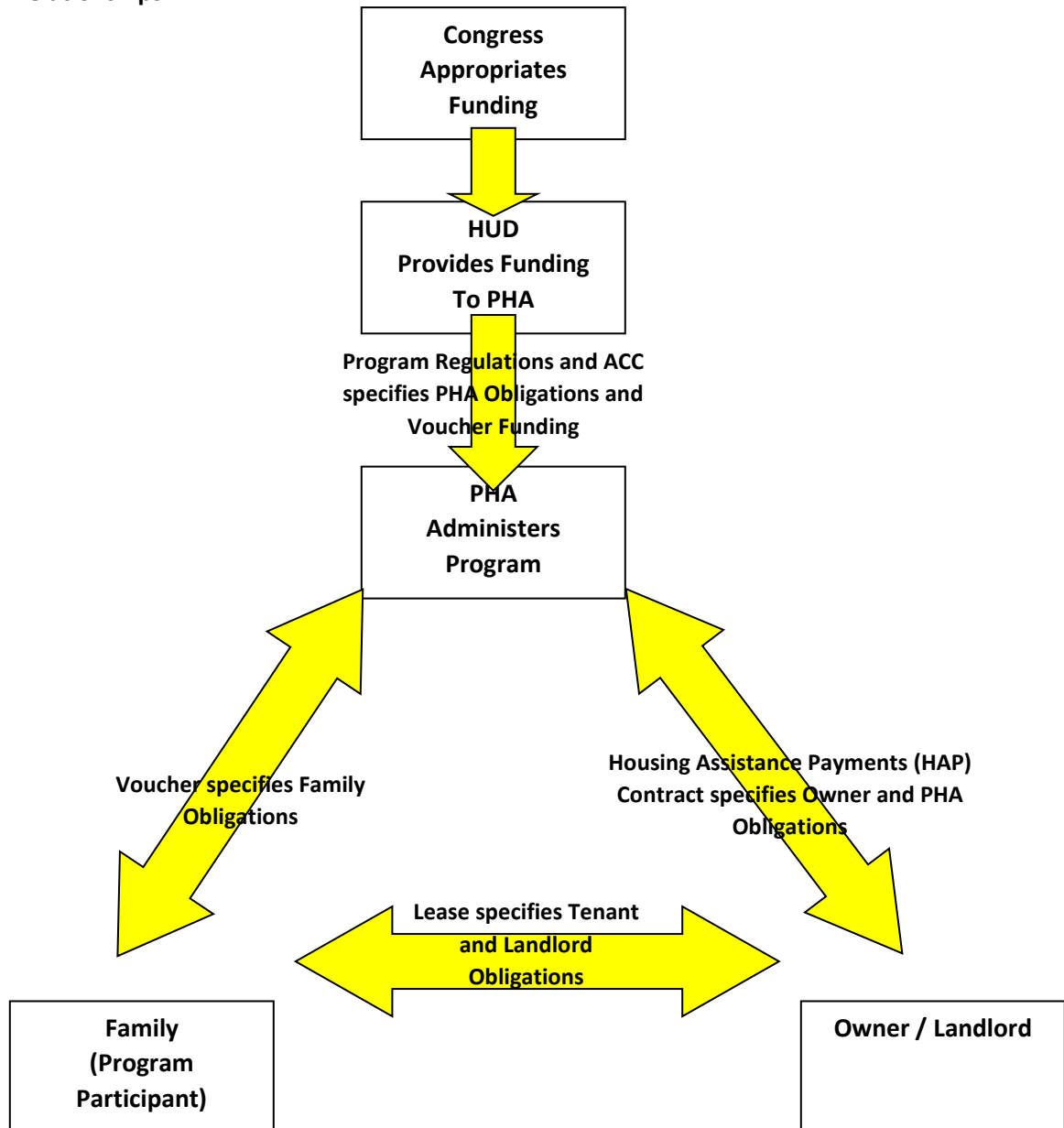
Jacksonville Housing provides individuals with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) equal access to participation in its programs at the same level as native English speakers. Specific information can be found in this Administrative Plan: Language Access Plan describing outreach activities and translation of documents to assist families with limited English proficiency.

## **L. THE HCV PARTNERSHIPS**

To administer the HCV program, the PHA enters into a contractual relationship with HUD (Consolidated Annual Contributions Contract). The PHA also enters into contractual relationships with the assisted family and the owner or landlord of the housing unit.

For the HCV program to work and be successful, all parties involved—HUD, the PHA, the owner, and the family—have important roles to play. The roles and responsibilities of all parties are defined in federal regulations and legal documents that parties execute to participate in the program. The chart on the following page illustrates key aspects of these relationships.

### **The HCV Relationships:**





### **What Does HUD Do?**

HUD has the following major responsibilities:

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

### **What Does the PHA Do?**

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

- Establish local policies to administer the program;
- Review applications from interested applicants to determine whether they are eligible for the program;
- Maintain a waiting list and select families for admission;
- Issue vouchers to eligible families and provide information on how to lease a unit;
- Conduct outreach to owners, with special attention to owners outside areas of poverty or minority concentration;
- Approve the rental unit (including assuring compliance with housing quality standards and rent reasonableness), the owner, and the tenancy;
- Make housing assistance payments to the owner in a timely manner;
- Recertify families for continued eligibility under the program;
- Ensure that owners and families comply with their contractual obligations;
- Provide families and owners with prompt, professional service;
- Comply with all fair housing and equal opportunity requirements, HUD regulations and requirements, the ACC, HUD-approved applications for funding, the PHA's administrative plan, and other applicable federal, state and local laws.

### **What Does the Owner Do?**

The owner has the following major responsibilities:

- Screen families who apply for tenancy to determine suitability as renters.
- The PHA can provide some information to the owner, but the primary responsibility for tenant screening rests with the owner.
- The owner may consider family background factors such as rent and bill-paying history, history of caring for property, respecting the rights of others to peaceful enjoyment of the property, compliance with essential conditions of tenancy, whether the family is engaging in drug-related criminal activity or other criminal activity that might threaten others.
- Comply with the terms of the Housing Assistance Payments contract executed with the PHA;
- Comply with all applicable fair housing laws and do not discriminate against anyone;

- Maintain the housing unit in accordance with National Standards for the Physical Inspection of Real Estate (NSPIRE) and make necessary repairs in a timely manner;
- Collect rent due from the assisted family and otherwise comply with and enforce provisions of the dwelling lease.

### **What Does the Family Do?**

The family has the following responsibilities:

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

### **APPLICABLE REGULATIONS**

Applicable regulations include:

- 24 CFR Part 5: General Program Requirements
- 24 CFR Part 8: Nondiscrimination
- 24 CFR Part 35: Lead-Based Paint
- 24 CFR Part 100: The Fair Housing Act
- 24 CFR Part 982: Section 8 Tenant-Based Assistance: Housing Choice Voucher Program
- 24 CFR Part 983: Project-Based Vouchers
- 24 CFR Part 985: The Section 8 Management Assessment Program (SEMAP)

## **CHAPTER 2 APPLYING FOR ADMISSIONS**

### **INTRODUCTION** (24 CFR §982.204)

The policy of the PHA is to ensure that all families who express an interest in housing assistance are given an equal opportunity to apply and are treated in a fair manner. This chapter describes the policies and procedures for completing a pre-application, an application for assistance, placement, and denial of placement on the waitlist, and limitations on who may apply. The primary purpose of the intake function is to gather information about the family, but the PHA will also utilize this process to provide information to the family so that an accurate and timely decision of eligibility can be made. Pre-applicants will be placed on the wait list in accordance with this Plan.

### **A. OPENING/CLOSING OF THE WAIT LIST** (24 CFR §§ 982.206, 982.54(d)(1))

#### **Opening the Wait List**

When an HCV waitlist is open, any family requesting placement on an HCV waitlist will be given the opportunity to complete a pre-application. When the PHA opens the waitlist the PHA must announce the opening of the waitlist. The PHA will advertise through local and non-English-speaking media. The PHA will distribute fact sheets to broadcast media and may utilize public service announcements, City and County offices, and local community service providers.

The notice will contain:

- The dates, times, and locations where families may obtain a pre-application or how to sign up online;
- The programs for which pre-applications will be taken; and
- A brief description of the program limitations, if any, on who may apply.

The notices will be made in an accessible format if requested. They will provide potential pre-applicants with information that includes the PHA address and telephone number, how to submit a pre-application, information on eligibility requirements, and the availability of local preferences.

Jacksonville Housing may also provide information about the opening and closing of its wait lists on its website, [www.jaxha.org](http://www.jaxha.org).

Upon request from a person with a disability, additional time can be granted as a reasonable accommodation for the submission of a pre-application after the closing deadline. This accommodation is to allow persons with disabilities the opportunity to submit a pre-application in cases when a social service organization provides inaccurate or untimely information about the closing date, or some other factor related to their disability prevents them from timely submitting the pre-application.

#### **Closing the Wait List**

The PHA, at its discretion, may restrict and/or suspend pre-application intake or close wait lists in whole or in part. The PHA may open or close the list by local preference category or by bedroom size. The PHA may stop pre-applications if there are enough pre-applicants to fill

anticipated openings for the next twenty-four months. The waitlist may not be closed if it would have a discriminatory effect inconsistent with applicable civil rights laws.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will announce the closing of the wait list by posting the closing date on [www.jaxha.org](http://www.jaxha.org). When the period for accepting pre-applications is over, Jacksonville Housing will not accept additional pre-applications or maintain a list of those who wish to be notified when the wait list is open as this would be administratively burdensome to Jacksonville Housing.

### **TENANT-BASED WAIT LIST**

Note: Project-Based Vouchers are discussed in Chapter 17.

#### **B. ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE WAITING LIST**

(24 CFR §982.204(b))

**Pre-applicants may apply to the HCV program during open waitlist periods ONLY.** A single wait list is utilized for admission to the tenant-based voucher program.

The application process involves the pre-application for admission to determine placement on the waitlist. Duplicate pre-applications will not be accepted. "Duplicate Pre-Application" is defined in the glossary. It will not benefit applicants to submit multiple pre-applications (i.e., this does not improve the chances of being selected).

Selection from the Tenant-Based Voucher Wait List includes review of pre-applications, preferences verification, and then date and time of application.

The next phase is the "final determination of eligibility for admission" and selection from the waiting list. At this time Jacksonville Housing will ensure that verification of all HUD and PHA eligibility factors are current and accurate.

Pre-applications will not require an interview. The information on the pre-application will not be verified until the pre-applicant has been selected for final eligibility determination. Final eligibility will be determined when the application process has been completed and all information has been verified.

#### **C. PRE-APPLICANT STATUS WHILE ON THE WAIT LIST** (24 CFR §982.204)

Pre-applicants are required to inform Jacksonville Housing of any changes in family composition, income, address, or preference status within 30 days of the change by going to Jacksonville Housing website at [www.jaxha.org](http://www.jaxha.org) RentCafe applicant portal to update the information submitted on the pre-application. Changes submitted in writing will still be accepted. Pre-applicants are also required to respond to requests from Jacksonville Housing to update information on their pre-applications or to determine their continued interest in assistance. It is important that pre-applicants keep Jacksonville Housing informed of any changes in the information submitted at the pre-application stage. Pre-applicants must notify Jacksonville Housing if they move or any other circumstances that might affect their pre-application change.

It is not the responsibility of Jacksonville Housing to keep the address or any other pre-application information current. This is the responsibility of the pre-applicant.

If Jacksonville Housing receives returned mail from the Post Office, Jacksonville Housing will refer to other waitlists within JH inventory for any updated address information prior to removing the pre-applicant from the waitlist. If there is no updated address information found from these sources, the pre-applicant will be removed without further notice and the envelope and letter, or electronic communication will be maintained in accordance with PHA retention policy. If the family provides proof that the return mail or electronic communication was due to an error of the PHA or the Postal Service, the family will be reinstated to the wait list.

All changes in income and family size that occur prior to the execution of a Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) contract will be considered.

Jacksonville Housing will process pre-applications for families for wait lists for which funding and vouchers are available.

#### **D. CHANGE IN PRE-APPLICATION STATUS**

If the pre-applicant head of household passes away or moves out of the household, the remaining spouse/partner or co-head may retain the household's position on the waitlist. In the absence of the spouse/partner or co-head, another adult who is on the original pre-application may become the head of the household. It is the responsibility of the spouse/partner, co-head, or another adult who is on the original pre-application to provide any such information to the PHA.

Jacksonville Housing will consider all of the following when deciding who will retain the position on the waitlist or the voucher:

1. Remaining member who has custody of any dependent children.
2. The composition of the new family unit and which unit contains elderly or disabled members.
3. Whether domestic violence was involved in the breakup.
4. Which family members remain in the unit.
5. Recommendations of a social service professional.

#### **E. WAITING LIST PREFERENCES** (24 CFR §982.207)

Preferences will be used to select families from the waiting list. The applicant's cumulative points will determine the preference status and position on the waiting list.

If the preference verification indicates that an applicant does not qualify for the preference, the applicant will be returned to the waiting list without the local preference and will be notified in writing of the determination.

If the applicant's family or individual falsifies documents or knowingly makes false or misleading statements, they will be removed from the waiting list.

Changes in an applicant's circumstances while on the waiting list may affect the family's eligibility for a preference. Applicants are **required** to notify Jacksonville Housing, in

writing, of relevant changes in their circumstances within 30 days of any such change. When an applicant claims an additional preference, the applicant will be placed on the waiting list in the proper order of their newly claimed preference.

Jacksonville Housing preferences:

- Disabled – 5 points
- Domestic Violence – 5 points
- Elderly – 5 points
- Homelessness - 10 points
- Residency/Local – 5 points
- Veteran – 5 points
- Government Action – 5 points

(Please see glossary of definitions for preferences)

## **F. COMPLETION OF AN APPLICATION**

Once a family is selected from a waitlist, they are mailed an initial letter, paper or electronic application. They will transition from a pre-applicant to an applicant once they respond to either the letter, application, or electronic communication via the RentCafe applicant portal. Duplicate applications will not be accepted.

All preferences claimed on the pre-application or while the family is on the wait list will be verified after the family is selected from the waitlist, but prior to determining final eligibility. Therefore, it is important that applicant families notify Jacksonville Housing of any changes that would affect the preferences contained in their pre-application (e.g., moving out of Duval County, change in rent burden due to increased income, etc.).

The qualification for a preference must exist at the time the preference is verified, regardless of the length of time a pre-applicant has been on the waitlist. The claim of a preference is based on current status. If the family fails to meet any preference that they claimed on the pre-application, they will be returned to the wait list unless they were not selected for the preference. If applicants are returned to the waitlist, they will not have the right to request an informal review of this action.

Pre-applicants will be required to complete an application (including a *Personal Declaration Form*) in the RentCafe applicant portal. The pre-applicant will sign and certify that all information is complete and accurate. Jacksonville Housing will verify said information.

Jacksonville Housing may suspend, restrict, or stop application intake and processing at its discretion and at any time.

## **The Requirement to Attend the Interview**

Jacksonville Housing utilizes the application interview to discuss the family's circumstances in greater detail, to clarify information that has been provided by the family, and to ensure that the information is complete. The interview is also used as a vehicle to meet the informational needs

of the family by providing information about the application and verification process, as well as to advise the family of other PHA services or programs that may be available.

All adult family members are required to attend the interview. Jacksonville Housing may offer an alternate method to an in-person interview. Exceptions may be made for good cause as defined in the glossary. A Reasonable Accommodation (RA) may be made upon request by or on behalf of family members with disabilities if they are unable to attend the interview as a result of their disabilities.

All adult family members are required to sign the housing application and all authorization forms.

If the pre-applicant does not respond in writing to the initial application letter, Jacksonville Housing will withdraw the pre-applicant from the waiting list. (A family applying is not considered an applicant until they respond to the initial letter and begin the application process).

If the pre-applicant contacts Jacksonville Housing within 10 days of the missed appointment or deadline provided in the initial letter, Jacksonville Housing may reschedule the appointment with “good cause” (as defined in the Glossary of this Administrative Plan).

If an applicant is denied due to failure to attend the interview but responds to the initial letter, the applicant will be notified in writing and offered an opportunity to request an informal review. If the family provides proof that the missed interview was due to an error of Jacksonville Housing, the Postal Service, good cause, or there are other mitigating circumstances acceptable to Jacksonville Housing, the family will be reinstated to the process.

Every adult household member must sign a consent form to release criminal conviction records and to allow PHAs to receive records and use them in accordance with HUD regulations. If the PHA determines that additional information or document(s) are needed, the PHA will request the document(s) or information in writing. The family will be given 10 days to supply the information.

If the information is not supplied in this time period, Jacksonville Housing will provide the applicant's family notification of denial for assistance absent mitigating circumstances.

#### **G. VERIFICATION** (24 CFR §982.201)

The applicant's information will be verified using the procedures described in Chapter 7 of this Administrative Plan. Family composition, income, allowances and deductions, assets, full-time student status, eligibility, and rent-calculation factors, along with other relevant information, will be verified. Verifications may not be more than sixty days old at the time of the voucher's issuance.

#### **H. FINAL DETERMINATION AND NOTIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY** (24 CFR §982.201)

After the verification process is complete, Jacksonville Housing will make a final determination of eligibility. This decision is based on information provided by the family, the verification

completed by Jacksonville Housing, and the current eligibility criteria. If the family is determined to be eligible, Jacksonville Housing will mail and/or email a notification of eligibility. A briefing will be scheduled for the issuance of a voucher and the family's orientation to the HCV Program. Attendance at this briefing session is mandatory as Jacksonville Housing will provide important information related to participation in the HCV Program.

#### **I. TIME OF SELECTION**

When funding is available, families will be selected from the wait list in their determined sequence, regardless of family size, subject to income targeting requirements. When there is insufficient funding available for the family at the top of the list, Jacksonville Housing will not admit any other applicant until funding is available for the first applicant.

#### **J. REMOVAL FROM THE WAITING LIST**

The waiting list will be purged periodically by mailing and emailing a notice to all applicants to ensure that it is current and accurate. The notice will request current information and confirm continued interest in the HCV Program.

If an applicant fails to respond within forty-five (45) days of the date of the letter/notice, the applicant will be removed from the waiting list. If the applicant's family contacts Jacksonville Housing within forty-five days from the purge deadline to report a change in address, they will be given the opportunity to update their address and be reinstated. If an applicant's family is removed from the waiting list for failure to respond within the forty-five-day grace period, the PHA will consider mitigating circumstances before determining that the family will not be reinstated. If the family provides proof that the return mail was due to an error of Jacksonville Housing, the Postal Service, or there are other mitigating circumstances acceptable to Jacksonville Housing, the family will be reinstated.



## **CHAPTER 3 ELIGIBILITY**

### **INTRODUCTION**

This chapter defines both HUD and the PHA's criteria for admission and denial of admission to the program. The policy of this PHA is to strive for objectivity and consistency in applying these criteria to evaluate the eligibility of families who apply. The PHA staff will review all information provided by the family carefully and without regard to factors other than those referenced in this chapter. Families will be provided the opportunity to explain their circumstances, furnish additional information if needed, and to receive an explanation of the basis for any adverse decision made by the PHA pertaining to their eligibility.

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

To be eligible for the HCV program:

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

### **A. FACTORS AFFECTING ADMISSION** (24 CFR §982.201)

Jacksonville Housing accepts applications only from families whose head or spouse/partner is at least eighteen years of age or an emancipated minor under state law. To be eligible for participation, an applicant must meet HUD's criteria, as well as any additional criteria established by Jacksonville Housing. Eligibility factors will be verified before the family is issued a voucher.

#### **HUD Factors:**

The HUD eligibility criteria are:

- An applicant must be a "family" at admission, as defined in Section B of this chapter, "Definition of Family."
- An applicant's family must be within the appropriate HUD income limits.
- An applicant's family must furnish Social Security numbers for all family members, with the exception of those individuals who do not contend to have eligible immigration status

(individuals who may be unlawfully present in the United States). These individuals in most instances would not be eligible for an SSN.

- An applicant's family must furnish a declaration of citizenship or eligible immigrant status and verification where required.
- At least one member of the applicant's family must either be a U.S. citizen or have eligible immigration status before the PHA may provide any financial assistance.
- An applicant's family will not be admitted to the program if any member of the family has been evicted from federally assisted housing for a serious violation of the lease within the past three years. (Except as referenced in Chapter 15, of this Administrative Plan).
- The applicant's family must not be in debt to any federally assisted housing program. The PHA may allow for the family to be a participant in the Housing Choice Voucher Program if they are in "Good Standing" regarding any current payment agreement made with another PHA for a debt incurred. The PHA will give the family 30 days to prove that they have resolved the debt.
- The PHA will permanently deny admission to sex offenders who are subject to a lifetime registration requirement under a state and/or federal sex offender registration program.

The "Denial or Termination of Assistance," Chapter 15 of this Administrative Plan addresses reasons for denial of admission, which constitute additional admission criteria.

**PHA Factors for Denial or Termination of Assistance (24 CFR §982.552):**

Jacksonville Housing will apply the following criteria, in addition to the HUD eligibility criteria, as grounds for denial of admission to the program:

- Jacksonville Housing may deny admission to the applicant's family if they have violated any family obligation during previous participation in a federally assisted housing program within the three years prior to final eligibility determination. Jacksonville Housing may make an exception if the family member who violated the family obligation is not a current member of the household. Jacksonville Housing may request that the family provide verifiable documentation of this fact.
- Jacksonville Housing will deny participation in the program to applicants where it determines there is reasonable cause to believe that any family member is illegally using a controlled substance or engaging in drug-related or other criminal activity. Mitigating circumstances will be considered in these situations.
- Jacksonville Housing will deny participation in the program to applicants where Jacksonville Housing determines that any family member abuses alcohol in a way that may interfere with the health safety or peaceful enjoyment of the premises by other residents. This includes cases where Jacksonville Housing determines that there is a pattern of alcohol abuse. Jacksonville Housing will consider alcohol abuse to be a pattern if there is more than one conviction during the previous 18 months. Mitigating circumstances will be considered.
- An applicant's family will be denied admission to the program if any member of the family fails to fully complete all required documents, including but not limited to the application and HUD 92006, 9886, and 52675 forms after notification by Jacksonville Housing.

- If any applicant family deliberately misrepresents any information on which eligibility or tenant rent is established, Jacksonville Housing may deny assistance and may refer the family file/record to the proper authorities for appropriate disposition. (See Program Integrity Addendum).
- An applicant's family may be denied if any member of the family has been convicted for any of the following reasons within the last three years:
  1. Drug-related criminal activity (see Criminal Screening Criteria below);
  2. Violent criminal activity (see Criminal Screening Criteria below);
  3. Other criminal activity which may threaten the health, safety, or right to peaceful enjoyment of the premises by other residents or persons residing in the immediate vicinity; or
  4. Other criminal activity which may threaten the health or safety of the owner, property management staff, or persons performing a contract administration function or responsibility on behalf of the PHA (including a PHA employee or a PHA contractor, subcontractor, or agent)
- Any applicant who is a current or former resident must pay all debts to Jacksonville Housing before a voucher may be issued. All applicants to the HCV program must be in "Good Standing." Please see the glossary for a definition of "Good Standing".

Where fingerprinting is not an option, Jacksonville Housing will ask the prospective participant (commonly referred to as "prospect") to list all past convictions. Jacksonville Housing may elect to continue to process the prospect if, during the application process, a prospect neglects to list a past conviction, if that conviction is not for:

- drug-related criminal activity,
- violent criminal activity,
- criminal activity which may threaten the health, safety, or right to peaceful enjoyment of the premises by other residents or persons residing in the immediate vicinity; or
- Other criminal activity which may threaten the health or safety of the owner, property management staff, or persons performing a contract administration function or responsibility on behalf of the PHA (including a PHA employee or a PHA contractor, subcontractor, or agent).

All convictions that fall in the above categories will be reviewed through an individualized screening process wherein mitigating circumstances will be considered prior to proposed denial from the program.

### **Criminal Screening Criteria**

Jacksonville Housing may deny families for any felony convictions for the following charges:

- assault and battery,
- use of a firearm against a person,
- armed robbery,
- robbery offenses with no weapon involved,
- intentional homicides,
- manslaughter,
- kidnapping and abduction,
- stalking,

- arson,
- burglary,
- breaking and entering,
- fraud,
- possession of drugs, and
- weapon-related offenses.

Jacksonville Housing may deny families for any felony and misdemeanor convictions for the following charges:

- domestic violence,
- sex offenses,
- the manufacture, distribution, or possession to distribute drugs, and
- driving under the influence.

Admission of applicants with any current criminal charges may be delayed pending a final court decision on the charges or other disposition of the case (e.g., by plea bargain). After the final court decision, the applicant's case will be reviewed to determine whether the applicant meets all admission criteria. All families must meet or exceed the tenant selection and suitability criteria set forth in this chapter.

Jacksonville Housing will not consider any convictions that are more than three years old, provided no other has taken place in the interim. Criminal activity, as defined in the criminal screening criteria noted in this chapter.

An applicant must be in good standing with all federal housing programs in which he or she previously participated. If a debt is owed to any federal housing programs in which the applicant has participated, he or she may be denied assistance. If participation has been terminated because of any violation of a family obligation, a family may be denied assistance. Jacksonville Housing receives information about applicants' histories with other federal programs from the Enterprise Income Verification (EIV) system.

If the debt is discharged through bankruptcy, Jacksonville Housing will not deny future assistance to the family based on the discharged debt. The fact of the bankruptcy will be treated pursuant to HUD Form-52675.

If the debt is not discharged and remains unpaid, future assistance will be denied. Debt owed information will be maintained in EIV for a period of up to 10 years from the date of termination.

The "Denial or Termination of Assistance" in Chapter 15 of this Administrative Plan addresses reasons for denial of admission, which constitute additional admission criteria.

## **B. DEFINITIONS OF FAMILY AND HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS**

### **OVERVIEW**

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

### **FAMILY AND HOUSEHOLD [24 CFR 5.403; FR Notice 02/03/12; Notice PIH 2014-20; and FR Notice 2/14/23]**

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

#### **Family**

To be eligible for assistance, an applicant must qualify as a family. *Family* as defined by HUD includes, but is not limited to the following, regardless of actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status, a single person, who may be an elderly person, displaced person, disabled person, near-elderly person, or any other single person; an otherwise eligible youth who has attained at least 18 years of age and not more than 24 years of age and who has left foster care, or will leave foster care within 90 days, in accordance with a transition plan described in section 475(5)(H) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 675(5)(H)), and is homeless or is at risk of becoming homeless at age 16 or older; or a group of persons residing together. Such group includes but is not limited to a family with or without children (a child who is temporarily away from the home because of placement in foster care is considered a member of the family), an elderly family, a near-elderly family, a disabled family, a displaced family, and the remaining member of a tenant family. The PHA has the discretion to determine if any other group of persons qualifies as a family.

*Gender Identity* means actual or perceived gender characteristics.

*Sexual orientation* means homosexuality, heterosexuality, or bisexuality.

#### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

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

Each family must identify the individuals to be included in the family at the time of application and must notify the PHA if the family's composition changes.

#### **Household**

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

## **FAMILY BREAKUP AND REMAINING MEMBER OF TENANT FAMILY**

### **Family Breakup [24 CFR 982.315; Notice PIH 2017-08]**

Except under the following conditions, the PHA has discretion to determine which members of an assisted family continue to receive assistance if the family breaks up:

- If the family breakup results from an occurrence of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking, the PHA must ensure that the victim retains assistance. (For documentation requirements and policies related to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, and human trafficking, see section 16-D. of this plan.)
- In accordance with Notice PIH 2017-08, for HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) vouchers, when the veteran is the perpetrator of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking, the victim must continue to be assisted. Upon termination of the perpetrator's HUD-VASH voucher, the victim should be given a regular HCV if one is available, and the perpetrator's HUD-VASH voucher should be used to serve another eligible family. If a regular HCV is not available, the victim will continue to use the HUD-VASH voucher, which must be issued to another eligible family upon the voucher's turnover.
- If a court determines the disposition of property between members of the assisted family, the PHA is bound by the court's determination of which family members continue to receive assistance.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

When a family on the waiting list breaks up into two otherwise eligible families, only one of the new families may retain the original application date. Other former family members may make a new application with a new application date if the waiting list is open.

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

In the absence of a judicial decision or an agreement among the original family members, Jacksonville Housing will determine which family will retain their placement on the waiting list or continue to receive assistance. In making its determination, Jacksonville Housing will take into consideration the following factors: (1) the interest of any minor children, including custody arrangements; (2) the interest of any ill, elderly, or disabled family members; (3) the interest of any family member who is the victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking, including a family member who was forced to leave an assisted unit as a result of such actual or threatened abuse; (4) any possible risks to family members as a result of criminal activity; and (5) the recommendations of social service professionals

### **Remaining Member of a Tenant Family [24 CFR 5.403]**

The HUD definition of family includes the *remaining member of a tenant family*, which is a member of an assisted family who remains in the unit when other members of the family have

left the unit. Household members such as live-in aides, foster children, and foster adults do not qualify as remaining members of a family.

If dependents are the only “remaining members of a tenant family” and there is no family member able to assume the responsibilities of the head of household, see Chapter 6, Section 6, for the policy on “Caretakers for a Child.”

### **C. FAMILY COMPOSITION** (24 CFR §982.201)

#### **Definition of Family (at application)**

All applicants must qualify as a family. A family may be a single person or a group of people. Discrimination on the basis of familial status is prohibited, and a group of persons may not be denied solely on the basis that they are not related by blood, marriage, or operation of law. For occupancy standards purposes, applicants may claim a spouse/partner. See “Subsidy Standards” in Chapter 5 of this Administrative Plan.

Jacksonville Housing defines a family as two or more people who intend to share residency, whose income and resources are available to meet the family's needs, and who will live together in subsidized housing. Elderly, disabled, and displaced families are defined by HUD in 24 CFR §5.403.

The term “family” also includes, but is not limited to:

A family with or without children;

- An elderly family;
- A disabled family;
- A displaced family;
- The remaining member of a participant’s family;
- A single person who is not elderly, displaced, a person with disabilities, or the remaining member of a participant family;
- Two or more elderly or disabled persons living together, or one or more elderly or disabled persons living with one or more live-in aides are a family;
- Two or more near-elderly persons living together, or one or more near-elderly persons, living with one or more live-in aides.

The temporary absence of a child from the home due to placement in foster care shall be considered in determining the family composition and family size.

#### **Head of Household**

The head of household is the adult member of the household who is designated by the family as head, and who is wholly or partly responsible for paying the rent and has the legal capacity to enter into a lease agreement under state/local law. Emancipated minors who qualify under state law will be recognized as the head of household.

#### **Spouse/Partner of Head**

There may only be one spouse/partner in the household. Please see the Glossary for the definition of “spouse/partner.”

### **Co-Head**

The Co-Head is defined as an individual in the household who is equally responsible for the lease with the head of the household. A head of household may have a spouse/partner or co-head, but not both. A co-head never qualifies as a dependent.

When a prospect lists a co-head on the application, at the time of the application process, the PHA will ask the prospect to define the relationship with the co-head. If the co-head is a spouse/partner or partner, the co-head will be treated the same as a spouse/partner and will not be counted in the bedroom size. If the relationship is anything other than a spousal relationship, staff will include the co-head in the rest of the bedroom size calculation.

### **Student Eligibility – Full-Time Student [24 CFR 5.603; HCV GB, P. 5-29]**

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

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

Students who meet any of the following shall qualify for housing assistance, provided that they meet all other eligibility requirements:

- The individual is 24 years of age or older by December 31 of the award year;
- The individual has legal dependents other than a spouse;
- The individual is a graduate or professional student;
- The individual is a veteran as defined in the Glossary;
- The individual is married;
- The individual is an orphan, in foster care, or a ward of the court or was an orphan, in foster care, or a ward of the court at any time when the individual was 13 years of age or older;
- The individual 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;
- He or she is otherwise individually eligible, or has parents who, individually or jointly, are eligible on the basis of income to receive assistance;
- The individual 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 (as such terms are defined in section 725 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act) (42 United States Code [USC] §11431 et seq.), or as unaccompanied, at risk of homelessness, and self-supporting, by— (i) a local educational agency homeless liaison, designated pursuant to section 722(g)(1)(J)(ii) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act; (ii) the director of a program funded under the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act or a designee of the director; (iii) the director of a program funded under subtitle B of title IV



of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (relating to emergency shelter grants) or a designee of the director; or (iv) a financial aid administrator;

- The individual is a student for whom a financial aid administrator makes a documented determination of independence by reason of other unusual circumstances.

For single-member student households, any financial assistance received in excess of amounts received for tuition and fees shall be considered income. Financial assistance does not include loan proceeds since loans are debts that must be repaid by the borrower.

In cases where the student is not considered an “independent student,” (Federal Register-5969-N-01) both the student’s and parent’s income are considered for eligibility/recertification purposes. Once the student has been determined finally eligible for the HCV Program and the parents are not part of the household, any financial assistance received in excess of tuition and fees shall be considered income. Financial assistance does not include loan proceeds since loans are debts that must be repaid by the borrower.

Independent status must be verified by:

- (1) Reviewing and verifying previous address information to determine evidence of a separate household or verifying the student meets the U.S. Department of Education’s definition of “independent student”
- (2) Reviewing a student’s prior year income tax returns to verify the student is independent or verifying the student meets the U.S. Department of Education’s definition of “independent student”; and
- (3) Verifying income provided by a parent by requiring a written certification from the individual providing the support. Certification is also required if the parent is providing no support to the student. Financial assistance that is provided by persons not living in the unit is part of annual income.

### **Live-in Aides (24 CFR §982.316)**

A live-in aide:

- Is determined by the PHA to be essential to the care and well-being of an elderly person, a near-elderly person, or a person with disabilities,
- Is not obligated to support the person(s), and
- Would not be living in the unit except to provide care for the person(s),
- May not be a spouse/partner or co-head,
- Must not be in a spousal relationship with any member of the household, and
- Must be at least 18 years old, unless he or she is an emancipated minor.

An existing household member may not be approved as a Live-in Aide.

A Live-In Aide may have a spouse/partner and/or children added to the unit with PHA approval as long as they continue to meet occupancy standards. The bedroom size will not increase for the Live-In Aide spouse/partner and/or children.

Relatives are not automatically excluded from being live-in aides, but they must meet all of the elements of a live-in aide as stated above.

A live-in aide is not considered to be an assisted family member and has no rights or benefits under the program:

The income of the live-in aide will not be counted for purposes of determining eligibility or level of benefits.

- Live-in aides are not subject to non-Citizen Rule requirements.
- Live-in aides are not considered a “remaining member” of the tenant family and have no rights to the voucher. For example, if the head of household is the only other family member and he or she dies, the live-in aide will not “inherit” the voucher and will have no rights to the voucher or to other assistance from the PHA. Further, in such an instance, should the live-in aide wish to remain in the assisted unit after the death of the HCV participant, he or she will become responsible for the full amount of the rent since live-in aides are not entitled to continue to receive voucher benefits under the program.

A live-in aide may only reside in the unit with the approval of the PHA. Written verification of the need for a live-in aid will be required from a reliable, health care professional, such as a doctor, social worker, or caseworker. The verification provider must certify that a live-in aide is needed for the care of the family member who is elderly (62 years of age or over), near-elderly (50-61 years of age) or disabled. A specific live-in aide may only reside in the unit with the approval of the PHA. The live-in aide will be subject to the PHA’s normal screening criteria and the PHA may deny the live-in aide if he or she fails to meet such criteria.

After a reasonable accommodation (RA) request for a live-in aide is approved by Jacksonville Housing, Jacksonville Housing will send the family a letter. This letter will inform the family that they must submit a written request to add a live-in aide within 120 days of the approval letter. If the family fails to request to add the live-in aide during this 120-day time period, the request will become void. If the family still requires the accommodation of a live-in aide, they must restart the process by submitting a new RA request for a live-in aide.

If the live-in aide or his or her family members participate in drug-related or other criminal activity, the PHA will rescind the aide’s right to occupy the unit. The aide will not be entitled to the PHA’s grievance hearing process since he or she is not an HCV program participant.

An individual approved as a live-in aide may not receive a subsidy from any PHA while residing with another HCV program participant as a live-in aide. If an applicant is issued a voucher and is a live-in aide in another HCV participant’s household, the live-in aide must be removed from the participant’s household prior to the execution of a Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) contract.

A person who owes a debt to any PHA may not be approved as a live-in aide.

A live-in aide has no residual rights to the voucher in the event the head of the household or other adult family members cease to participate in the program (e.g. if the participant's family is terminated from the program).

**Elderly and Near-Elderly Persons, and Elderly Family [24 CFR 5.100 and 5.403, FR Notice 02/03/12]**

**Elderly Persons**

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

**Near-Elderly Persons**

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

**Elderly Family**

An *elderly family* is one in which the head, spouse, cohead, or sole member is an elderly person. Identifying elderly families is important because elderly families qualify for the elderly family allowance as described in this Administrative Plan.

**Persons with Disabilities and Disabled Family [24 CFR 5.403, FR Notice 02/03/12]**

**Persons with Disabilities**

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

As discussed in Chapter 4, the PHA must make all aspects of the HCV program accessible to persons with disabilities and consider reasonable accommodations requested based on a person's disability.

**Disabled Family**

A *disabled family* is one in which the head, spouse, or cohead is a person with disabilities. Identifying disabled families is important because these families qualify for the disabled family allowance as described in this Administrative Plan.

Even though persons with drug or alcohol dependencies are considered persons with disabilities, this does not prevent the PHA from denying assistance for reasons related to alcohol and drug abuse in accordance with the policies found in this chapter, or from terminating assistance in accordance with the policies in this Administrative Plan.

**GUESTS [24 CFR 5.100]**

A *guest* is a person temporarily staying in the unit with the consent of a member of the household who has expressed or implied authority to so consent.

**Jacksonville Housing Policy**

A guest can remain in the assisted unit no longer than 30 consecutive days or a total of 90 cumulative calendar days during any 12 months.

Children who are subject to a joint custody arrangement or for whom a family has visitation privileges, that are not included as a family member because they live outside of the assisted household more than 50 percent of the time, are not subject to the time limitations of guests as described above.

A family may request an exception to this policy for valid reasons (e.g., the care of a relative recovering from a medical procedure is expected to last 40 consecutive days). An exception will not be made unless the family can identify and provide documentation of the residence to which the guest will return.

### **FOSTER CHILDREN AND FOSTER ADULTS [24 CFR 5.603]**

A *foster adult* is a member of the household who is 18 years of age or older and meets the definition of a *foster adult* under state law. In general, a foster adult is a person who is 18 years of age or older, is unable to live independently due to a debilitating physical or mental condition, and is placed with the family by an authorized placement agency or by judgment, decree, or other order of any court of competent jurisdiction.

A *foster child* is a member of the household who meets the definition of a *foster child* under state law. In general, a foster child is placed with the family by an authorized placement agency (e.g., a public child welfare agency) or by judgment, decree, or other order of any court of competent jurisdiction.

Foster children and foster adults who are living with an applicant or who have been approved by the PHA to live with a participant family are considered household members but not family members. The income of foster children/adults is not counted in the family's annual income, and foster children/adults do not qualify for a dependent deduction [24 CFR 5.603; HUD-50058 IB, p. 13].

#### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

A foster child or foster adult may be allowed to reside in the unit if their presence would not result in a violation of space standards as described in the NSPIRE protocol of this policy.

### **ABSENT FAMILY MEMBERS**

Individuals may be absent from the family, either temporarily or permanently, for a variety of reasons including educational activities, placement in foster care, employment, illness, incarceration, and court order.

#### **Definitions of Temporarily and Permanently Absent**

#### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

Generally, an individual who is or is expected to be absent from the assisted unit for 180 consecutive days or less is considered temporarily absent and continues to be considered a family member. Generally, an individual who is or is expected to be absent from the assisted unit for more than 180 consecutive days is considered permanently absent and no longer a family member. Exceptions to this general policy are discussed below.

## **Absent Students**

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

When someone who has been considered a family member attends school away from home, the person will continue to be considered a family member unless information becomes available to Jacksonville Housing indicating that the student has established a separate household or the family declares that the student has established a separate household.

## **Absences Due to Placement in Foster Care [24 CFR 5.403]**

Children temporarily absent from the home as a result of placement in foster care are considered members of the family.

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

If a child has been placed in foster care, the PHA will verify with the appropriate agency whether and when the child is expected to be returned to the home. Unless the agency confirms that the child has been permanently removed from the home, the child will be counted as a family member.

## **Absent Head, Spouse, or Cohead**

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

An employed head, spouse, or cohead absent from the unit for more than 180 consecutive days due to employment will continue to be considered a family member.

## **Family Members Permanently Confined for Medical Reasons [HCV GB, p. 5-22]**

If a family member is confined to a nursing home or hospital on a permanent basis, that person is no longer considered a family member, and the income of that person is not counted [HCV GB, p. 5-22].

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

An individual confined to a nursing home or hospital on a permanent basis is not considered a family member. Jacksonville Housing will request verification of the family member's permanent absence from a responsible medical professional. If the responsible medical professional cannot provide a determination, the person will be considered temporarily absent. If the family certifies that the family member is confined on a permanent basis, they may present, and Jacksonville Housing will consider, any additional documentation or evidence.

## **Return of Permanently Absent Family Members**

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

The family must request Jacksonville Housing approval for the return of any adult family members that Jacksonville Housing previously determined to be permanently absent. The individual is subject to the eligibility and screening requirements discussed elsewhere in this chapter.

## **Split Households Prior to Voucher Issuance**

When a family on the wait list splits into two otherwise eligible families due to divorce or legal separation and both families claim the same placement on the waitlist, if there is no court determination with regard to custody of minor children or other issues around family composition (e.g., conservatorship of an aged and/or disabled adult household member), the PHA will decide which family will receive the voucher by taking into consideration:

- Which family member applied as head of household,
- Which family unit retains care, custody, and control of any children or any disabled or elderly members, and
- Recommendations from social service agencies or qualified professionals, such as Child Protective Services (CPS) caseworkers or court investigators.

Documentation of these factors is the responsibility of the applicant's family. If either or both of the families fail to provide the documentation, they may be denied placement on the wait list for failure to supply the information requested by the PHA.

### **Multiple Families in the Same Household**

When families consisting of two families living together, (such as a mother and father, and a daughter and her husband or children) apply as a family unit, they will be treated as a family unit.

### **Joint Custody of Children**

Children who are subject to a joint physical custody agreement but live with one parent at least 51% of the time will be considered members of that household. "51% of the time" is defined as 183 days of the year. These 183 days do not have to run consecutively. When each parent has a separate application on the wait list and both share equal physical (50/50) custody of the child or children, the parent whose address is listed on the child or children's school records will be allowed to claim the school-aged child as a dependent.

### **Applicants with Minor Children and only one Parent in the household:**

An applicant household who wishes to include a child(ren) must provide documentation proving they have legal custody of the child(ren).

Documentation may include but is not limited to:

- Court-ordered letters of guardianship;
- A notice from the county welfare department verifying that the child is in the home of the applicant;
- A letter from each school-aged child's school verifying the address at which the child is registered and the name of the individual who is listed as the child's guardian;
- A notarized letter from the other parent of the child stating their custodial arrangements;
- or
- Other verifiable documentation that establishes the child as a member of the household.

Mitigating circumstances will be considered in these situations.

**Applicants with Non-Biological Minor Children:**

An applicant household who wishes to include a non-biological child(ren) must provide documentation proving they are authorized to act as a guardian to the child(ren). Documentation may include but is not limited to:

- Court-ordered letters of guardianship;
- A notice from the county welfare department verifying that the child is in the home of the applicant;
- A letter of placement from a foster care or adoption agency;
- A notarized letter from the parent of the child stating that the applicant has been granted custody of the child; and a letter from each school-aged child's school verifying the address at which the child is registered and the name of the individual who is listed as the guardian; or
- Other verifiable documents that will establish the child as a member of the household.

If Jacksonville Housing receives contradictory information or documentation related to the custody of the child(ren), it may refuse to add the child(ren) to the household until it receives conclusive evidence of custody or guardianship. Documentation may include letters of guardianship issued by the courts or a letter from an agency known to provide verification, such as the Department of Human Assistance (DHA) or the Department of Children and Family (DCF).

**D. INCOME LIMITATIONS** (24 CFR §§982.201, 982.353)

To be eligible for assistance, an applicant must have an annual income at the time of admission that does not exceed the low-income limits for occupancy established by HUD.

To be income-eligible, the applicant must be a family in any of the following categories:

1. A very low-income family.
2. A low-income family that is continuously assisted under the 1937 Housing Act. An applicant is continuously assisted if the family has received assistance under any 1937 Housing Act program within 120 days of voucher issuance. Programs include any housing federally assisted under the 1937 Housing Act.
3. A low-income family physically displaced by rental rehabilitation activity or a low-income family displaced by any government activity.
4. A low-income, non-purchasing family residing in a HOPE 1 or HOPE 2 project.
5. A low-income, non-purchasing family residing in a project, subject to a home-ownership program under 24 CFR Part 248.173.
6. A low-income family or moderate-income family that is displaced as a result of the prepayment of a mortgage or voluntary termination of a mortgage insurance contract under 24 CFR §248.165.
7. A low-income family that qualifies for HCV assistance as a non-purchasing family residing in a project that is subject to a resident homeownership program.
8. A low-income family is part of an inter-program transfer from low-income public housing to the HCV Program for the purpose of participating in the Section 8 Homeownership program.

9. A low-income family that meets other requirements associated with targeted funding for special admissions.
10. A low-income family eligible for Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH).

Families whose Annual Income exceeds the applicable income limit will be denied admission.

**Portability:**

For initial lease-up at admission, families who exercise portability of their vouchers must be within the applicable income limit for the jurisdiction of the receiving PHA where they want to live.

**E. MANDATORY SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS** (24 CFR §§5.216, 5.218)

All applicants and persons who are later added to the household are required to disclose their social security numbers (SSN), with the exception of the following individuals:

1. Those individuals who do not contend to have eligible immigration status (individuals who may be unlawfully present in the United States). These individuals in most instances would not be eligible for an SSN.
2. A family that consists of a single household member (including a pregnant individual) who does not have eligible immigration status is not eligible for housing assistance and cannot be housed.
3. A family that consists of two or more household members and at least one household member with eligible immigration status, is classified as a mixed family and is eligible for prorated assistance in accordance with 24 CFR §5.520. The PHA may not deny assistance to mixed families due to nondisclosure of an SSN by an individual who does not contend to have eligible immigration status.
4. Existing program participants as of January 31, 2010, who have previously disclosed their SSN and HUD have determined the SSN to be valid.
5. Existing program participants as of January 31, 2010, who are 62 years of age or older, and had not previously disclosed a valid SSN. This exemption continues even if the individual moves to a new assisted unit.

**SSN Documentation:**

Acceptable evidence of the SSN consists of:

- An original SSN card issued by the Social Security Administration (SSA);
- An original SSA-issued document, which contains the name and SSN of the individual; or
- An online printout from the SSA website; or
- An original document issued by a federal, state, or local government agency, which contains the name and SSN of the individual.

**Individuals without an assigned SSN:**

Some individuals do not have an SSA-assigned SSN. Below is a listing of such individuals, which is not all-inclusive:



- Newborn children (these individuals will be issued an SSN upon SSA confirmation of a birth);
- Non-citizens lawfully present in the U.S. (these individuals will be issued an SSN upon SSA's confirmation of the individual's DHS/USCIS documentation or confirmation that the individual is required by law to provide a Social Security number to receive general assistance (GA) benefits they already have qualified for);
- Non-citizens unlawfully present in the U.S. (these individuals cannot be assigned an SSN);
- The PHA will require citizens and lawfully present non-citizens who state that they have not been assigned an SSN by the SSA to sign a written declaration of such status under the penalty of perjury to the PHA. The PHA should maintain the declaration in the tenant file.
- The PHA will use the Alternate ID (ALTD ID) generator within the Public and Indian Housing Information Center (PIC) to generate a unique identifier for those individuals who do not have or are unable to disclose an SSN.
- Once an individual discloses an SSN, the PHA will delete the ALT ID, enter the SSN on line 3n of the form HUD-50058, and transmit the form HUD-50058 to HUD within 30 calendar days of receipt of the SSN.

**Rejection of Social Security Number Documentation:**

Jacksonville Housing may reject documentation of the SSN provided by the applicant or participant for only the following reasons:

- The document is not an original document; or
- The original document has been altered, mutilated, or not legible; or
- The document appears to be a forged or fraudulent document (i.e., does not appear to be authentic).

Jacksonville Housing will explain to the applicant or participant the reason(s) the document is not acceptable and request the individual to obtain acceptable documentation of the SSN and submit it to Jacksonville Housing within a specified time frame.

**Addition of a New Household Member:**

When a participant requests to add a new household member who is six years of age or under and has an assigned SSN, to the family, the participant must disclose the assigned SSN and provide Jacksonville Housing with the documentation at the time of such request, or at the time of processing the interim or annual reexamination of family income and/or composition. If the family is unable to provide the required documentation of the SSN, Jacksonville Housing may not add the new household member until the family provides such documentation.

When a participant requests to add a new household member who is under the age of six and who does not have an assigned SSN, the participant must disclose the assigned SSN and provide the PHA with the documentation within 90 calendar days of the child being added to the household.

If the family is unable to provide evidence of the SSN within 90 calendar days, Jacksonville Housing will grant the family an additional 90-day period to comply with the SSN disclosure and documentation requirement if Jacksonville Housing determines the family was unable to comply with the requirements due to circumstances that could not have reasonably been foreseen and were outside the control of the family. Examples include but are not limited to delayed processing of SSN application by SSA, natural disasters, fire, death in the family, etc.

The child is to be included as part of the assisted household and entitled to all the benefits of being a household member during the allotted time for the family to comply with the SSN disclosure and documentation requirements. Jacksonville Housing should generate an ALT ID for the child. Upon expiration of the provided time period, if the family has not complied with the SSN disclosure and documentation requirements, Jacksonville Housing must terminate the assistance of the entire family.

If a minor under the age of six is added to the applicant's household within a six-month period prior to the household's date of admission to the program, the applicant may become a participant, so long as the minor child's SSN is received within 90 days of the admission to the program.

If Jacksonville Housing determines, at its discretion, that the applicant family could not supply the Social Security documentation through no fault of their own, it will grant the applicant family an additional 90 days to provide documentation of the SSN for the minor child. If the family fails to supply the required documentation at the end of the given time frame (90 or 180 days), the applicant or participant family will be removed from the program and will be offered an informal review if they are still an applicant or an informal hearing if they are a participant family.

**Penalties for Failure to Disclose and/or Provide Documentation of the SSN:**

An applicant family must furnish SSNs for all family members, with the exception of those individuals who do not have eligible immigration status (individuals who may be unlawfully present in the United States). These individuals in most instances would not be eligible for an SSN.

The following penalties apply for noncompliance with the SSN disclosure and documentation requirements:

- **Applicants:** The PHA must deny the eligibility of an applicant if s/he (including each member of the household required to disclose his/her SSN) does not disclose an SSN and/or provide documentation of such SSN, within 90 days, except for minors under the age of six as set forth above.
- **Applicants to the Section 8 Moderate Rehabilitation Single Room Occupancy (SRO) Program for Homeless Individuals, under 24 CFR Part 882:** These individuals may be admitted to the program without providing the requested documentation (prior to or at admission); however, they must provide the PHA with such documentation within 90 calendar days from the date of admission. The PHA may grant these individuals one 90-day extension with the supervisor's approval. If, upon the expiration of the allotted time

period, these individuals fail to comply with the SSN disclosure and documentation requirements, the PHA must terminate their tenancy or assistance, or both.

- **Participants:** The PHA will terminate the housing assistance of the entire household if each member of the household is required to disclose his/her SSN, does not disclose his/her SSN, and provides the required documentation.

However, if the family is otherwise eligible for continued assistance the PHA, at its discretion, may defer the family's termination and provide the family an opportunity to comply with the requirement within a period not to exceed 90 calendar days from the date the PHA determined the family is not in compliance with the SSN disclosure and documentation requirement if the PHA determines:

- The failure to meet the SSN disclosure and documentation requirements was due to circumstances that could not have been foreseen and were outside the control of the family; and
- There is a reasonable likelihood that the family will be able to disclose the SSN and provide such documentation of the SSN by the deadline.

If the family is unable to comply with the requirements by the specified deadline, the PHA must terminate the housing assistance of the entire family.

#### **F. CITIZENSHIP/ELIGIBLE IMMIGRATION STATUS** (24 CFR Part 5, Subpart E)

In order to receive assistance, family members must be U.S. citizens or eligible immigrants. Individuals who are neither may elect to not disclose their statuses. Eligible immigrants are persons who are in one of the immigrant categories as specified by HUD.

#### **Citizenship/Eligible Immigration Requirement:**

The citizenship or immigration status of each member of the family is considered individually before the family's status is defined.

#### **Mixed Families**

A family is eligible for assistance as long as at least one member is a United States citizen or eligible immigrant. Families that include eligible and ineligible individuals are referred to as "mixed" families or households. Such applicant families will be given notice that their assistance will be pro-rated and that they may request a hearing if they contest this determination.

#### **No Eligible Members**

An applicant's family that does not include at least one U.S. citizen or eligible immigrant is not eligible for assistance. Such families will be denied admission and offered an opportunity for an informal hearing upon request.

#### **Non-Citizen Students**

As defined by HUD's Non-Citizen Regulations, non-citizen students are not eligible for assistance. Appeals regarding disputes of citizenship/eligible immigration status are the only type to which the applicant is entitled to a hearing like those provided for participants.

### **Verification of Status before Admission**

Jacksonville Housing will not provide assistance to any families prior to the verification of eligibility for the individual or at least one member of the family pursuant to this section.

### **G. TENANT SCREENING** (24 CFR §982.307)

Jacksonville Housing will not screen for family behavior or suitability for tenancy. Jacksonville Housing will not be liable or responsible to the owner of a rental property or other persons for the family's behavior or the family's conduct in tenancy.

In compliance with the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), no applicant for the HCV Program who has been a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, or stalking shall be denied admission to the program if they are otherwise qualified. However, applicants who fall into this category may be denied admission to the program based on other disqualifying information. (HUD PIH Notice 2017-08.). Jacksonville Housing will provide all applicants and participants with information about their rights under VAWA in the application.

The landlord (owner) or property management company is responsible for screening and selecting the family to occupy the owner's unit. At or before the PHA's approval of the tenancy, Jacksonville Housing will inform the owner or property manager that screening and selection for tenancy is their responsibility.

Jacksonville Housing will advise families on how to file a complaint if they feel they have been discriminated against by an owner or property manager. Jacksonville Housing will advise the family to make a fair housing complaint. Jacksonville Housing may also report the owner to HUD (Fair Housing/Equal Opportunity) or the local Fair Housing Agency.

### **Transitions between Subsidized Housing Programs**

At the family's first eligibility appointment, when it is determined that the applicant is participating in another subsidized housing program, staff will advise the family Jacksonville Housing will terminate the application process if the applicant is not in good standing. See the glossary for the definition of "Good Standing".

The Jacksonville Housing team will continue to communicate with conventional housing staff as the family proceeds through the process so that only families in good standing are allowed admission to the HCV program. The move will be coordinated between the staff of both programs so that the family is not a participant in both programs at the same time.

The HCV contract will not begin until the conventional housing lease has been terminated and its termination confirmed.

If the applicant is associated with more than one subsidized unit, the Agency will ask the family to sign an affidavit stating that the family understands that they cannot be a party to two different subsidized units at the same time and that they must relinquish their current unit in order to participate in the new program.

## **H. CHANGES IN ELIGIBILITY PRIOR TO THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE CONTRACT**

Changes in subsidy standards and Total Tenant Payment (TTP) that occur during the period between issuance of a voucher and prior to lease-up with the approved rental unit may affect the family's eligibility or share of the rental payment. Jacksonville Housing, at its discretion, may take a voucher back when a change in a family's income or household composition occurs in order to re-determine the correct voucher size. The family will be given no less than 60 days of search time with the corrected voucher size.

A review and update of the family income and overall eligibility will be completed, if necessary when extending an applicant's voucher.

## **I. INELIGIBLE FAMILIES**

Families who are determined to be ineligible will be notified in writing of the reason for denial and given an opportunity to request an informal review, or an informal hearing if they are denied due to non-citizen status. See the "Complaints and Appeals," section in Chapter 18 for additional information about reviews and hearings.

## **CHAPTER 4 FAIR HOUSING AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The U.S. Housing Act of 1937 authorized local Public Housing Agencies (Public Housing Authorities/PHAs) to be established by individual states. Jacksonville Housing (JH) current Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program evolved from various acts, amendments, and rules. The most recent changes are the Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act of 1998 (QHWRA) and the 1999 Housing and Urban Development (HUD) rule that provided for the merger of the certificate and voucher programs into one housing choice voucher program. This Administrative Plan clarifies PHA policies to facilitate the operation of the HCV Program.

It is the policy of Jacksonville Housing to comply fully with all federal, state, and local nondiscrimination laws and with the rules and regulations governing fair housing and equal opportunity in housing and employment.

Jacksonville Housing shall not deny any family or individual the opportunity to apply for or receive assistance under the HCV Program on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, creed, national or ethnic origin, age, familial or marital status, disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

To affirmatively further Fair Housing, Jacksonville Housing is committed to full compliance with applicable civil rights laws, Jacksonville Housing will provide federal/state/local information to program participants/applicants regarding discrimination and any recourse available to them if they feel they have been discriminated against. Such information will be made available during the family briefing session and placed in briefing packets. It will include information for applicants on how to file a fair housing complaint, including the provision of the toll-free number for the Fair Housing Complaint Hotline, 1-800-669-9777, and the Federal Information Relay Service at 1-800-887-8339.

Except as otherwise provided in 24 CFR §§ 8.21(c)(1), 8.24(a), and 8.31, no individual with disabilities shall be denied the benefits of, be excluded from participation in, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination because Jacksonville Housing's facilities are inaccessible to or unusable by persons with disabilities. Housing information is displayed in locations throughout the Jacksonville Housing's offices in such a manner as to be easily readable from a wheelchair. The office of the Housing Choice Voucher Program is accessible to persons with disabilities. Jacksonville Housing will provide and review information regarding fair housing rights and responsibilities during family briefing sessions.

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

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

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

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

Prohibition of Discrimination Against Limited English Proficiency Persons. This part details the obligations of the PHA to ensure meaningful access to the HCV program and its activities by persons with limited English proficiency (LEP). This part incorporates the Final Guidance to Federal Financial Assistance Recipients Regarding Title VI Prohibition Against National Origin Discrimination Affecting Limited English Proficient Persons published January 22, 2007, in the *Federal Register*.

## **A. NON-DISCRIMINATION OVERVIEW**

Federal laws require PHAs to treat all applicants and participants equally, providing the same opportunity to access services, regardless of family characteristics and background. Federal law prohibits discrimination in housing on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, familial status, and disability. In addition, HUD regulations provide additional protections regarding sexual orientation, gender identity, and marital status. The PHA will comply fully with all federal, state, and local nondiscrimination laws, and with rules and regulations governing fair housing and equal opportunity in housing and employment, including:

- Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964
- Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (as amended by the Community Development Act of 1974 and the Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988)
- Executive Orders 11063 and 13988
- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
- The Age Discrimination Act of 1975
- Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (to the extent that it applies, otherwise Section 504 and the Fair Housing Amendments govern)
- The Equal Access to Housing in HUD Programs Regardless of Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity Final Rule, published in the *Federal Register* February 3, 2012, and further clarified in Notice PIH 2014-20
- Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 (VAWA)

When more than one civil rights law applies to a situation, the laws will be read and applied together. Any applicable state laws or local ordinances and any legislation protecting the individual rights of tenants, applicants, or staff that may subsequently be enacted will also apply.

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

No additional state or local nondiscrimination laws or ordinances apply.

Federal regulations prohibit discrimination against certain protected classes and other groups of people. State and local requirements, as well as PHA policies, can prohibit discrimination based on other factors.

Jacksonville Housing shall not discriminate because of race, color, sex, religion, familial status, age, disability, or national origin (called “protected classes”). Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women, and people securing custody of children under the age of 18.

Jacksonville Housing will not discriminate on the basis of marital status, gender identity, or sexual orientation [FR Notice 02/03/12; Executive Order 13988].

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing does not identify any additional protected classes.

Jacksonville Housing will not use any of these factors to:

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

#### **Providing Information to Families and Owners**

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

#### **Discrimination Complaints**

If an applicant or participant believes that any family member has been discriminated against by Jacksonville Housing or an owner, the family should advise the PHA. Jacksonville Housing



should make every reasonable attempt to determine whether the applicant's or participant's assertions have merit and take any warranted corrective action. In addition, Jacksonville Housing is required to provide the applicant or participant with information about how to file a discrimination complaint [24 CFR 982.304].

Upon receipt of a housing discrimination complaint, Jacksonville Housing is required to:

- Provide written notice of the complaint to those alleged and inform the complainant that such notice was made.
- Investigate the allegations and provide the complainant and those alleged with findings and either a proposed corrective action or an explanation of why corrective action is not warranted.
- Keep records of all complaints, investigations, notices, and corrective actions [Notice PIH 2014-20]

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Applicants or participants who believe that they have been subject to unlawful discrimination may notify Jacksonville Housing either orally or in writing.

Within ten (10) business days of receiving the complaint, Jacksonville Housing will provide a written notice to those alleged to have violated the rule. Jacksonville Housing will also send a written notice to the complainant informing them that notice was sent to those alleged to have violated the rule, as well as information on how to complete and submit a housing discrimination complaint form to HUD's Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity (FHEO).

Jacksonville Housing will attempt to remedy discrimination complaints made against Jacksonville Housing and will investigate all allegations of discrimination.

Within ten (10) business days following the conclusion of Jacksonville Housing's investigation, Jacksonville Housing will provide the complainant and those alleged to have violated the rule with findings and either a proposed corrective action plan or an explanation of why corrective action is not warranted.

Jacksonville Housing will keep a record of all complaints, investigations, notices, and corrective actions.

#### **Complaints under the Equal Access Final Rule [Notice PIH 2014-20]**

Notice PIH 2014-20 requires an articulated complaint process for allegations of discrimination under the Equal Access Final rule. The Equal Access Final Rule requires that PHAs provide equal access regardless of marital status, gender identity, or sexual orientation. The PHA will be informed of these obligations by the HUD Field Office or FHEO when an Equal Access complaint investigation begins.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Applicants or tenant families who believe that they have been subject to unlawful discrimination based on marital status, gender identity, or sexual orientation under the Equal Access Rule may notify Jacksonville Housing either orally or in writing.

Within (ten) 10 business days of receiving the complaint, Jacksonville Housing will provide a written notice to those alleged to have violated the rule. Jacksonville Housing will also send a written notice to the complainant informing them that notice was sent to those alleged to have violated the rule, as well as information on how to complete and submit a housing discrimination complaint form to HUD's Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity (FHEO).

Jacksonville Housing will attempt to remedy discrimination complaints made against Jacksonville Housing and will conduct an investigation into all allegations of discrimination.

Within ten (10) business days following the conclusion of Jacksonville Housing's investigation, Jacksonville Housing will provide the complainant and those alleged to have violated the rule with findings and either a proposed corrective action plan or an explanation of why corrective action is not warranted.

Jacksonville Housing will keep a record of all complaints, investigations, notices, and corrective actions.

#### **VAWA Complaint Processing [Notice FHEO 2023-01]**

A complainant may, not later than one year after an alleged VAWA violation has occurred or terminated, file a complaint with FHEO alleging such violation. If there is a violation that began prior to a year before the complaint is filed but continues into the one-year time period, HUD will accept the complaint. FHEO will investigate the complaint if it is timely and FHEO otherwise has jurisdiction. If a complaint is filed more than one year after the alleged violation occurred or terminated, FHEO may, but is not required to, investigate the allegations under the additional authority and procedures described in FHEO 2023-01.

Complaints do not need to allege a violation of the Fair Housing Act for FHEO to accept and investigate the complaint.

#### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

Applicants or tenant families who wish to file a VAWA complaint against Jacksonville Housing may notify Jacksonville Housing orally or in writing.

Jacksonville Housing will advise the family of their right to file a VAWA complaint with HUD's Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity (FHEO). Jacksonville Housing will inform the family that not later than one year after an alleged VAWA violation has occurred or terminated, applicants and tenants who believe they have been injured by a VAWA violation or will be injured by such a violation that is about to occur may file a VAWA complaint using FHEO's online complaint form via mail, email, or telephone.

Jacksonville Housing will attempt to remedy complaints made against Jacksonville Housing and will conduct an investigation into all allegations of discrimination.

Jacksonville Housing will keep a record of all complaints, investigations, notices, and corrective actions.

## **B. POLICIES RELATED TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

### **OVERVIEW**

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

The PHA must ensure that persons with disabilities have full access to the PHA's programs and services. This responsibility begins with the first contact with an interested family and continues through every aspect of the program.

#### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

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

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

A specific name and phone number of designated staff will be provided to process requests for accommodation.

Jacksonville Housing will display posters and other housing information and signage in locations throughout the PHA's office in such a manner as to be easily readable from a wheelchair.

## **C. DEFINITION OF REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION**

A reasonable accommodation is an adjustment made to a rule, policy, practice, or service that allows a person with a disability to have equal access to the HCV program. For example, reasonable accommodations may include making home visits, extending the voucher term, or approving an exception payment standard in order for a participant to lease an accessible dwelling unit.

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

### **Types of Reasonable Accommodations**

When needed, Jacksonville Housing will modify normal procedures to accommodate the needs of a person with disabilities. Examples include:

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

- Using higher payment standards (either within the acceptable range or with HUD approval of a payment standard outside the PHA range) if Jacksonville Housing determines this is necessary to enable a person with disabilities to obtain a suitable housing unit
- Providing time extensions for locating a unit when necessary, because of lack of availability of accessible units or special challenges of the family in seeking a unit
- Permitting an authorized designee or advocate to participate in the application or certification process and any other meetings with Jacksonville Housing staff

#### **D. REQUEST FOR AN ACCOMMODATION**

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

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

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

##### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

Jacksonville Housing will encourage the family to make its request in writing using a reasonable accommodation request form. However, Jacksonville Housing will consider the accommodation any time the family indicates that accommodation is needed whether or not a formal written request is submitted.

#### **E. VERIFICATION OF DISABILITY**

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

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

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

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

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

- Third-party verification must be obtained from an individual identified by the family who is competent to make the determination. A doctor or other medical professional, a peer support group, a non-medical service agency, or a reliable third party who is in a position to know about the individual's disability may provide verification of a disability [Joint Statement of the Departments of HUD and Justice: Reasonable Accommodations under the Fair Housing Act]
- The PHA must request only information that is necessary to evaluate the disability-related need for the accommodation. The PHA will not inquire about the nature or extent of any disability.
- Medical records will not be accepted or retained in the participant file.
- In the event that the PHA does receive confidential information about a person's specific diagnosis, treatment, or the nature or severity of the disability, the PHA will dispose of it. In place of the information, the PHA will note in the file that the disability and other requested information have been verified, the date the verification was received, and the name and address of the knowledgeable professional who sent the information [Notice PIH 2010-26].

#### **F. APPROVAL/DENIAL OF A REQUESTED ACCOMMODATION**

[Joint Statement of the Departments of HUD and Justice: Reasonable Accommodations under the Fair Housing Act, Notice PIH 2010-26].

The PHA must approve a request for an accommodation if the following three conditions are met:

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

Requests for accommodations must be assessed on a case-by-case basis, taking into account factors such as the overall size of the PHA's program with respect to the number of employees, type of facilities and size of budget, type of operation including composition and structure of the workforce, the nature and cost of the requested accommodation, and the availability of alternative accommodations that would effectively meet the family's disability-related needs.

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

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

After a request for accommodation is presented, Jacksonville Housing will respond in writing within 10 business days.

If Jacksonville Housing denies a request for an accommodation because there is no relationship, or nexus, found between the disability and the requested accommodation, the notice will inform the family of the right to appeal Jacksonville Housing's decision through an informal review (if applicable) or informal hearing (see Chapter 16).

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

If Jacksonville Housing believes that the family has failed to identify a reasonable alternative accommodation after interactive discussion and negotiation, Jacksonville Housing will notify the family in writing of its determination within ten (10) business days from the date of the most recent discussion or communication with the family.

### **G. PROGRAM ACCESSIBILITY FOR PERSONS WITH HEARING OR VISION IMPAIRMENTS**

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

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

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

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

To meet the needs of people with vision impairments, large-print and audio versions of key program documents will be made available upon request. When visual aids are used in public meetings or presentations, or in meetings with Jacksonville Housing staff, one-on-one assistance will be provided upon request.

Additional examples of alternative forms of communication are sign language interpretation; having material explained orally by staff; or having a third-party representative (a friend, relative or advocate, named by the applicant) to receive, interpret and explain housing materials and be present at all meetings.

### **H. PHYSICAL ACCESSIBILITY**

The PHA must comply with a variety of regulations pertaining to physical accessibility, including the following:

- Notice PIH 2010-26
- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

- The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990
- The Architectural Barriers Act of 1968
- The Fair Housing Act of 1988

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

- This plan describes the key policies that govern the PHA's responsibilities with regard to physical accessibility.
- Notice PIH 2010-26 summarizes information about pertinent laws and implementing regulations related to nondiscrimination and accessibility in federally funded housing programs.
- The PHA Plan provides information about self-evaluation, needs assessment, and transition plans.

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

When issuing a voucher to a family that includes an individual with disabilities, Jacksonville Housing will include a current list of available accessible units known to Jacksonville Housing and will assist the family in locating an available accessible unit, if necessary.

In general, owners must permit the family to make reasonable modifications to the unit. However, the owner is not required to pay for the modification and may require that the unit be restored to its original state at the family's expense when the family moves.

## **I. DENIAL OR TERMINATION OF ASSISTANCE**

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

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

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

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

## **J. ACCESS TO SERVICES FOR PERSONS WITH LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY (LEP)**

### **OVERVIEW**

Language for Limited English Proficiency Persons (LEP) can be a barrier to accessing important benefits or services, understanding, and exercising important rights, complying with applicable responsibilities, or understanding other information provided by the HCV program. In certain circumstances, failure to ensure that LEP persons can effectively participate in or benefit from federally assisted programs and activities may violate the prohibition under Title VI against discrimination on the basis of national origin. This part incorporates the Final Guidance to Federal Assistance Recipients Regarding Title VI Prohibition Against National Origin Discrimination Affecting Limited English Proficient Persons, published January 22, 2007, in the *Federal Register*.

Jacksonville Housing will take affirmative steps to communicate with people who need services or information in a language other than English. These persons will be referred to as Persons with Limited English Proficiency (LEP).

LEP is defined as persons who do not speak English as their primary language and who have a limited ability to read, write, speak, or understand English. For the purposes of this administrative plan, LEP persons are HCV applicants and participants, and parents and family members of applicants and participants.

In order to determine the level of access needed by LEP persons, the PHA will balance the following four factors: (1) the number or proportion of LEP persons eligible to be served or likely to be encountered by the Housing Choice Voucher program; (2) the frequency with which LEP persons come into contact with the program; (3) the nature and importance of the program, activity, or service provided by the program to people's lives; and (4) the resources available to the PHA and costs. Balancing these four factors will ensure meaningful access by LEP persons to critical services while not imposing undue burdens on Jacksonville Housing.

## **K. ORAL INTERPRETATION**

The PHA will offer competent interpretation services free of charge, upon request, to the LEP person.

### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

Jacksonville Housing will utilize a language line for telephone interpreter services.

When exercising the option to conduct remote briefings, informal reviews, or hearings, however, Jacksonville Housing will coordinate with a remote interpretation service which, when available, uses video conferencing technology rather than voice-only interpretation.

Where LEP persons desire, they will be permitted to use, at their own expense, an interpreter of their own choosing, in place of or as a supplement to the free language services offered by Jacksonville Housing. Jacksonville Housing, at its discretion, may choose to use the language services even when LEP persons desire to use an interpreter of their choosing. The interpreter may be a family member or friend. If the interpreter chosen by the family is a minor, Jacksonville Housing will not rely on the minor to serve as the interpreter.



Jacksonville Housing will analyze the various kinds of contacts it has with the public, to assess language needs and decide what reasonable steps should be taken. “Reasonable steps” may not be reasonable where the costs imposed substantially exceed the benefits.

Where feasible and possible, according to its language assistance plan (LAP), Jacksonville Housing will train and hire bilingual staff to be available to act as interpreters and translators, will pool resources with other PHAs, and will standardize documents.

#### **L. WRITTEN TRANSLATION**

Translation is the replacement of a written text from one language into an equivalent written text in another language.

##### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

In order to comply with written-translation obligations, Jacksonville Housing will take the following steps:

- Jacksonville Housing will provide written translations of vital documents for each eligible LEP language group that constitutes 5 percent or 1,000 persons, whichever is less, of the population of persons eligible to be served or likely to be affected or encountered. Translation of other documents, if needed, can be provided orally; or
- If there are fewer than 50 persons in a language group that reaches the 5 percent trigger, the PHA does not translate vital written materials but provides written notice in the primary language of the LEP language group of the right to receive competent oral interpretation of those written materials, free of cost.

#### **M. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

After completing the four-factor analysis and deciding what language assistance services are appropriate, the PHA shall determine whether it is necessary to develop a written implementation plan to address the identified needs of the LEP populations it serves.

If the PHA determines that it is not necessary to develop a written implementation plan, the absence of a written plan does not obviate the underlying obligation to ensure meaningful access by LEP persons to the PHA’s Housing Choice Voucher program and services.

##### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

If it is determined that Jacksonville Housing serves very few LEP persons, and the PHA has very limited resources, Jacksonville Housing will not develop a written LEP plan but will consider alternative ways to articulate in a reasonable manner a plan for providing meaningful access. Entities having significant contact with LEP persons, such as schools, grassroots and faith-based organizations, community groups, and groups working with new immigrants will be contacted for input into the process.

If Jacksonville Housing determines it is appropriate to develop a written LEP plan, the following five steps will be taken: (1) Identifying LEP individuals who need language assistance; (2) identifying language assistance measures; (3) training staff; (4) providing notice to LEP persons; and (5) monitoring and updating the LEP plan.

## **EXHIBIT 2-1:**

### **N. DEFINITION OF A PERSON WITH A DISABILITY UNDER FEDERAL CIVIL RIGHTS LAWS [24 CFR Parts 8.3 and 100.201]**

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

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

The phrase “physical or mental impairment” includes:

- Any physiological disorder or condition, cosmetic or disfigurement, or anatomical loss affecting one or more of the following body systems: neurological; musculoskeletal; special sense organs; respiratory, including speech organs; cardiovascular; reproductive; digestive; Genito-urinary; hemic and lymphatic; skin; and endocrine; or
- Any mental or psychological disorder, such as mental retardation, organic brain syndrome, emotional or mental illness, and specific learning disabilities. The term “physical or mental impairment” includes but is not limited to such diseases and conditions as orthopedic, visual, speech, and hearing impairments, cerebral palsy, autism, epilepsy, muscular dystrophy, multiple sclerosis, cancer, heart disease, diabetes, mental retardation, emotional illness, drug addiction, and alcoholism.

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

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

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

The definition of a person with disabilities does not include:

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

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

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

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

## **CHAPTER 5 BRIEFINGS AND VOUCHER ISSUANCE**

### **INTRODUCTION** (24 CFR §§ 982.301, 982.302)

This chapter explains the briefing and voucher issuance process. When a family is determined to be eligible for the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program, the PHA must ensure that the family fully understands the way the program operates and the family's obligations under the program. This is accomplished through both an oral briefing and the provision of a briefing packet containing the HUD-required documents and other information the family needs to know in order to lease a unit under the program. The briefing will provide a broad overview of the owner (landlord) and family (tenant or participant) responsibilities, PHA procedures, and how to lease a unit. The family will also receive a briefing packet that provides more detailed information about the program, including the benefits of moving outside areas of poverty and minority concentration. This chapter describes how briefings will be conducted, the information that will be provided to families, and the policies for how changes in the family composition will be handled. Once the family is fully informed of the program's requirements, the PHA issues the family a voucher. The voucher includes the unit size for which the family qualifies based on the PHA's subsidy standards, as well as the issue and expiration date of the voucher. The voucher is the document that authorizes the family to begin its search for a unit and limits the amount of time the family has to successfully locate an acceptable unit.

### **A. FUNDING AVAILABILITY**

When funding is available, the PHA will issue vouchers to applicants whose eligibility has been determined. The number of vouchers issued must ensure that the PHA stays as close as possible to 100% lease-up. The PHA performs a monthly calculation to determine whether applications can be processed, the number of vouchers that can be issued, and the extent to which the PHA can over-issue vouchers (issue more vouchers than the budget allows to achieve lease-up).

The PHA may over-issue vouchers only to the extent necessary to meet leasing goals. All vouchers that are over-issued may be honored. If the PHA finds it is over-leased, it must adjust future issuance of vouchers in order not to exceed the HUD Annual Contributions Contract (ACC) budget limitations over the fiscal year.

### **B. INCOME TARGETING**

In accordance with the Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act of 1998 (QHWRA), each fiscal year the PHA will reserve 75% of its HCV Program new admissions for families whose income does not exceed 30% of the area median income (AMI). HUD refers to these families as "extremely low-income families." The PHA will admit families who are extremely low income to meet the income-targeting requirement.

The PHA's income targeting requirement does not apply to low-income families continuously assisted as provided for under the 1937 Housing Act.

The PHA is also exempted from this requirement where the PHA is providing assistance to low-income or moderate-income families entitled to preservation assistance under the tenant-based program as a result of a mortgage prepayment or opt-out.

To the extent that the PHA's admission of extremely low-income families in the tenant-based assistance program exceeds 75% of all admissions during the fiscal year, the PHA may choose to admit less than the minimum 40% of extremely low-income families in a fiscal year to its public housing program under QHWRRA's "fungibility provisions."

### **C. TARGETED FUNDING**

When HUD awards special funding for certain family types, families who qualify are placed on the regular waiting list. When a specific type of funding becomes available, the waiting list is searched for the first available family by rank that meets the targeted funding criteria.

### **D. SPECIAL ADMISSIONS**

If HUD awards a PHA program funding that is targeted for families living with specific attributes, the PHA will admit these families under a special admission procedure. Upon the HUD award, the PHA will move forward with implementation using the HUD guidelines of the award and will add the new program or changes to an existing program to the following Administrative Plan.

Special-admissions families will be admitted outside of the regular waiting list process. They do not have to qualify for any preferences, and they are not required to be on the program waiting list.

The PHA maintains separate records of these special admissions.

The following are examples of types of program funding that may be designated by HUD for families living in a specified unit:

1. A family displaced because of the demolition or disposition of a public or Indian housing project;
2. A family residing in a multifamily rental housing project when HUD sells, forecloses or demolishes the project;
3. For housing covered by the Low Income Housing Preservation and Resident Homeownership Act of 1990;
4. A family residing in a project covered by a project-based Section 8 HAP contractor near the end of the HAP contract term; or
5. A non-purchasing family residing in a HOPE 1 or HOPE 2 project.

Applicants admitted under special admissions criteria, rather than from the waiting list, are identified by codes in the automated system. Examples of this may include, but are not limited to:

- The Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) program
- Families receiving enhanced vouchers from HUD
- Tenant Protection Vouchers
- Mainstream Vouchers
- Family Unification Program (FUP) is a program under which housing assistance

is provided under the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program in partnership with Public Child Welfare Agencies to two groups:

1. Families for whom the lack of adequate housing is a primary factor in the imminent placement of the family's child, or children, in out-of-home care; or the delay in the discharge of the child, or children, to the family from out-of-home care; and
  2. Youth at least 18 years and not more than 24 years of age (have not reached their 25th birthday) who left foster care, or will leave foster care within 90 days, in accordance with a transition plan described in Section 475(5)(H) of the Social Security Act and are homeless or are at risk of becoming homeless at age 16 or older. As required by statute, a FUP voucher issued to such a youth may only be used to provide housing assistance for the youth for a maximum of 36 months.
- Emergency Housing Vouchers
  - Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) is a program for youth aging out of the foster care program. The waiting list for FYI vouchers is continually open for referrals from Department of Children, Family and Adult Services (DCFAS) Child Protective Services (CPS) as long as there are FYI vouchers available.

#### **E. BRIEFINGS [24 CFR 982.301]**

This chapter describes HUD regulations and Jacksonville Housing policies related to these topics in two parts:

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

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

#### **Notification of Briefing**

Prior to the issuance of a voucher, the PHA must give the family an oral briefing and provide the family with a briefing packet containing written information about the program. Families may be briefed in individual face-to-face meetings, through group briefing sessions, or via remote briefing sessions.

##### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

Families will be notified of their eligibility for assistance at the time they are invited to a briefing. The notice will be sent by first-class mail and will also be sent by email if the family has provided a valid email address to Jacksonville Housing.

The notice will advise the family of the type of briefing, who is required to be present at the briefing, and the date and time of the briefing. The notice will also inform the family of any

additional requirements for in-person or remote briefings as addressed in relevant policy elsewhere in this section.

If the notice is returned by the post office with no forwarding address, the applicant will be denied, and their name will not be placed back on the waiting list. If the notice is returned by the post office with a forwarding address, the notice will be re-sent to the postal or email address indicated.

### **In-Person Briefings**

At the briefing, Jacksonville Housing must ensure effective communication in accordance with Section 504 requirements (Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973) and ensure that the briefing site is accessible to individuals with disabilities. For a more thorough discussion of accessibility requirements, refer to Chapter 4.

#### Jacksonville Policy

In-person briefings will generally be conducted in group meetings. At the family's written request, Jacksonville Housing may provide an individual briefing.

The head of the household is required to attend the briefing. However, if the head of household is unable to attend, Jacksonville Housing may approve another adult family member to attend the briefing. Families that attend group briefings and still need individual assistance will be referred to an appropriate Jacksonville Housing staff person.

Briefings will be conducted in English. For limited English proficient (LEP) applicants, Jacksonville Housing will provide interpretation services in accordance with the PHA's LEP plan (see Chapter 1).

### ***Briefing Attendance***

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Applicants who fail to attend a scheduled in-person briefing will be scheduled for another briefing automatically. Jacksonville Housing will notify the family of the date and time of the second scheduled briefing. Applicants who fail to attend two scheduled briefings without prior Jacksonville Housing approval will be denied assistance (see Chapter 3).

### **Remote Briefings [Notice PIH 2020-32]**

Remote briefings may be conducted over the phone, via video conferencing, or through other virtual platforms.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

With sole discretion, Jacksonville Housing requires the briefings to be conducted remotely in case of local, state, or national physical distancing orders, and in cases of inclement weather or natural disaster. If Jacksonville Housing schedules a remote briefing, Jacksonville Housing will conduct a face-to-face briefing upon request of the applicant as a reasonable accommodation for a person with a disability if safety and health concerns can be reasonably addressed.

In addition, Jacksonville Housing will conduct a briefing remotely upon request of the applicant as a reasonable accommodation for a person with a disability, if an applicant does not have childcare or transportation that would enable them to attend the briefing, or if the applicant believes an in-person briefing would create an undue health risk. Jacksonville Housing will consider other reasonable requests for a remote briefing on a case-by-case basis.

### **Accessibility Requirements for Persons with Disabilities and LEP Individuals**

As with in-person briefings, the platform for conducting remote briefings must be accessible and the briefing conducted in accordance with Section 504 and accessibility requirements. This includes ensuring any information, websites, emails, digital notifications, and other virtual platforms are accessible for persons with vision, hearing, and other disabilities. Further, providing effective communication in a digital context may require the use of individualized auxiliary aids or services, such as audio description, captioning, sign language and other types of interpreters, keyboard accessibility, accessible documents, screen reader support, and transcripts. Auxiliary aids or services must be provided in accessible formats, in a timely manner, and in such a way to protect the privacy and independence of the individual.

If no method of conducting a remote briefing is available that appropriately accommodates an individual's disability, Jacksonville Housing may not hold against the individual his or her inability to participate in the remote briefing, and Jacksonville Housing should consider whether postponing the remote briefing to a later date is appropriate or whether there is a suitable alternative.

Due to the individualized nature of disability, the appropriate auxiliary aid or service necessary, or reasonable accommodation, will depend on the specific circumstances.

Limited English Proficiency (LEP) requirements also apply to remote briefings, including the use of interpretation services and document translation. See Chapter 1 for a more thorough discussion of accessibility and LEP requirements, all of which apply in the context of remote briefings.

### **Conducting Remote Briefings**

Jacksonville Housing must ensure that the lack of technology or inability to use technology for remote briefings does not pose a disadvantage to families that may not be apparent to Jacksonville Housing. Jacksonville Housing will ensure that the family has appropriate technological access in order to fully participate in the remote briefing.

### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

At least ten (10) business days prior to scheduling the remote briefing, Jacksonville Housing will provide written notification via US postal mail and/or email to families participating in the briefing to advise of technological requirements and to request the family notify Jacksonville Housing of any known barriers. If any family does not respond within five business days, or if the written notification is returned by the post office or the email is rejected, Jacksonville Housing will contact the family by telephone to identify potential technological barriers and to determine which technology resources are accessible to the family. Jacksonville Housing will resolve any barriers using the guidance in Section 6 of



Notice PIH 2020-32, including offering the family the opportunity to attend an in-person briefing or have a one-on-one briefing over the phone, as appropriate.

Jacksonville Housing will conduct remote briefings via a video conferencing platform when available. If applicants are unable to adequately access the video conferencing platform, the briefing will be conducted by telephone conferencing call-in. If the family is unable to adequately access the telephone conferencing call-in, the remote briefing will be postponed, and an in-person alternative or one-on-one briefing over the phone will be provided.

Jacksonville Housing will provide login information and/or conferencing call-in information and an electronic copy of the briefing packet via email at least five business days before the briefing. Jacksonville Housing will provide a paper copy of the briefing packet upon family request and may reschedule the briefing to allow adequate time for the family to receive the physical briefing packet.

Jacksonville Housing will ensure that all electronic information stored or transmitted as part of the briefing meets the requirements for accessibility for persons with disabilities and persons with LEP, and is secure, including ensuring personally identifiable information (PII) is protected.

Jacksonville Housing will ensure that families who participate in remote briefings have the opportunity to ask questions as part of the briefing. If families lose connectivity during any remote briefing or otherwise feel they were unable to access information presented during the briefing, the family may request a one-on-one briefing over the phone or in person with Jacksonville Housing.

#### **Oral Briefing [24 CFR 982.301(a)]**

Each briefing must provide information on the following subjects:

- How the Housing Choice Voucher program works;
- Family and owner responsibilities;
- Where the family can lease a unit, including renting a unit inside or outside Jacksonville Housing's jurisdiction;
- An explanation of how portability works. Jacksonville Housing may not discourage the family from choosing to live anywhere in Jacksonville Housing jurisdiction or outside the Jacksonville Housing jurisdiction under portability unless otherwise expressly authorized by statute, regulation, PIH Notice, or court order;
- Jacksonville Housing must inform the family of how portability may affect the family's assistance through screening, subsidy standards, payment standards, and any other elements of the portability process which may affect the family's assistance;
- The advantages of areas that do not have a high concentration of low-income families; and
- For families receiving welfare-to-work vouchers, a description of any local obligations of a welfare-to-work family and an explanation that failure to meet the obligations is grounds for denial of admission or termination of assistance.

**Briefing Packet [24 CFR 982.301(b)]**

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

- The term of the voucher, voucher suspensions, and Jacksonville Housing's policies on any extensions of the term. If Jacksonville Housing allows extensions, the packet must explain how the family can request an extension.
- A description of the method used to calculate the housing assistance payment for a family, including how Jacksonville Housing determines the payment standard for a family, how Jacksonville Housing determines total tenant payment for a family, and information on the payment standard and utility allowance schedule.
- An explanation of how Jacksonville Housing determines the maximum allowable rent for an assisted unit.
- Where the family may lease a unit and an explanation of how portability works, including information on how portability may affect the family's assistance through screening, subsidy standards, payment standards, and any other elements of the portability process that may affect the family's assistance.
- The HUD-required tenancy addendum, which must be included in the lease.
- The form the family must use to request approval of tenancy and a description of the procedure for requesting approval for a tenancy.
- A statement of Jacksonville Housing policy on providing information about families to prospective owners.
- Jacksonville Housing subsidy standards including when and how exceptions are made.
- Materials (e.g., brochures) on how to select a unit and any additional information on selecting a unit that HUD provides.
- Information on federal, state, and local equal opportunity laws and a copy of the housing discrimination complaint form.
- A list of landlords/vendors known to Jacksonville Housing who may be willing to lease a unit to the family or other resources (e.g., newspapers, organizations, online search tools) known to Jacksonville Housing that may assist the family in locating a unit. Jacksonville Housing must ensure that the list of property owners or other resources covers areas outside of poverty or minority concentration.
- Notice that if the family includes a person with disabilities, the family may request a list of available accessible units known to Jacksonville Housing.
- The family obligations under the program, including any obligations of a welfare-to-work family.
- The grounds on which Jacksonville Housing may terminate assistance for a participant family because of family action or failure to act.
- Jacksonville Housing informal hearing procedures including when Jacksonville Housing is required to offer a participant's family the opportunity for an informal hearing, and how to request the hearing.
- An explanation of the advantages of moving to an area that does not have a high concentration of low-income families.

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

- Maps showing areas with housing opportunities outside areas of poverty or minority concentration, both within its jurisdiction and its neighboring jurisdiction
- Information about the characteristics of these areas including job opportunities, schools, transportation, and other services
- An explanation of how portability works, including a list of portability contact persons for neighboring PHAs with names, addresses, and telephone numbers

### **Additional Items to Be Included in the Briefing Packet**

In addition to items required by the regulations, PHAs may wish to include supplemental materials to help explain the program to both participants and owners [HCV GB p. 8-7, Notice PIH 2017-12].

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will provide the following additional materials in the briefing packet:

- The HUD pamphlet on lead-based paint entitled *Protect Your Family from Lead in Your Home*
- Information on how to fill out and file a housing discrimination complaint form
- The form HUD-5380 domestic violence certification form and the form HUD-5382 notice of occupancy rights, which contains information on VAWA protections for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking
- “Is Fraud Worth It?” (form HUD-1141-OIG), which explains the types of actions a family must avoid and the penalties for program abuse
- “What You Should Know about EIV,” a guide to the Enterprise Income Verification (EIV) system published by HUD as an attachment to Notice PIH 2017-12

### **F. FAMILY OBLIGATIONS**

The obligations of the family are described in the housing choice voucher (HCV) regulations and on the voucher itself. These obligations include responsibilities the family is required to fulfill, as well as prohibited actions. The PHA must inform families of these obligations during the oral briefing, and the same information must be included in the briefing packet. When the family’s unit is approved and the HAP contract is executed, the family must meet those obligations in order to continue participating in the program. Violation of any family obligation may result in termination of assistance, as described in Chapter 12.

#### **Time Frame for Reporting Changes Required by Family Obligations**

##### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Unless otherwise noted below, when family obligations require the family to respond to a request or notify Jacksonville Housing of a change, notifying Jacksonville Housing of the request or change within ten (10) business days is considered prompt notice.

When a family is required to provide notice to Jacksonville Housing, the notice must be in writing.

### **Family Obligations [24 CFR 982.551]**

The family obligations of the voucher are listed as follows:

- The family must supply any information that Jacksonville Housing or HUD determines to be necessary, including submission of required evidence of citizenship or eligible immigration status.
- The family must supply any information requested by Jacksonville Housing or HUD for use in a regularly scheduled reexamination or interim reexamination of family income and composition.
- The family must disclose and verify social security numbers and sign and submit consent forms for obtaining information.
- Any information supplied by the family must be true and complete.
- The family is responsible for any NSPIRE standard breach by the family caused by failure to pay tenant-provided utilities or appliances, or damages to the dwelling unit or premises beyond normal wear and tear caused by any member of the household or guest.

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Damage beyond normal wear and tear will be considered to be damage that could be assessed against the security deposit.

- The family must allow Jacksonville Housing to inspect the unit at reasonable times and after reasonable notice, as described in Chapter 8 of this plan.
- The family must not commit any serious or repeated violation of the lease.

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will determine if a family has committed serious or repeated violations of the lease based on available evidence, including but not limited to, a court-ordered eviction or an owner's notice to evict, police reports, and affidavits from the owner, neighbors, or other credible parties with direct knowledge.

*Serious and repeated lease violations* will include, but not be limited to, nonpayment of rent, disturbance of neighbors, destruction of property, living or housekeeping habits that cause damage to the unit or premises, and criminal activity. Generally, the criterion to be used will be whether or not the reason for the eviction was the fault of the tenant or guests. Any incidents of, or criminal activity related to, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking will not be construed as serious or repeated lease violations by the victim [24 CFR 5.2005(c)(1)].

- The family must notify Jacksonville Housing and the owner before moving out of the unit or terminating the lease.

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

The family must comply with lease requirements regarding written notice to the owner and provide written notice to Jacksonville Housing at the same time the owner is notified.

- The family must promptly give Jacksonville Housing a copy of any owner eviction

notice. The family must use the assisted unit for residence by the family. The unit must be the family's only residence.

- The composition of the assisted family residing in the unit must be approved by Jacksonville Housing. The family must promptly notify Jacksonville Housing in writing of the birth, adoption, or court-awarded custody of a child. The family must request PHA approval to add any other family member as an occupant of the unit.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

A request to add a family member must be submitted in writing and approved prior to the person moving into the unit. Jacksonville Housing will determine the new member's eligibility in accordance with the policies in Chapter 3.

- The family must promptly notify Jacksonville Housing in writing if any family member no longer lives in the unit.
- If Jacksonville Housing has given approval, a foster child or a live-in aide may reside in the unit. Jacksonville Housing has the discretion to adopt reasonable policies concerning residency by a foster child or a live-in aide and to define when Jacksonville Housing consent may be given or denied and for policies related to the request for approval/disapproval of foster children, foster adults, and live-in aides.
- The family must not sublease the unit, assign the lease, or transfer the unit.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Subleasing includes receiving payment to cover rent and utility costs by a person living in the unit who is not listed as a family member.

- The family must supply any information requested by Jacksonville Housing to verify that the family is living in the unit or information related to the family's absence from the unit.
- The family must promptly notify Jacksonville Housing when the family is absent from the unit.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Notice is required under this provision only when all family members will be absent from the unit for an extended period. An extended period is defined as any period greater than 30 calendar days. Written notice must be provided to Jacksonville Housing at the start of the extended absence.

- The family must pay utility bills and provide and maintain any appliances that the owner is not required to provide under the lease [Form HUD-52646, Voucher].
- The family must not own or have any interest in the unit, (other than in a cooperative and owners of a manufactured home leasing a manufactured home space).
- Family members must not commit fraud, bribery, or any other corrupt or criminal act in connection with the program. (See Chapter 14, Program Integrity, for additional information).
- Family members must not engage in drug-related criminal activity or violent criminal activity, or other criminal activity that threatens the health, safety, or right to peaceful enjoyment of other residents and persons residing in the immediate vicinity of the premises. See Chapter 12 for HUD and PHA policies related to drug-related and violent

- criminal activity.
- Members of the household must not engage in abuse of alcohol in a way that threatens the health, safety, or right to peaceful enjoyment of the other residents and persons residing in the immediate vicinity of the premises. See Chapter 12 for a discussion of HUD and Jacksonville Housing policies related to alcohol abuse.
  - An assisted family or member of the family must not receive HCV program assistance while receiving another housing subsidy, for the same unit or a different unit under any other federal, state, or local housing assistance program.
  - A family must not receive HCV program assistance while residing in a unit owned by a parent, child, grandparent, grandchild, sister, or brother of any member of the family, unless Jacksonville Housing has determined (and has notified the owner and the family of such determination) that approving rental of the unit, notwithstanding such relationship, would provide reasonable accommodation for a family member who is a person with disabilities. [Form HUD-52646, Voucher]

## **G. SUBSIDY STANDARDS AND VOUCHER ISSUANCE**

### **OVERVIEW**

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

### **DETERMINING FAMILY UNIT (VOUCHER) SIZE [24 CFR 982.402]**

For each family, Jacksonville Housing determines the appropriate number of bedrooms under the Jacksonville Housing subsidy standards and enters the family unit size on the voucher that is issued to the family. The family unit size does not dictate the size of the unit, the family must actually lease, nor does it determine who within a household will share a bedroom/sleeping room.

The following requirements apply when Jacksonville Housing determines family unit size:

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

- Unless a live-in-aide resides with a family, the family unit size for any family consisting of a single person must be either a zero- or one-bedroom unit, as determined under the Jacksonville Housing subsidy standards.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing has a “two heartbeats per bedroom” policy. Housing Choice Vouchers shall be calculated and issued in accordance with this policy to not result in overcrowding according to the Housing Quality Standards (CFR§ 982(d)(2)(ii). Jacksonville Housing will assign one bedroom for the Head of Household and one bedroom for every two persons within the household, except in the following circumstances:

- Live-in-aides will be allocated a separate bedroom
- Single-person families will be allocated one-bedroom

Jacksonville Housing will reference the following chart in determining the appropriate voucher size for a family:

#### **Voucher Size Persons in Household (Minimum – Maximum)**

1 Bedroom	1-2
2 Bedrooms	2-4
3 Bedrooms	3-6
4 Bedrooms	4-8
5 Bedrooms	6-10

#### **H. EXCEPTIONS TO SUBSIDY STANDARDS**

In determining family unit size for a particular family, Jacksonville Housing may grant an exception to its established subsidy standards if Jacksonville Housing determines that the exception is justified by the age, sex, health, handicap, or relationship of family members or other personal circumstances [24 CFR 982.402(b)(8)].

Reasons may include, but are not limited to:

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

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

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

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

The family must request any exception to the subsidy standards in writing. The request must explain the need or justification for a larger family unit size and must include appropriate documentation. Requests based on health-related reasons must be verified by a knowledgeable, professional source (e.g., a doctor or health professional) unless the disability and the disability-

related request for accommodation are readily apparent or otherwise known. The family's continued need for an additional bedroom due to special medical equipment may be re-verified at the annual reexamination.

Jacksonville Housing will notify the family of its determination within ten (10) business days of receiving the family's request. If a participant's family request is denied, the notice will inform the family of their right to request an informal hearing.

### **I. VOUCHER ISSUANCE, TERM, AND EXTENSIONS [24 CFR 982.302]**

When a family is selected from the waiting list (or as a special admission as described in this chapter), or when a participant family wants to move to another unit, Jacksonville Housing issues a Housing Choice Voucher, form HUD-52646. This chapter deals only with voucher issuance for applicants. For voucher issuance associated with the moves of program participants, please refer to Chapter 10.

The voucher is the family's authorization to search for housing. It specifies the unit size for which the family qualifies and includes both the date of voucher issuance and the date of expiration. It contains a brief description of how the program works and explains the family obligations under the program. The voucher is evidence that Jacksonville Housing has determined the family to be eligible for the program and that Jacksonville Housing expects to have money available to subsidize the family if the family finds an approvable unit. However, Jacksonville Housing does not have any liability to any party by the issuance of the voucher, and the voucher does not give the family any right to participate in Jacksonville Housing's housing choice voucher program [Voucher, form HUD-52646]

A voucher can be issued to an applicant family only after Jacksonville Housing has determined that the family is eligible for the program based on verification of information received within the 60 days prior to issuance [24 CFR 982.201(e)] and after the family has attended an oral briefing [HCV 8-1].

#### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

Vouchers will be issued to eligible applicants immediately following the mandatory briefing. Jacksonville Housing should have sufficient funds to house an applicant before issuing a voucher. If funds are insufficient to house the family at the top of the waiting list, the PHA must wait until it has adequate funds before it calls another family from the list [HCV GB p. 8-10].

#### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

Prior to issuing any vouchers, Jacksonville Housing will determine whether it has sufficient funding in accordance with the policies in Chapter 16 of this Administrative Plan.

If Jacksonville Housing determines that there is insufficient funding after a voucher has been issued, Jacksonville Housing may rescind the voucher and place the affected family back on the waiting list.

#### **Voucher Terms and Extensions**

##### **Voucher Term [24 CFR 982.303]**



The initial term of a voucher must be at least sixty (60) calendar days. The initial term must be stated on the voucher [24 CFR 982.303(a)].

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

- The initial voucher term will be 60 calendar days.
- The family must submit a Request for Tenancy Approval and proposed lease within the 60-day period unless Jacksonville Housing grants an extension.

#### **Extensions of Voucher Term [24 CFR 982.303(b)]**

Jacksonville Housing has the ability to grant extensions of search time, specify the length of an extension, and determine the circumstances under which extensions will be granted. There is no limit on the number of extensions that Jacksonville Housing can approve. Discretionary policies related to the extension and expiration of search time must be described in Jacksonville Housing's administrative plan [24 CFR 982.54].

PHAs must approve additional search time if needed as a reasonable accommodation to make the program accessible to and usable by a person with disabilities. The extension period must be reasonable for this purpose.

The family must be notified in writing of Jacksonville Housing's decision to approve or deny an extension. Jacksonville Housing's decision to deny a request for an extension of the voucher term is not subject to informal review [24 CFR 982.554(c)(4)].

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will approve additional extensions only in the following circumstances:

- It is necessary as a reasonable accommodation for a person with disabilities.
- It is necessary due to reasons beyond the family's control, as determined by Jacksonville Housing.

The following is a list of extenuating circumstances that Jacksonville Housing may consider in making its decision. The presence of these circumstances does not guarantee that an extension will be granted:

- Serious illness or death in the family
- Other family emergencies
- Obstacles due to employment
- Whether the family has already submitted requests for tenancy approval that were not approved by Jacksonville Housing
- Whether family size or other special circumstances make it difficult to find a suitable unit

Any request for an additional extension must include the reason(s) an additional extension is necessary. Jacksonville Housing may require the family to provide documentation to support the request or obtain verification from a qualified third party.

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

Jacksonville Housing will decide whether to approve or deny an extension request within ten (10) business days of the date the request is received and will immediately provide the family with written notice of its decision.

**Suspensions of Voucher Term [24 CFR 982.303(c)]**

Jacksonville Housing must provide for suspension of the initial or any extended term of the voucher from the date the family submits a request for Jacksonville Housing approval of the tenancy until the date Jacksonville Housing notifies the family in writing whether the request has been approved or denied.

**Expiration of Voucher Term**

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

**Jacksonville Housing Policy**

If an applicant's voucher term or extension expires before Jacksonville Housing has approved a tenancy, Jacksonville Housing will require the family to reapply for assistance. Within 10 business days after the expiration of the voucher term or any extension, Jacksonville Housing will notify the family in writing that the voucher term has expired and that the family must reapply when the waiting list is open in order to be placed on the waiting list.

## **CHAPTER 6 INCOME**

### **INTRODUCTION** [24 CFR Part 5, Subparts E and F; 24 CFR 982]

A family's income determines eligibility for assistance and is also used to calculate the family's payment and the PHA's subsidy. The PHA will use the policies and methods described in this chapter to ensure that only eligible families receive assistance and that no family pays more or less than its obligation under the regulations.

This chapter describes HUD regulations and Jacksonville Housing policies related to these topics in three parts as follows:

- **Annual Income.** HUD regulations specify the sources of income to include and exclude to arrive at a family's annual income. This section contains requirements and Jacksonville Housing policies for calculating annual income.
- **Assets.** HUD regulations specify the types of assets that are excluded from a family's annual income. These requirements and PHA policies for calculating income from assets are found in this section.
- **Adjusted Income.** Once annual income has been established, HUD regulations require the PHA to subtract from annual income any of five mandatory deductions for which a family qualifies. These requirements and PHA policies for calculating adjusted income are found in this section.
- **Calculating Family Share and PHA Subsidy.** This part describes the statutory formula for calculating total tenant payment (TTP), the use of utility allowances, and the methodology for determining PHA subsidy and required family payment.

### **A. ANNUAL INCOME OVERVIEW**

Annual income includes:

- All amounts, not specifically excluded in 24 CFR 5.609(b);
- All amounts received from all sources (other than those specifically excluded in 24 CFR 5.609(b)) by each member of the family who is 18 years of age or older or is the head of household or spouse;
- Unearned income (other than those sources specifically excluded in 24 CFR 5.609(b)) by or on behalf of each dependent who is under 18 years of age; and
- Imputed returns of an asset based on the current passbook savings rate, as determined by HUD, when the value of net family assets exceeds \$50,000 (which amount HUD will adjust annually) and the actual returns from a given asset cannot be calculated.

In addition to this general definition, the regulations at 24 CFR 5.609(b) provide a comprehensive listing of all sources of income that are excluded from annual income. Note, unlike in previous versions of the regulations, the current regulations governing annual income do not list sources of income that are to be included. Instead, HUD relies on the definition of

excluded income under 24 CFR 5.609(b) to provide the scope of what is included. To that end, generally, all income is included unless it is specifically excluded by regulation.

Annual income includes “all amounts received,” not the amount that a family may be legally entitled to receive but did not receive. For example, a family’s child support or alimony income must be based on payments received, not the amounts to which the family is entitled by court or agency orders. However, when a family member’s wages or benefits are garnished, levied, or withheld to pay restitution, child support, tax debt, student loan debt, or other applicable debts, the PHA must use the gross amount of the income, prior to the reduction, to determine a family’s annual income [Notice PIH 2023-27].

Annual income also includes all actual anticipated income from assets (provided the income is not otherwise excluded), even if the asset itself is excluded from net family assets [Notice PIH 2023-27]. 24 CFR 5.603(b)(1) describes HUD regulations for treating specific types of income and assets. The full texts of those portions of the regulations are provided in exhibits at the end of this chapter as follows:

- Annual Income Full Definition (Exhibit 6-1)
- Treatment of Family Assets (Exhibit 6-2)
- The Effect of Welfare Benefit Reduction (Exhibit 6-3)

Sections 6-I.B and 6-I.C discuss general requirements and methods for calculating annual income. The rest of this section describes how each source of income is treated for the purposes of determining annual income. Verification requirements for annual income are discussed in Chapter 7.

## **B. HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION AND INCOME**

Income received by all family members must be counted unless specifically excluded by the regulations. The head of the household is responsible for reporting changes in family composition in accordance with HUD regulations and PHA policies in Chapter 11. The rules on which sources of income are counted vary somewhat by family member. The chart below summarizes how family composition affects income determinations.

<b>Summary of Income Included and Excluded by Person</b>	
Live-in aides	Income from all sources (both earned and unearned) is excluded [24 CFR 5.609(b)(8)].
Foster child or foster adult	Income from all sources (both earned and unearned) is excluded [24 CFR 5.609(b)(8)].
Head, spouse, or cohead Other adult family members	All sources of income not specifically excluded by the regulations are included. [24 CFR 5.609(a)].
Minors	Earned income of children under 18 years of age is excluded [24 CFR 5.609(b)(3)].  All sources of unearned income, except those specifically excluded by the regulations, are included [24 CFR 5.609(a)].

Full-time students 18 years of age or older (not head, spouse, or cohead)	<p>Earned income in excess of the dependent deduction is excluded [24 CFR 5.609(b)(14)].</p> <p>All sources of unearned income, except those specifically excluded by the regulations, are included.</p>
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### **Temporarily Absent Family Members**

The current regulations governing annual income do not specifically address temporarily absent family members. The regulations also do not define “temporarily” or “permanently” absent or specify a timeframe associated with a temporary versus a permanent absence.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Unless specifically excluded by the regulations, the income of all family members approved to live in the unit will be counted, even if the family member is temporarily absent from the unit.

Generally, an individual who is or is expected to be absent from the assisted unit for 180 consecutive days or less is considered temporarily absent and continues to be considered a family member. Generally, an individual who is or is expected to be absent from the assisted unit for more than 180 consecutive days is considered permanently absent and no longer a family member. Exceptions to this general policy are discussed below.

### ***Absent Students***

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

When someone who has been considered a family member attends school away from home, the person will continue to be considered a family member unless information becomes available to Jacksonville Housing indicating that the student has established a separate household, or the family declares that the student has established a separate household.

### ***Absences Due to Placement in Foster Care***

Children temporarily absent from the home as a result of placement in foster care are considered members of the family [24 CFR 5.403].

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

If a child has been placed in foster care, Jacksonville Housing will verify with the appropriate agency whether and when the child is expected to be returned to the home. Unless the agency confirms that the child has been permanently removed from the home, the child will be counted as a family member.

### ***Absent Head, Spouse, or Cohead***

#### Jacksonville Policy

An employed head, spouse, or cohead absent from the unit for more than 180 consecutive days due to employment will continue to be considered a family member.

### ***Family Members Permanently Confined for Medical Reasons***

If a family member is permanently confined to a nursing home or hospital, that person is no longer considered a family member, and that person's income is not counted [HCV GB, pp. 5-22].

#### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

Jacksonville Housing will request verification from a responsible medical professional and will use this determination. If the responsible medical professional cannot provide a determination, the person generally will be considered temporarily absent. The family may present evidence that the family member is confined on a permanent basis and request that the person not be considered a family member.

When an individual who has been counted as a family member is determined permanently absent, the family is eligible for the medical expense deduction only if the remaining head, spouse, or cohead qualifies as an elderly person or a person with disabilities.

### ***Joint Custody of Dependents***

#### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

Dependents subject to a joint custody arrangement will be considered members of the family if they live with the applicant or participant's family 50 percent or more of the time.

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

### ***Caretakers for a Child***

#### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

The approval of a caretaker is at the owner and Jacksonville Housing's discretion and is subject to the owner and Jacksonville Housing's screening criteria. If neither a parent nor a designated guardian remains in a household receiving HCV assistance, Jacksonville Housing will take the following actions:

1. If a responsible agency has determined that another adult is to be brought into the assisted unit to care for a child for an indefinite period, the designated caretaker will not be considered a family member until a determination of custody or legal guardianship is made.
2. If a caretaker has assumed responsibility for a child without the involvement of a responsible agency or formal assignment of custody or legal guardianship, the caretaker will be treated as a visitor for 90 days. After 90 days have elapsed, the caretaker will be considered a family member unless information is provided that would confirm that the

caretaker's role is temporary. In such cases, Jacksonville Housing will extend the caretaker's status as an eligible visitor.

3. At any time that custody or guardianship legally has been awarded to a caretaker, the housing choice voucher will be transferred to the caretaker.
4. During any period that a caretaker is considered a visitor, the income of the caretaker is not counted in annual income and the caretaker does not qualify the family for any deductions from income.

### **C. CALCULATING ANNUAL INCOME**

The methodology used for calculating income differs depending on whether income is being calculated at initial occupancy, interim reexamination, or at annual reexamination. However, income from assets is always anticipated regardless of certification type.

#### **Anticipating Annual Income [24 CFR 5.609(c)(1)]**

At initial occupancy and for an interim reexamination of family income, the PHA is required to use anticipated income (current income) for the upcoming 12-month period following the new admission or interim reexamination effective date. Policies related to verifying income are found in Chapter 7.

#### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

When Jacksonville Housing cannot readily anticipate income based on current circumstances (e.g., in the case of temporary, sporadic, or variable employment, seasonal employment, unstable working hours, or suspected fraud), Jacksonville Housing will review and analyze historical data for patterns of employment, paid benefits, and receipt of other income and use the results of this analysis to establish annual income.

Any time current circumstances are not used to project annual income, a clear rationale for the decision will be documented in the file. In all such cases, the family may present information and documentation to Jacksonville Housing to show why the historic pattern does not represent the family's anticipated income.

In all cases, the family file will be documented with a clear record of the decision's reason, and a clear audit trail will be left as to how Jacksonville Housing annualized projected income.

#### ***Known Changes in Income***

If the PHA verifies an upcoming increase or decrease in income at admission or interim reexamination, annual income will be projected by applying each income amount to the appropriate part of the 12-month period.

**Example:** An employer reports that a full-time employee who has been receiving \$8/hour will begin to receive \$8.25/hour in the eighth week after the effective date of the new admission or interim reexamination. In such a case the PHA would calculate annual income as follows:  
 $(\$8/\text{hour} \times 40 \text{ hours} \times 7 \text{ weeks}) + (\$8.25 \times 40 \text{ hours} \times 45 \text{ weeks}).$

The family may present information that demonstrates that implementing a change before its effective date would create a hardship for the family. In such cases the PHA will calculate annual income using current circumstances and then, should the change in income require the PHA to conduct an interim reexamination, conduct an interim reexamination in accordance with PHA policy in Chapter 11.

**Calculating Annual Income at Annual Reexamination [24 CFR.609(c)(2); Notice PIH 2023-27]**

At annual reexamination, except where the PHA uses a streamlined income determination, PHAs must first determine the family's income for the previous 12-month period and use this amount as the family income for annual reexaminations; however, adjustments to reflect current income must be made. Any change of income since the family's last annual reexamination, including those that did not meet the threshold to process an interim reexamination of family income in accordance with PHA policies in Chapter 11 and HUD regulations, must be considered. If, however, there have been no changes to income, then the amount of income calculated for the previous 12-month period is the amount that will be used to determine the family's rental assistance. Income from assets is always anticipated, irrespective of the income examination type. Policies related to conducting annual reexaminations are located in Chapter 11.

**D. EARNED INCOME**

***Wages and Related Compensation [24 CFR 5.609(a); Notice PIH 2023-27]***

The earned income of each member of the family who is 18 years of age or older, or who is the head of household or spouse/cohead, regardless of age, is included in annual income. Income received as a day laborer or seasonal worker is also included in annual income, even if the source, date, or amount of the income varies [24 CFR 5.609 (b)(24)].

*Earned income* means income or earnings from wages, tips, salaries, other employee compensation, and net income from self-employment. Earned income does not include any pension or annuity, transfer payments (meaning payments made or income received in which no goods or services are being paid for, such as welfare, social security, and governmental subsidies for certain benefits), or any cash or in-kind benefits [24 CFR 5.100].

A *day laborer* is defined as an individual hired and paid one day at a time without an agreement that the individual will be hired or work again in the future [24 CFR 5.603(b)]. Income earned as a day laborer is not considered nonrecurring income.

A *seasonal worker* is defined as an individual who is hired into a short-term position ( e.g., for which the customary employment period for the position is six months or fewer) and the employment begins about the same time each year (such as summer or winter). Typically, the individual is hired to address seasonal demands that arise for the particular employer or industry [24 CFR 5.603(b)]. Some examples of seasonal work include employment limited to holidays or agricultural seasons. Seasonal work may include but is not limited to employment as a lifeguard, ballpark vendor, or snowplow driver [Notice PIH 2023-27]. Income earned as a seasonal worker is not considered nonrecurring income.



### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will include in annual income the full amount, before any payroll deductions, of wages and salaries, overtime pay, commissions, fees, tips and bonuses, and other compensation.

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

### ***Military Pay***

All regular pay, special pay, and allowances of a member of the Armed Forces are counted except for the special pay to a family member serving in the Armed Forces who is exposed to hostile fire [24 CFR 5.609(b)(11)].

### ***Earnings of a Minor [24 CFR 5.609(b)(3)]***

A minor is a member of the family, other than the head of household or spouse, who is under 18 years of age. Employment income earned by minors is not included in annual income. All other sources of unearned income, except those specifically excluded by the regulations, are included.

### ***Earned Income of Full-Time Students [24 CFR 5.609(b)(14)]***

The earned income of a dependent full-time student in excess of the amount of the dependent deduction is excluded from annual income. All sources of unearned income, except those specifically excluded by the regulations, are included.

A family member other than the head of household or spouse/cohead is considered a full-time student if they are attending school or vocational training on a full-time basis [24 CFR 5.603(b)]. To be considered “full-time,” a student must be considered “full-time” by an educational institution with a degree or certificate program [HCV GB, p. 5-29].

## **E. EARNED INCOME DISALLOWANCE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES** **[24 CFR 5.617; Streamlining Final Rule (SFR) Federal Register 3/8/16;** **Notice PIH 2023-27]**

HOTMA removed the statutory authority for the EID. The EID is available only to families that are eligible for and participating on the program as of December 31, 2023, or before; no new families may be added on or after January 1, 2024. If a family is receiving the EID prior to or on the effective date of December 31, 2023, they are entitled to the full amount of the benefit for a full 24-month period. The policies below are applicable only to such families. No family will still be receiving the EID after December 31, 2025. The EID will sunset on January 1, 2026, and

the PHA policies below will no longer be applicable as of that date or when the last qualifying family exhausts their exclusion period, whichever is sooner.

### **Calculation of the Disallowance**

Calculation of the earned income disallowance for an eligible member of a qualified family begins with a comparison of the member's current income with their "baseline income." The family member's baseline income is their income immediately prior to qualifying for the EID. The family member's baseline income remains constant throughout the period that they are participating in the EID.

### **Calculation Method**

#### ***Initial 12-Month Exclusion***

During the initial exclusion period of 12 consecutive months, the full amount (100 percent) of any increase in income attributable to new employment or increased earnings is excluded.

#### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

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

#### ***Second 12-Month Exclusion***

During the second exclusion period of 12 consecutive months, Jacksonville Housing must exclude at least 50 percent of any increase in income attributable to employment or increased earnings.

#### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

During the second 12-month exclusion period, Jacksonville Housing will exclude 100 percent of any increase in income attributable to new employment or increased earnings.

#### ***Lifetime Limitation***

The EID has a two-year (24-month) lifetime maximum. The two-year eligibility period begins at the same time that the initial exclusion period begins and ends 24 months later. During the 24-month period, an individual remains eligible for EID even if they begin to receive assistance from a different housing agency, move between public housing and Section 8 assistance, or have breaks in assistance. The EID will sunset on January 1, 2026. In no circumstances will a family member's exclusion period continue past January 1, 2026.

**F. BUSINESS INCOME AND SELF-EMPLOYMENT INCOME [24 CFR 5.609(b)(28); Notice PIH 2023-27]**

Annual income includes “net income from the operation of a business or profession. *Net income* is gross income minus business expenses that allow the business to operate. *Gross income* is all income amounts received into the business, prior to the deduction of business expenses.

Expenditures for business expansion or amortization of capital indebtedness may not be used as deductions in determining net income. An allowance for depreciation of assets used in a business or profession may be deducted, based on straight-line depreciation, as provided in Internal Revenue Service regulations. Any withdrawal of cash or assets from the operation of a business or profession will be included in income, except to the extent the withdrawal is reimbursement of cash or assets invested in the operation by the family.”

**Jacksonville Housing Policy**

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

**Independent Contractors**

Income received as an independent contractor is included in annual income, even if the source, date, or amount of the income varies [24 CFR 5.609 (b)(24)].

An *independent contractor* is defined as an individual who qualifies as an independent contractor instead of an employee in accordance with the Internal Revenue Code Federal income tax requirements and whose earnings are consequently subject to the Self-Employment Tax. In general, an individual is an independent contractor if the payer has the right to control or direct only the result of the work and not what will be done and how it will be done [24 CFR 5.603(b)]. This may include individuals such as third-party delivery and transportation service providers and “gig workers” like babysitters, landscapers, rideshare drivers, and house cleaners. Income earned as an independent contractor is not considered nonrecurring income.

**Business Expansion**

HUD regulations do not permit Jacksonville Housing to deduct from gross income expenses for business expansion.

**Jacksonville Housing Policy**

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

## **Capital Indebtedness**

HUD regulations do not permit Jacksonville Housing to deduct from gross income the amortization of capital indebtedness.

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

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

## **Negative Business Income**

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

## **Withdrawal of Cash or Assets from a Business**

HUD regulations require Jacksonville Housing to include in annual income the withdrawal of cash or assets from the operation of a business or profession unless the withdrawal reimburses a family member for cash or assets invested in the business by the family.

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Acceptable investments in a business include cash loans and contributions of assets or equipment. For example, if a member of an assisted family provided an up-front loan of \$2,000 to help a business get started, Jacksonville Housing will not count as income any withdrawals from the business up to the amount of this loan until the loan has been repaid. Investments do not include the value of labor contributed to the business without compensation.

## **Co-owned Businesses**

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

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

## **Assets [24 CFR 5.609(b)(3); 24 CFR 5.603(b)]**

### **Overview**

If a business entity (e.g., limited liability company or limited partnership) owns the asset, then the family's asset is their ownership stake in the business, not some portion of the business's assets. However, if the family holds the assets in their own name (e.g., they own one-third of a restaurant) rather than in the name of a business entity, then the percentage value of the asset owned by the family is what is counted toward the net family assets (e.g., one-third of the value of the restaurant) [Notice PIH 2023-27].

## **G. STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE [FR Notice 2/14/23 and Notice PIH 2023-27]**

### **Introduction**

Section 479B of the Higher Education Act (HEA) requires that all assistance under Title IV of the HEA and Bureau of Indian Affairs student financial assistance, even assistance provided to students in excess of tuition and required fees or charges, be excluded from HUD income calculations.

For Section 8 programs only, however, for over 10 years through FY 2022, HUD appropriations have included a provision that for certain students receiving Section 8 assistance, any amounts received in excess of tuition and any other required fees and charges are considered income (with the exception of students who lived with their parents or who were over the age of 23 with a dependent child).

While the language in various consolidated appropriations acts is limited to federal fiscal year covered by the act, this does not rule out the possibility that similar language will be included in future years' appropriations bills.

- For any funds from a year where HUD's appropriations acts include this limitation, it will apply with respect to Section 8 participants. The PHA will follow the pre-HOTMA Section 8 student financial assistance limitation described below.
- During years in which an appropriations act does not contain this Section 8 student financial assistance limitation (or any other such limitation), then the determination of student financial assistance as included/excluded income for all Section 8 students defaults to the methodology described for the public housing program and listed below.

### **Pre-HOTMA Section 8 Student Financial Assistance Limitation [FR 4/10/06; Notice PIH 2015-21]**

In 2005, Congress passed a law (for Section 8 programs only) requiring that certain student financial assistance be included in annual income. Prior to that, the full amount of student financial assistance was excluded. For some students, the full exclusion still applies.

The regulation requiring the inclusion of certain student financial assistance applies only to students who satisfy all of the following conditions:

- They are enrolled in an institution of higher education, as defined under the Higher Education Act (HEA) of 1965.
- They are seeking or receiving Section 8 assistance on their own—that is, apart from their parents—through the HCV program, the project-based voucher program, or the moderate rehabilitation program.
- They are under 24 years of age **OR** they have no dependent children.

For students who satisfy these three conditions, any financial assistance in excess of tuition and any other required fees and charges received: (1) under the 1965 HEA, (2) from a private source,

or (3) from an institution of higher education, as defined under the 1965 HEA, must be included in annual income.

To determine annual income in accordance with the above requirements, the PHA will use the definitions of *dependent child*, *institution of higher education*, and *parents* in Chapter 3, along with the following definitions [FR 4/10/06, pp. 18148-18150]:

- *Assistance under the Higher Education Act of 1965* includes Pell Grants, Federal Supplement Educational Opportunity Grants, Academic Achievement Incentive Scholarships, State Assistance under the Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership Program, the Robert G. Byrd Honors Scholarship Program, and Federal Work Study programs.
- *Assistance from private sources* means assistance from nongovernmental sources, including parents, guardians, and other persons not residing with the student in an HCV-assisted unit.
- *Tuition and fees* are defined in the same manner in which the Department of Education defines *tuition and fees* [Notice PIH 2015-21].
  - This is the amount of tuition and required fees covering a full academic year most frequently charged to students.
  - The amount represents what a typical student would be charged and may not be the same for all students at an institution.
  - If tuition is charged on a per-credit-hour basis, the average full-time credit hour load for an academic year is used to estimate average tuition.
  - Required fees include all fixed-sum charges that are required of a large proportion of all students. Examples include, but are not limited to, writing and science lab fees and fees specific to the student's major or program (i.e., nursing program).
  - Expenses related to attending an institution of higher education must **not** be included as tuition. Examples include but are not limited to, room and board, books, supplies, meal plans, transportation and parking, student health insurance plans, and other non-fixed-sum charges.

Any student financial assistance not subject to inclusion under the regulations is fully excluded from annual income, whether it is paid directly to the student or to the educational institution the student is attending. This includes any financial assistance received by:

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

## **HOTMA Student Financial Assistance Requirements [24 CFR 5.609(b)(9)]**

The regulations under HOTMA distinguish between two categories of student financial assistance paid to both full-time and part-time students.

### **Types of Assistance**

Any assistance to students under section 479B of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (Title IV of the HEA) must be excluded from the family's annual income [24 CFR 5.609(b)(9)(i)].

Examples of assistance under Title IV of the HEA include:

- Federal Pell Grants;
- Teach Grants;
- Federal Work Study Programs;
- Federal Perkins Loans;
- Income earned in employment and training programs under section 134 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA); or
- Bureau of Indian Affairs/Education student assistance programs
  - The Higher Education Tribal Grant
  - The Tribally Controlled Colleges or Universities Grant Program

Any other grant-in-aid, scholarship, or other assistance amounts an individual receives for the actual covered costs charged by the institute of higher education (not otherwise excluded by the Federally mandated income exclusions) are excluded [24 CFR 5.609(b)(9)(ii)]. Other student financial assistance received by the student that, either by itself or in combination with HEA assistance, exceeds the actual covered costs is not excluded from income.

*Actual covered costs* are defined as the actual costs of:

- Tuition, books, and supplies;
  - Including supplies and equipment to support students with learning disabilities or other disabilities
- Room and board; and
- Other fees are required and charged to a student by the education institution.

For a student who is not the head of household or spouse/cohead, actual covered costs also include the reasonable and actual costs of housing while attending the institution of higher education and not residing in an assisted unit.

Further, to qualify, other student financial assistance must be expressly:

- For tuition, book, supplies, room and board, or other fees required and charged to the student by the educational institution;
- To assist a student with the costs of higher education; or
- To assist a student who is not the head of household or spouse with the reasonable and actual costs of housing while attending the educational institution and not residing in an assisted unit.

The student's financial assistance may be paid directly to the student or to the educational institution on the student's behalf. However, any student financial assistance paid to the student must be verified by the PHA.

The financial assistance must be a grant or scholarship received from:

- The Federal government;
- A state, tribal, or local government ;
- A private foundation registered as a nonprofit;
- A business entity (such as a corporation, general partnership, limited liability company, limited partnership, joint venture, business trust, public benefit corporation, or nonprofit entity); or
- An institution of higher education.

Student financial assistance does not include:

- Financial support provided to the student in the form of a fee for services performed; (e.g., a work-study or teaching fellowship that is not excluded under section 479B of the Higher Education Act HEA);
- Gifts, including gifts from family or friends; or
- Any amount of the scholarship or grant that, either by itself or in combination with assistance excluded under the HEA, exceeds the actual covered costs of the student.

### **Calculating Income from Student Financial Assistance [HOTMA Student Financial Assistance Resource Sheet; Notice PIH 2023-27]**

The formula for calculating the amount of other student financial assistance that is excluded from income always begins with deducting the assistance received under 479B of the HEA from the total actual covered costs, because the 479B assistance is intended to pay the student's actual



covered costs. When a student receives assistance from both Title IV of the HEA and from other sources, the assistance received under Title IV of the HEA must be applied to the student's actual covered costs first and then other student financial assistance is applied to any remaining actual covered costs. Once actual costs are covered, any remaining student financial assistance is considered income.

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

If a student only receives financial assistance under Title IV of the HEA and does not receive any other student financial assistance, Jacksonville Housing will exclude the full amount of the assistance received under Title IV from the family's annual income. Jacksonville Housing will not calculate actual covered costs in this case.

If the student does not receive any assistance under Title IV of the HEA but does receive assistance from another source, Jacksonville Housing will first calculate the actual covered costs to the student in accordance with 24 CFR 5.609(b)(ii). Jacksonville Housing will then subtract the total amount of the student's financial assistance from the student's actual covered costs. The Jacksonville Housing will include any amount of financial assistance in excess of the student's actual covered costs in the family's annual income.

#### **Example 1**

- Actual covered costs: \$20,000
- Other student financial assistance: \$25,000
- Excluded income: \$20,000 (\$25,000 in financial assistance - \$20,000 in actual covered costs)
- Included income: \$5,000

When a student receives assistance from both Title IV of the HEA and from other sources, the PHA will first calculate the actual covered costs to the student in accordance with 24 CFR 5.609(b)(ii). The assistance received under Title IV of the HEA will be applied to the student's actual covered costs first and then the other student's financial assistance will be applied to any remaining actual covered costs.

If the amount of assistance excluded under Title IV of the HEA equals or exceeds the actual covered costs, none of the assistance included under other student financial assistance" would be excluded from income.

**Example 2**

- Actual covered costs: \$25,000
- Title IV HEA assistance: \$26,000
- Title IV HEA assistance covers the student's entire actual covered costs.
- Other Student Financial Assistance: \$5,000
- Excluded income: The entire Title IV HEA assistance of \$26,000
- Included income: All other financial assistance of \$5,000

If the amount of assistance excluded under Title IV of the HEA is less than the actual covered costs, the PHA will exclude the amount of other student financial assistance up to the amount of the remaining actual covered costs.

**Example 3**

- Actual covered costs: \$22,000
- Title IV HEA assistance: \$15,000
- The remaining amount not covered by Title IV HEA assistance is \$7,000 (\$22,000 in actual covered costs - \$15,000 in Title IV HEA assistance).
- Other Student Financial Assistance: \$5,000
- \$7,000 in remaining actual covered costs - \$5,000 in other financial assistance
- Excluded income: \$15,000 entire amount of the Title IV HEA Assistance + \$5,000 in other financial assistance
- Included income: \$0

**Example 4**

- Actual covered costs: \$18,000
- Title IV HEA Assistance: \$15,000
- The remaining amount not covered by Title IV HEA assistance is \$3,000 (\$18,000 in actual covered costs - \$15,000 in Title IV HEA Assistance)
- Other student Financial Assistance: \$5,000
- When other student financial assistance is applied, financial assistance exceeds actual covered costs by \$2,000 (\$3,000 in actual covered costs - \$5,000 in other financial assistance).
- Included income: \$2,000 (the amount by which the financial aid exceeds the student's actual covered costs).

**H. PERIODIC PAYMENTS**

Periodic payments are forms of income received on a regular basis.

Income that will not be repeated beyond the coming year (i.e., the 12 months following the effective date of the certification), based on information provided by the family, is considered nonrecurring income and is excluded from annual income. Income that has a discrete end date and will not be repeated beyond the coming year is excluded from a family's annual income because it is nonrecurring income. However, this does not include unemployment income and other types of periodic payments that are received at regular intervals (such as weekly, monthly, or yearly) for a period of greater than one year that can be extended. If unemployment income will not be repeated beyond the coming year, then it is excluded. For example, a family receives income from a guaranteed income program in their city that has a discrete beginning and end date. While the guaranteed income will be repeated in the coming year, it will end before the family's next annual reexamination. This income is fully excluded from annual income.

Insurance payments and settlements for personal or property losses, including but not limited to payments under health insurance, motor vehicle insurance, and workers' compensation, are excluded from annual income. Any workers' compensation is always excluded from annual income, regardless of the frequency or length of the payments.

**Lump-Sum Payments for the Delayed Start of a Periodic Payment [24 CFR 5.609(b)(16)]**

Deferred periodic amounts from Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security benefits that are received in a lump sum amount or in prospective monthly amounts, or any deferred Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) disability benefits that are received in a lump sum amount or in prospective monthly amounts are excluded from annual income.

## Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will include in annual income lump sums received as a result of delays in processing periodic payments (other than those specifically excluded by the regulation), such as unemployment or welfare assistance.

When a delayed-start payment is received that is to be included and the family reports this during the period in which Jacksonville Housing is processing an annual reexamination, Jacksonville Housing will adjust the family's rent retroactively for the period the payment was intended to cover.

If the delayed-start payment is received outside of the time Jacksonville Housing is processing an annual reexamination, then Jacksonville Housing will consider whether the amount meets the threshold to conduct an interim reexamination. If so, Jacksonville Housing will conduct an interim in accordance with PHA policies in Chapter 11. If not, Jacksonville Housing will consider the amount when processing the family's next annual recertification.

### **Retirement Accounts [24 CFR 5.609(b)(26); Notice PIH 2023-27]**

Income received from any account under a retirement plan recognized as such by the IRS, including individual retirement arrangements (IRAs), employer retirement plans, and retirement plans for self-employed individuals is not considered actual income from assets.

However, any distribution of periodic payments from such accounts is included in annual income at the time they are received by the family.

An asset moved to a retirement account held by a member of the family is not considered to be an asset disposed of for less than fair market value.

### **Social Security Benefits [Notice PIH 2018-24]**

The PHA is required to use the gross benefit amount to calculate annual income from Social Security benefits.

Annually in October, the Social Security Administration (SSA) announces the cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) by which federal Social Security and SSI benefits are adjusted to reflect the increase, if any, in the cost of living. The federal COLA does not apply to state-paid disability benefits. Effective the day after the SSA has announced the COLA, PHAs are required to factor in the COLA when determining Social Security and SSI annual income for all annual reexaminations and interim reexaminations of family income that have not yet been completed and will be effective January 1 or later of the upcoming year [Notice PIH 2023-27].

When a family member's benefits are garnished, levied, or withheld to pay restitution, child support, tax debt, student loan debt, or other debts, the PHA must use the gross amount of the income, before the reduction, to determine a family's annual income.

## Jacksonville Housing Policy

Annual income includes “all amounts received,” not the amount that a family may be legally entitled to receive but which they do not receive. When the SSA overpays an individual, resulting in a withholding or deduction from their benefit amount until the overpayment is paid in full, Jacksonville Housing will use the reduced benefit amount after deducting only the amount of the overpayment withholding from the gross benefit amount.

## **Alimony and Child Support**

### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

Jacksonville Housing will count all regular payments of alimony or child support awarded as part of a divorce or separation agreement.

Jacksonville Housing will count court-awarded amounts for alimony and child support unless the family certifies and the PHA verifies that the payments are not being made.

In order to verify that payments are not being made, Jacksonville Housing will review child support payments over the last three months.

If payments are being made regularly, Jacksonville Housing will use the amount received during the last 12 months (excluding any lump sums received). If payments have been made for a period less than 12 months, Jacksonville Housing will average all payments that have been made.

At new admission or interim recertification, if any lump sum payments were made in the past 12 months, Jacksonville Housing will determine the likelihood of the family receiving another similar payment within the next 12 months before deciding whether or not this amount will be included in the calculation of annual income.

If Jacksonville Housing determines and can appropriately verify that the family in all likelihood will not receive a similar payment, then the amount will not be considered when projecting annual income.

If Jacksonville Housing determines that it is likely that the family will receive a similar payment and can appropriately verify it, the amount will be included when projecting annual income.

If no payments have been made in the past three months and there are no lump sums, Jacksonville Housing will not include alimony or child support in annual income.

### **I. NONRECURRING INCOME [24 CFR 5.609(b)(24) and Notice PIH 2023-27]**

Income received as an independent contractor, day laborer, or seasonal worker is not excluded from income as nonrecurring income, even if the source, date, or amount of the income varies.

Income that has a discrete end date and will not be repeated beyond the coming year during the family’s upcoming annual reexamination period will be excluded from a family’s annual income as nonrecurring income. This exclusion does not include unemployment income and other types of periodic payments that are received at regular intervals (such as weekly, monthly, or yearly) for a period of greater than one year that can be extended.

Income amounts excluded under this category may include, but are not limited to:

- Nonrecurring payments made to the family or to a third party on behalf of the family to assist with utilities;
- Payments for eviction prevention;
- Security deposits to secure housing;
- Payments for participation in research studies (depending on the duration); and
- General one-time payments received by or on behalf of the family.

Nonrecurring income that is excluded under the regulations includes:

- Payments from the U.S. Census Bureau for employment (relating to decennial census or the American Community Survey) lasting no longer than 180 days and not culminating in permanent employment [24 CFR 5.609(b)(24)(i)].
- Direct federal or state payments intended for economic stimulus or recovery [24 CFR 5.609(b)(24)(ii)].
- Amounts directly received by the family as a result of state refundable tax credits or state or federal tax refunds at the time they are received [24 CFR 5.609(b)(24)(iii) and (iv)].
- Gifts for holidays, birthdays, or other significant life events or milestones (e.g., wedding gifts, baby showers, anniversaries) [24 CFR 5.609(b)(24)(v)].
- Non-monetary, in-kind donations, such as food, clothing, or toiletries, received from a food bank or similar organization [24 CFR 5.609(b)(24)(vi)]. When calculating annual income, PHAs are prohibited from assigning monetary value to such non-monetary in-kind donations received by the family [Notice PIH 2023-27]. Non-recurring, non-monetary in-kind donations from friends and family are excluded as non-recurring income. However, the value of regular in-kind donations (such as the value of groceries) received by friends and family are included.
- Lump-sum additions to net family assets, including but not limited to lottery or other contest winnings [24 CFR 5.609(b)(24)(vii)].

## **I. WELFARE ASSISTANCE**

### **Overview**

Welfare assistance is counted in annual income. Welfare assistance includes Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and any payments to individuals or families based on need that are made under programs funded separately or jointly by federal, state, or local governments.

### **Sanctions Resulting in the Reduction of Welfare Benefits [24 CFR 5.615]**

The PHA must make a special calculation of annual income when the welfare agency imposes certain sanctions on certain families. The full text of the regulation at 24 CFR 5.615 is provided

as Exhibit 6-3. The requirements are summarized below. This rule applies only if a family was receiving HCV assistance at the time the sanction was imposed.

### ***Covered Families***

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

### ***Imputed Income***

When a welfare agency imposes a sanction that reduces a family’s welfare income because the family commits fraud or fails to comply with the agency’s economic self-sufficiency program or work activities requirement, the PHA must include in annual income “imputed” welfare income. The PHA must request that the welfare agency provide the reason for the reduction of benefits and the amount of the reduction of benefits. The imputed welfare income is the amount that the benefits were reduced as a result of the sanction.

This requirement does not apply to reductions in welfare benefits: (1) at the expiration of the lifetime or other time limit on the payment of welfare benefits, (2) if a family member is unable to find employment even though the family member has complied with the welfare agency economic self-sufficiency or work activities requirements, or (3) because a family member has not complied with other welfare agency requirements [24 CFR 5.615(b)(2)].

### ***Offsets***

The amount of the imputed welfare income is offset by the amount of additional income the family begins to receive after the sanction is imposed. When the additional income equals or exceeds the imputed welfare income, the imputed income is reduced to zero [24 CFR 5.615(c)(4)].

## **J. STATE PAYMENTS TO ALLOW INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES TO LIVE AT HOME [24 CFR 5.609(b)(19)]**

Payments made by or authorized by a state Medicaid agency (including through a managed care entity) or other state or federal agency to an assisted family to enable a member of the assisted family who has a disability to reside in the family’s assisted unit are excluded.

Authorized payments may include payments to a member of the assisted family through state Medicaid-managed care systems, other state agencies, federal agencies, or other authorized entities.

The payments must be received for caregiving services a family member provides to enable another member of the assisted family who has a disability to reside in the family’s assisted unit. Payments to a family member for caregiving services for someone who is not a member of the assisted family (such as for a relative that resides elsewhere) are not excluded from income.

Furthermore, if the agency is making payments for caregiving services to the family member for an assisted family member and for a person outside of the assisted family, only the payments attributable to the caregiving services for the caregiver's assisted family member would be excluded from income.

#### **K. CIVIL RIGHTS SETTLEMENTS [24 CFR 5.609(b)(25); FR Notice 2/14/23]**

Regardless of how the settlement or judgment is structured, civil rights settlements or judgments, including settlements or judgments for back pay, are excluded from annual income. This may include amounts received because of litigation or other actions, such as conciliation agreements, voluntary compliance agreements, consent orders, other forms of settlement agreements, or administrative or judicial orders under the Fair Housing Act, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (Section 504), the Americans with Disabilities Act, or any other civil rights or fair housing statute or requirement.

While these civil rights settlement or judgment amounts are excluded from income, the settlement or judgment amounts will generally be counted toward the family's net family assets (e.g., if the funds are deposited into the family's savings account or a revocable trust under the control of the family or some other asset that is not excluded from the definition of *net family assets*). Income generated on the settlement or judgment amount after it has become a net family asset is not excluded from income. For example, if the family received a settlement or back pay and deposited the money in an interest-bearing savings account, the interest from that account would be income at the time the interest is received.

Furthermore, if a civil rights settlement or judgment increases the family's net family assets such that they exceed \$50,000 (as annually adjusted by an inflationary factor), then income will be imputed on the net family assets pursuant to 24 CFR 5.609(a)(2). If the imputed income, which HUD considers unearned income, increases the family's annual adjusted income by 10 percent or more, then an interim reexamination of income will be required unless the addition to the family's net family assets occurs within the last three months of the family's income certification period and the PHA or owner chooses not to conduct the examination.

#### **L. ADDITIONAL EXCLUSIONS FROM ANNUAL INCOME [24 CFR 5.609(b); FR Notice 1/31/2024]**

Other exclusions contained in 24 CFR 5.609(b) and FR Notice 1/31/24 that have not been discussed earlier in this chapter include the following:

- Payments received for the care of foster children or foster adults or state or tribal kinship or guardianship care payments [24 CFR 5.609(b)(4)].
- Insurance payments and settlements for personal or property losses, including but not limited to payments through health insurance, motor vehicle insurance, and workers' compensation [24 CFR 5.609(b)(5)]. However, periodic payments paid at regular intervals (such as weekly, monthly, or yearly) for a period of greater than one year that are received in lieu of wages are included in annual income [Notice PIH 2023-27].



- Amounts received by the family that are specifically for, or in reimbursement of, the cost of health and medical care expenses for any family member [24 CFR 5.609(b)(6)].
- Any amounts recovered in any civil action or settlement based on a claim of malpractice, negligence, or other breach of duty owed to a family member arising out of law, that resulted in a member of the family becoming disabled [24 CFR 5.609(b)(7)].
- Income and distributions from any Coverdell education savings account under Section 530 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or any qualified tuition program under Section 529 of such Code [24 CFR 5.609(b)(10)].
- Income earned by government contributions to, and distributions from, “baby bond” accounts created, authorized, or funded by federal, state, or local government [24 CFR 5.609(b)(10)].
- The special pay to a family member serving in the Armed Forces who is exposed to hostile fire [24 CFR 5.609(b)(11)].
- Payments related to aid and attendance under [38 U.S.C. 1521](#) to veterans in need of regular aid and attendance [24 CFR 5.609(b)(17)]. This income exclusion applies only to veterans in need of regular aid and attendance and not to other beneficiaries of the payments, such as a surviving spouse [Notice PIH 2023-27].
- Loan proceeds (the net amount disbursed by a lender to or on behalf of a borrower, under the terms of a loan agreement) received by the family or a third party (e.g., proceeds received by the family from a private loan to enable attendance at an educational institution or to finance the purchase of a car) [24 CFR 5.609(b)(20)]. The loan borrower or co-borrower must be a member of the family for this income exclusion to be applicable [Notice PIH 2023-27].
- Payments received by tribal members as a result of claims relating to the mismanagement of assets held in trust by the United States, to the extent such payments are also excluded from gross income under the Internal Revenue Code or other federal law [24 CFR 5.609(b)(21)]. Generally, payments received by tribal members in excess of the first \$2,000 of per capita shares are included in a family’s annual income for purposes of determining eligibility. However, as explained in Notice PIH 2023-27, payments made under the Cobell Settlement, and certain per capita payments under the recent Tribal Trust Settlements, must be excluded from annual income.
- Replacement housing “gap” payments made in accordance with 49 CFR Part 24 that offset increased out-of-pocket costs of displaced persons that move from one federally subsidized housing unit to another federally subsidized housing unit. Such replacement housing “gap” payments are not excluded from annual income if the increased cost of rent and utilities is subsequently reduced or eliminated, and the displaced person retains or continues to receive the replacement housing “gap” payments [24 CFR 5.609(b)(23)].
- Income earned on amounts placed in a family’s Family Self-Sufficiency account [24 CFR 5.609(b)(27)].

- Amounts received by participants in other publicly assisted programs which are specifically for or in reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses incurred e.g., special equipment, clothing, transportation, childcare, etc.) and which are made solely to allow participation in a specific program [24 CFR 5.609(i)(12)(ii)].
- Amounts received by a person with a disability that are disregarded for a limited time for purposes of Supplemental Security Income eligibility and benefits because they are set aside for use under a Plan to Attain Self-Sufficiency (PASS) [(24 CFR 5.609(b)(12)(i)].
- Amounts received under a resident service stipend not to exceed \$200 per month. A resident service stipend is a modest amount received by a resident for performing a service for the PHA or owner, on a part-time basis, that enhances the quality of life in the development [24 CFR 5.609 I(12)(ii)].

Incremental earnings and benefits to any family member resulting from participation in a qualifying training program funded by HUD or in qualifying federal, state, tribal, or local employment training programs (including training programs not affiliated with a local government) and training of a family member as resident management staff are excluded from annual income. Amounts excluded by this provision must be received under employment training programs with clearly defined goals and objectives and are excluded only for the period during which the family member participates in the training program unless those amounts are excluded under 24 CFR 5.609(b)(9)(i) [24 CFR 5.609(b)(12)(iv)].

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

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

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

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

The end of participation in a training program must be reported in accordance with Jacksonville Housing’s interim reporting requirements (see Chapter 11).

- Reparation payments paid by a foreign government pursuant to claims filed under the laws of that government by persons who were persecuted during the Nazi era [24 CFR 5.609(b)(13)].

- Adoption assistance payments for a child in excess of the amount of the dependent deduction per adopted child [24 CFR 5.609(b)(15)].
- Refunds or rebates on property taxes paid on the dwelling unit [24 CFR 5.609(b)(20)].
- Amounts that HUD is required by federal statute to exclude from consideration as income for purposes of determining eligibility or benefits under a category of assistance programs that includes assistance under any program to which the exclusions set forth in 24 CFR 5.609(b) apply. HUD will publish a notice in the *Federal Register* to identify the benefits that qualify for this exclusion. Updates will be published when necessary.

HUD publishes an updated list of these exclusions periodically. The most recent list of exclusions was published in the *Federal Register* on January 31, 2014. It includes:

- (a) The value of the allotment provided to an eligible household under the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 2017 (b)). This exclusion also applies to assets.
- (b) Benefits under Section 1780 of the Richard B. Russell School Lunch Act and Child Nutrition Act of 1966, including WIC and reduced-price lunches.
- (c) Payments, including for supportive services and reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses, to volunteers under the Domestic Volunteer Services Act of 1973 (42 U.S.C. 5044(g), 5058). The exclusion also applies to assets.
  - Except, the exclusion does not apply when the Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation for National and Community Service determines that the value of all such payments, adjusted to reflect the number of hours such volunteers are serving, is equivalent to or greater than the minimum wage then in effect under the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 201 et seq.) or the minimum wage, under the laws of the State where such volunteers are serving, whichever is the greater (42 U.S.C. 5044(f)(1)).
- (d) Certain payments received under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1626(c)).
- (e) Income derived from certain submarginal land of the United States that is held in trust for certain Indian tribes (25 U.S.C. 5506).
- (f) Payments or allowances made under the Department of Health and Human Services' Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (42 U.S.C. 8624(f)(1)).
- (g) Allowances, earnings, and payments to individuals participating in programs under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 which was reauthorized as the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 (29 U.S.C. 3241(a)(2)).
- (h) Deferred disability benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs, whether received as a lump sum or in monthly prospective amounts.

- (i) Income derived from the disposition of funds to the Grand River Band of Ottawa Indians (Pub. L. 94-540, 90 Section 6).
- (j) Payments, funds, or distributions authorized, established, or directed by the Seneca Nation Settlement Act of 1990 (25 U.S.C. 1774f(b)).
- (k) A lump sum or periodic payment received by an individual Indian pursuant to the Class Action Settlement Agreement in the United States District Court case entitled *Elouise Cobell et al. v. Ken Salazar et al.*, for a period of one year from the time of receipt of that payment as provided in the Claims Resolution Act of 2010.
- (l) The first \$2,000 of per capita shares received from judgment funds awarded by the Indian Claims Commission or the U. S. Claims Court, the interests of individual Indians in trust or restricted lands, including the first \$2,000 per year of income received by individual Indians from funds derived from interests held in such trust or restricted lands (25 U.S.C. 1407-1408). This exclusion does not include proceeds of gaming operations regulated by the Commission (25 U.S.C. 1407–1408).
- (m) Payments received from programs funded under Title V of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3056(f)).
- (n) 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 Orange* product liability litigation, M.D.L. No. 381 (E.D.N.Y.). This exclusion also applies to assets.
- (o) Payments received under 38 U.S.C. 1833(c) to children of Vietnam veterans born with spinal bifida, children of women Vietnam veterans born with certain birth defects, and children of certain Korean and Thailand service veterans born with spinal bifida (42 U.S.C. 12637(d)).
- (p) Payments received under the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act of 1980 (25 U.S.C. 1721). This exclusion also applies to assets.
- (q) The value of any childcare provided or arranged (or any amount received as payment for such care or reimbursement for costs incurred for such care) under the Childcare and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858q).
- (r) Earned income tax credit (EITC) refund payments received on or after January 1, 1991 (26 U.S.C. 32(j)). This exclusion also applies to assets.
- (s) Payments by the Indian Claims Commission to the Confederated Tribes and Bands of Yakima Indian Nation or the Apache Tribe of Mescalero Reservation (Pub. L. 95-433) This exclusion also applies to assets.
- (t) Amounts of student financial assistance funded under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965j, including awards under federal work-study programs or under the Bureau of Indian Affairs student assistance programs (20 U.S.C. 1087uu). For Section 8 programs, only, any financial assistance in excess of amounts received by an individual

for tuition and any other required fees and charges under the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.), from private sources, or an institution of higher education (as defined under the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002)), shall be considered income if the individual is over the age of 23 with dependent children (Pub. L. 109–115, section 327 (as amended)).

- (u) Allowances, earnings, and payments to AmeriCorps participants under the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12637(d)).
- (v) Any amount of crime victim compensation that provides medical or other assistance (or payment or reimbursement of the cost of such assistance) under the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 received through a crime victim assistance program, unless the total amount of assistance that the applicant receives from all such programs is sufficient to fully compensate the applicant for losses suffered as a result of the crime (34 U.S.C. 20102(c)).
- (w) Any amounts in an “individual development account” are excluded from assets and any assistance, benefit, or amounts earned by or provided to the individual development account are excluded from income, as provided by the Assets for Independence Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 604(h)(4)).
- (x) Major disaster and emergency assistance received under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act and comparable disaster assistance provided by states, local governments, and disaster assistance organizations. This exclusion also applies to assets.
- (y) Distributions from an ABLE account, distributions from and certain contributions to an ABLE account established under the ABLE Act of 2014 (Pub. L. 113–295.), as described in Notice PIH 2019–09 or subsequent or superseding notice is excluded from income and assets.
- (z) The amount of any refund (or advance payment with respect to a refundable credit) issued under the Internal Revenue Code is excluded from income and assets for a period of 12 months from receipt (26 U.S.C. 6409).
- (aa) Assistance received by a household under the Emergency Rental Assistance Program pursuant to the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Pub. L. 116–260, section 501(j)), and the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.
- (ab) Per capita payments made from the proceeds of Indian Tribal Trust Settlements listed in IRS Notice 2013-1 and 2013-55 must be excluded from annual income unless the per capita payments exceed the amount of the original Tribal Trust Settlement proceeds and are made from a Tribe’s private bank account in which the Tribe has deposited the settlement proceeds. Such amounts received in excess of the Tribal Trust Settlement are included in the gross income of the members of the Tribe receiving the per capita payments as described in IRS Notice 2013-1. The first \$2,000 of per capita payments are also excluded from assets unless the per capita payments exceed the amount of the original Tribal Trust Settlement proceeds and are made from a Tribe’s private bank

account in which the Tribe has deposited the settlement proceeds (25 U.S.C. 117b(a), 25 U.S.C. 1407).

- (ac) Any amounts (i) not actually received by the family, (ii) that would be eligible for exclusion under 42 U.S.C. 1382b(a)(7), and (iii) received for service-connected disability under 38 U.S.C. Chapter 11 or dependency and indemnity compensation under 38 U.S.C. Chapter 13 (25 U.S.C. 4103(9)(C)) as provided by an amendment by the Indian Veterans Housing Opportunity Act of 2010 (Pub. L. 111–269 section 2) to the definition of income applicable to programs under the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA) (25 U.S.C. 4101 et seq.).

## **M. ASSETS**

### **OVERVIEW**

Annual income includes all actual anticipated income from assets (unless otherwise excluded by the regulations) even if the asset itself is excluded from net family assets [Notice PIH 2023-27].

The regulation at 24 CFR 5.603(b)(3) provides a list of items that are excluded from the calculation of net family assets. Note that unlike previous versions of the regulations, the current regulations do not list types of assets that are included in annual income. Instead, HUD relies on the definition of items excluded from assets to provide the scope of what is included. Exhibit 6-2 provides the regulatory definition of *net family assets*.

Optional policies for family self-certification of assets are found in Chapter 7. Policies related to asset limitation may be found in Chapter 3.

Income from assets is always anticipated, irrespective of the income examination type.

### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

Jacksonville Housing generally will use current circumstances to determine both the value of an asset and the anticipated income from the asset. Jacksonville Housing will use other than current circumstances to anticipate income when (1) an imminent change in circumstances is expected, (2) it is not feasible to anticipate a level of income over 12 months, or (3) Jacksonville Housing believes that past income is the best indicator of anticipated income. For example, if a family member owns real property that typically receives rental income, but the property is currently vacant, Jacksonville Housing can take into consideration past rental income along with the prospects of obtaining a new tenant.

If current circumstances are not used to determine asset income, a clear rationale for the decision will be documented in the file. In such cases, the family may present information and documentation to Jacksonville Housing to show why the asset income determination does not represent the family's anticipated asset income.

## **N. ASSETS DISPOSED OF FOR LESS THAN FAIR MARKET VALUE**

### **[24 CFR 5.603(b)(2)]**

PHAs must include the value of any business or family assets disposed of by an applicant or participant for less than fair market value (including a disposition in trust, but not in a foreclosure or bankruptcy sale) during the two years preceding the date of application or reexamination, as applicable, in excess of the consideration received for the asset. An asset moved to a retirement account held by a member of the family is not considered to be an asset disposed of for less than fair market value. [Notice PIH 2023-27].

#### ***Minimum Threshold***

The *HCV Guidebook* permits the PHA to set a threshold below which assets disposed of for less than fair market value will not be counted [HCV GB, p. 5-27].

#### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

Jacksonville Housing will not include the value of assets disposed of for less than fair market value unless the cumulative fair market value of all assets disposed of during the past two years exceeds the gross amount received for the assets by more than \$1,000.

#### ***Separation or Divorce***

The regulation also specifies that assets are not considered disposed of for less than fair market value if they are disposed of as part of a separation or divorce settlement and the applicant or tenant receives important consideration not measurable in dollar terms.

#### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

All assets disposed of as part of a separation or divorce settlement will be considered assets for which important consideration not measurable in monetary terms has been received. In order to qualify for this exemption, a family member must be subject to a formal separation or divorce settlement agreement established through arbitration, mediation, or court order.

#### ***Foreclosure or Bankruptcy***

Assets are not considered disposed of for less than fair market value when the disposition is the result of a foreclosure or bankruptcy sale. Negative equity in real property or other investments does not prohibit the owner from selling the property or other investments, so negative equity alone would not justify excluding the property or other investments from family assets.

## ***Family Declaration***

### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

Families must sign a declaration form at initial certification and each annual recertification identifying all assets that have been disposed of for less than fair market value or declaring that no assets have been disposed of for less than fair market value. Jacksonville Housing may verify the value of the assets disposed of if other information available to Jacksonville Housing does not appear to agree with the information reported by the family.

### **O. ASSET INCLUSIONS AND EXCLUSIONS**

#### ***Necessary and Non-Necessary Personal Property [24 CFR 5.603(b)(3)(i)]***

All assets are categorized as either *real property* (e.g., land, a home) or *personal property*.

*Personal property* includes tangible items, like boats, as well as intangible items, like bank accounts.

The value of necessary items of personal property is excluded from the calculation of net family assets. Necessary items of personal property include a car used for commuting or medical devices.

HUD defines *necessary personal property* as items essential to the family for the maintenance, use, and occupancy of the premises as a home; or they are necessary for employment, education, or health and wellness. Necessary personal property includes more than mere items that are indispensable to the bare existence of the family. It may include personal effects (such as items that are ordinarily worn or utilized by the individual), items that are convenient or useful to a reasonable existence, and items that support and facilitate daily life within the family's home. Necessary personal property also includes items that assist a household member with a disability, including any items related to disability-related needs, or that may be required for reasonable accommodation for a person with a disability. Necessary personal property does not include bank accounts, other financial investments, or luxury items. Items of personal property that do not qualify as necessary personal property are classified as non-necessary personal property.

The combined value of all **non-necessary** items of personal property is only included in annual income when the combined total value exceeds \$50,000 (adjusted annually by HUD). When the combined value of all non-necessary personal property does not exceed \$50,000, as adjusted by inflation, all non-necessary personal property is excluded from net family assets.

While not an exhaustive list, the following table from Notice PIH 2023-27 provides examples of necessary and non-necessary personal property.

<b>Necessary Personal Property</b>	<b>Non-Necessary Personal Property</b>
Car(s)/vehicle(s) that a family relies on for transportation for personal or business use (e.g., bike, motorcycle, skateboard, scooter)	Recreational car/vehicle not needed for day-to-day transportation for personal or business



Furniture, carpets, linens, kitchenware	use (campers, motorhomes, traveling trailers, all-terrain vehicles (ATVs))
Common appliances	
Common electronics (e.g., radio, television, DVD player, gaming system)	Bank accounts or other financial investments (e.g., checking account, savings account, stocks/bonds)
Clothing	Recreational boat/watercraft
Personal effects that are not luxury items (e.g., toys, books)	Expensive jewelry without religious or cultural value, or which does not hold family significance
Wedding and engagement rings	
Jewelry used in religious/cultural celebrations and ceremonies	Collectibles (e.g., coins/stamps)
Religious and cultural items	Equipment/machinery that is not used to generate income for a business
Medical equipment and supplies	Items such as gems/precious metals, antique cars, artwork, etc.
Health care–related supplies	
Musical instruments used by the family	
Personal computers, phones, tablets, and related equipment	
Professional tools of trade of the family, for example professional books	
Educational materials and equipment used by the family, including equipment to accommodate persons with disabilities	
Equipment used for exercising (e.g., treadmill, stationary bike, kayak, paddleboard, ski equipment)	

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

In determining the value of non-necessary personal property, Jacksonville Housing will use the family's estimate of the value. Jacksonville Housing may obtain an appraisal if there is reason to believe that the family's estimated value is off by \$50 or more. The family must cooperate with the appraiser but cannot be charged any costs related to the appraisal.

### ***Checking and Savings Accounts [Notice PIH 2023-27]***

HUD considers bank accounts as non-necessary items of personal property. Whether or not non-necessary personal property is counted toward net family assets depends on the combined value of all of the family's assets.

- When the combined value of net family assets is greater than \$50,000, as adjusted by inflation, checking and/or savings accounts would be counted toward net family assets.
- When the combined value of all non-necessary personal property does not exceed \$50,000, as adjusted by inflation, all non-necessary personal property is excluded from net family assets. In this case, the value of the family's checking and/or savings accounts would not be considered when calculating net family assets.

However, actual income from checking and savings accounts is always included in a family's annual income, regardless of the total value of net family assets or whether the asset itself is included or excluded from net family assets, unless that income is specifically excluded.

### ***ABLE Accounts [24 CFR 5.609(b)(10); Notice PIH 2019-09]***

An Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) account is a type of tax-advantaged savings account that an eligible individual can use to pay for qualified disability expenses. Section 103 of the ABLE Act mandates that an individual's ABLE account (specifically, its account balance, contributions to the account, and distributions from the account) is excluded when determining the designated beneficiary's eligibility and continued occupancy under certain federal means-tested programs. The PHA must exclude the entire value of the individual's ABLE account from the household's assets. Distributions from the ABLE account are also not considered income. However, all wage income received, regardless of which account the money is paid to, is included as income.

### ***Investment Accounts Such as Stocks, Bonds, Saving Certificates, and Money Market Funds [24 CFR 5.603(b)(1)]***

HUD considers financial investments such as stocks and bonds as non-necessary items of personal property. Whether non-necessary personal property is counted toward net family assets depends on the combined value of all of the family's assets.

- When the combined value of net family assets is greater than \$50,000, as adjusted by inflation, financial investments such as stocks and bonds are considered part of net family assets. In this case, the value of the family's financial investments such as stocks and bonds would be counted toward net family assets.
- When the combined value of all non-necessary personal property does not exceed \$50,000, as adjusted by inflation, all non-necessary personal property is excluded from net family assets. In this case, the value of the family's financial investments such as stocks and bonds would not be considered when calculating net family assets.

However, actual income from financial accounts is always included in a family's annual income, regardless of the total value of net family assets or whether the asset itself is included or excluded from net family assets, unless that income is specifically excluded. When a stock issues dividends in some years but not others (e.g., due to market performance), the dividend is counted as the actual return when it is issued, but when no dividend is issued, the actual return is \$0. When the stock never issues dividends, the actual return is \$0.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will include interest or dividends earned by investment accounts as actual income from assets even when the earnings are reinvested.

The cash value of such an asset is determined by deducting from the market value any broker fees, penalties for early withdrawal, or other costs of converting the asset to cash.

In determining the market value of an investment account, Jacksonville Housing will use the value of the account on the most recent investment report.

#### ***Lump-Sum Additions to Net Family Assets [24 CFR 5.609(b)(24(viii); Notice PIH 2023-27]***

The regulations exclude income from lump-sum additions to family assets, including lottery or other contest winnings as a type of nonrecurring income.

In addition, lump sums from insurance payments, settlements for personal or property losses, and recoveries from civil actions or settlements based on claims of malpractice, negligence, or other breach of duty owed to a family member arising out of law that resulted in a member of the family becoming a family member with a disability are excluded from income.

Further, deferred periodic amounts from Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security benefits that are received in a lump sum amount or in prospective monthly amounts, or any deferred Department of Veterans Affairs disability benefits that are received in a lump sum amount or in prospective monthly amounts are also excluded from income.

However, these amounts may count toward net family assets. The PHA must consider any actual or imputed returns from assets as income at the next applicable income examination. In the case where the lump sum addition to assets would lead to imputed income, which is unearned income, that increases the family's annual adjusted income by 10 percent or more, then the addition of the lump sum to the family's assets will trigger an immediate interim reexamination of income in accordance with Chapter 11. This reexamination of income must take place as soon as the lump sum is added to the family's net family assets unless the addition takes place in the last three months of family's income certification period and the PHA chooses not to conduct the examination.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Any lump-sum receipts are only counted as assets if they are retained by a family in a form recognizable as an asset. [RHIIP FAQs]. For example, if the family receives a \$1,000 lump sum

for lottery winnings, and the family immediately spends the entire amount, the lump sum will not be counted toward net family assets.

### ***Jointly Owned Assets [Notice PIH 2023-27]***

For assets owned jointly by the family and one or more individuals outside of the assisted family, the PHA must include the total value of the asset in the calculation of net family assets, unless:

- The asset is otherwise excluded;
- The family can demonstrate that the asset is inaccessible to them; or
- The family cannot dispose of any portion of the asset without the consent of another owner who refuses to comply.

If the family demonstrates that they can only access a portion of an asset, then only that portion's value is included in the calculation of net family assets for the family.

Any income from a jointly owned asset must be included in annual income, unless:

- The income is specifically excluded;
- The family demonstrates that they do not have access to the income from that asset; or
- The family only has access to a portion of the income from that asset.

If the family demonstrates that they can only access a portion of the income from an asset, then only that portion's value is included in the calculation of income from assets.

If an individual is a beneficiary who is entitled to access the account's funds only upon the death of the account's owner, and may not otherwise withdraw funds from an account, then the account is not an asset to the assisted family, and the family should provide proper documentation demonstrating that they are only a beneficiary on the account.

### **Trusts [24 CFR 5.609(b)(2) and 5.603(b)(4)]**

A trust is a legal arrangement generally regulated by state law in which one party (the creator or grantor) transfers property to a second party (the trustee) who holds the property for the benefit of one or more third parties (the beneficiaries).

The basis for determining how to treat trusts relies on information about who has access to either the principal in the account or the income from the account. There are two types of trusts, revocable and irrevocable. When the creator sets up an irrevocable trust, the creator has no access to the funds in the account. Typically, special needs trusts are considered irrevocable. Irrevocable trusts not under the control of any member of the family are excluded from net family assets. The value of the trust continues to be excluded from net family assets, so long as the fund continues to be held in a trust that is not revocable by, or under the control of, any member of the family or household [24 CFR 5.603(b)(4)]. Further, where an irrevocable trust is excluded from net family assets, the PHA must not consider actual income earned by the trust

(e.g., interest earned, rental income if property is held in the trust) for so long as the income from the trust is not distributed.

A revocable trust is a trust that the creator of the trust may amend or end (revoke). When there is a revocable trust, the creator has access to the funds in the trust account.

- A revocable trust that is under the control of the family is included in net family assets when the grantor is a member of the assisted family. If a revocable trust is included in the calculation of net family assets, then the actual income earned by the revocable trust is also included in the family's income. For example, interest earned or rental income if the property is held in the trust. The PHA must calculate imputed income on the revocable trust if net family assets are more than \$50,000, as adjusted by inflation, and actual income from the trust cannot be calculated (e.g., if the trust is comprised of farmland that is not in use).
- A revocable trust that is not under the control of the family is excluded from net family assets. This happens when a member of the assisted family is the beneficiary of a revocable trust, but the grantor is not a member of the assisted family. In this case the beneficiary does not "own" the revocable trust, and the value of the trust is excluded from net family assets. For the revocable trust to be considered excluded from net family assets, no family or household member may be the account's trustee.

For both irrevocable and revocable trusts, if the value of the trust is not considered part of net family assets, then distributions from the trust are treated as follows:

- All distributions from the trust's principal are excluded from income.
- Distributions of income earned by the trust (i.e., interest, dividends, realized gains, or other earnings on the trust's principle), are included as income unless the distribution is used to pay for the health and medical expenses for a minor.

### ***Life Insurance [FR Notice 2/14/23 and Notice PIH 2023-27]***

Net family assets do not include the value of term life insurance, which has no cash value to the individual before death.

The cash value of a life insurance policy available to a family member before death, such as a whole life or universal life policy, is included in the calculation of the value of the family's assets. The cash value is the surrender value. While the cash value of an insurance policy is considered an asset, the face value of any policy is not. If such a policy earns dividends or interest that the family could elect to receive, the amount of dividends or interest is counted as income from the asset whether or not the family actually receives it.

### ***Tax Refunds [24 CFR 5.603(b)(3)(xi) and Notice PIH 2023-27]***

All amounts received by a family in the form of federal tax refunds or refundable tax credits are excluded from a family's net family assets for a period of 12 months after receipt by the family.

At the time of an annual or interim reexamination of income, if the federal tax refund was received during the 12 months preceding the effective date of the reexamination, then the amount of the refund that was received by the family is subtracted from the total value of net family assets. When the subtraction results in a negative number, then net family assets are considered \$0.

***Asset Exclusions [24 CFR 5.603(b)]***

The following are excluded from the calculations of net family assets:

- The value of any account under a retirement plan recognized as such by the IRS, including individual retirement arrangements (IRAs), employer retirement plans, and retirement plans for self-employed individuals [24 CFR 5.603(b)(3)(iii)].
- The value of real property that the family does not have the effective legal authority to sell in the jurisdiction in which the property is located [24 CFR 5.603(b)(3)(iv)].
  - *Real property* as used in this part has the same meaning as that provided under the law of the state in which the property is located [24 CFR 5.100].
  - Examples of this include but are not limited to co-ownership situations (including situations where one owner is a victim of domestic violence), where one party cannot unilaterally sell the real property; property that is tied up in litigation; and inherited property in dispute [Notice PIH 2023-27].
- Any amounts recovered in any civil action or settlement based on a claim of malpractice, negligence, or other breach of duty owed to a family member arising out of law, that resulted in a family member being a person with a disability [24 CFR 5.603(b)(3)(v)];
- The value of any Coverdell education savings account under section 530 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 [24 CFR 5.603(b)(3)(vi)];
- The value of any qualified tuition program under Section 529 of such Code [24 CFR 5.603(b)(3)(vi)];
- The value of any “baby bond” account created, authorized, or funded by federal, state, or local government [24 CFR 5.603(b)(3)(vi)];
- Interests in Indian trust land [24 CFR 5.603(b)(3)(vii)];
- Equity in a manufactured home where the family receives assistance under 24 CFR part 982 [24 CFR 5.603(b)(3)(viii)];
- Equity in property under the Homeownership Option for which a family receives assistance under 24 CFR part 982 [24 CFR 5.603(b)(3)(ix)];
- Family Self-Sufficiency accounts [24 CFR 5.603(b)(3)(x)];
- Federal tax refunds or refundable tax credits for a period of 12 months after receipt by the family [24 CFR 5.603(b)(3)(xi)].
- The full amount of assets held in an irrevocable trust [Notice PIH 2023-27]; and

- The full amount of assets held in a revocable trust where a member of the family is the beneficiary, but the grantor/owner and trustee of the trust is not a member of the participant family or household [Notice PIH 2023-27].

## **P. DETERMINING INCOME FROM ASSETS**

In some cases, amounts that are excluded from net family assets may be included as annual income when disbursements are made to a family from an asset. In other cases, amounts are excluded from annual income as a lump-sum addition to net family assets, but those funds are then considered a net family asset if held in an account or other investment that is considered part of net family assets [Notice PIH 2023-27].

### ***Net Family Assets***

*Net family assets* are defined as the net cash value of all assets owned by the family, after deducting reasonable costs that would be incurred in disposing real property, savings, stocks, bonds, and other forms of capital investment.

#### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

Reasonable costs that would be incurred when disposing of an asset include, but are not limited to, penalties for premature withdrawal, broker and legal fees, and settlement costs incurred in real estate transactions such as settlement costs and transfer taxes [New PH OCC GB, *Income Determinations*, p. 24].

The calculation of asset income sometimes requires Jacksonville Housing to make a distinction between an asset's market value and its cash value.

- The market value of an asset is its worth in the market (e.g., the amount a buyer would pay for real estate or the total value of an investment account).
- The cash value of an asset is its market value less all reasonable amounts that would be incurred when converting the asset to cash.

The cash value of real property or other assets with negative equity would be considered \$0 for the purposes of calculating net family assets. Negative equity in real property or other investments does not prohibit the family from selling the property or other investments, so negative equity alone would not justify excluding the property or other investments from family assets [Notice PIH 2023-27].

### ***Actual Income from Assets***

Income from assets must be included on the Form HUD-50058 regardless of the amount of income. Actual income from assets is always included in a family's annual income, regardless of the total value of net family assets or whether the asset itself is included or excluded from net family assets, unless that income is specifically excluded by 24 CFR 5.609(b).

Income or returns from assets are generally considered to be interest, dividend payments, and other actual income earned on the asset, and not the increase in market value of the asset. The increase in market value is relevant to the cash value of the asset for the purpose of determining total net family assets and imputing income.

The PHA may determine the net assets of a family based on a self-certification by the family that the net family assets do not exceed \$50,000 (adjusted annually by HUD), without taking additional steps to verify the accuracy of the declaration [24 CFR 5.618(b)]. Policies related to verification of assets are found in Chapter 7 of this policy.

The PHA may not calculate or include any imputed income from assets when net family assets total \$50,000 or less [24 CFR 5.609(b)(1)]. The actual income from assets must be included on the Form HUD-50058.

### ***Imputed Income from Assets***

When net family assets exceed \$50,000 (adjusted annually by HUD), the PHA may not rely on self-certification. If actual returns can be calculated, the PHA must include actual income from the asset on Form HUD-50058 (for example, a savings account or CD where the rate of return is known). If actual returns cannot be calculated, the PHA must calculate imputed returns using the HUD-determined passbook rate (for example, real property or a non-necessary item of personal property such as a recreational boat). Imputed income is calculated by multiplying the net cash value of the asset, after deducting reasonable costs that would be incurred in disposing of the asset, by the HUD-published passbook rate. If the PHA can compute actual income from some but not all assets, the PHA must compute actual returns where possible and use the HUD-determined passbook rate for assets where actual income cannot be calculated [24 CFR 5.609(a)(2)].

An asset with an actual return of \$0 (such as a non-interest-bearing checking account), is not the same as an asset for which an actual return cannot be computed (such as non-necessary personal property). If the asset is a financial asset and there is no income generated (for example, a bank account with a zero percent interest rate or a stock that does not issue cash dividends), then the asset generates zero actual asset income, and imputed income is not calculated. When a stock issues dividends in some years but not others (e.g., due to market performance), the dividend is counted as the actual return when it is issued, and when no dividend is issued, the actual return is \$0. When the stock never issues dividends, the actual return is consistently \$0.

## **Q. ADJUSTED INCOME**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **Overview**

HUD regulations require PHAs to deduct from annual income any of five mandatory deductions for which a family qualifies and allow the PHA to deduct other permissive deductions in accordance with PHA policy. The resulting amount is the family's adjusted income. Mandatory deductions are found in 24 CFR 5.611.



5.611 *Adjusted income* means the annual income (as determined under § 5.609) of the members of the family residing or intending to reside in the dwelling unit, after making the following deductions:

(a) *Mandatory deductions*

- (1) \$480 for each dependent (adjusted annually by HUD, rounded to the next lowest multiple of \$25);
- (2) \$525 for any elderly family or disabled family (adjusted annually by HUD, rounded to the next lowest multiple of \$25);
- (3) The sum of the following, to the extent the sum exceeds ten percent of annual income:
  - (i) Unreimbursed health and medical care expenses of any elderly family or disabled family;
  - (ii) Unreimbursed reasonable attendant care and auxiliary apparatus expenses for each member of the family who is a person with disabilities, to the extent necessary to enable any member of the family (including the member who is a person with disabilities) to be employed; and
- (4) Any reasonable childcare expenses necessary to enable a member of the family to be employed or to further his or her education.

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

Anticipating Expenses

Jacksonville Housing Policy

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

If a family has an accumulated debt for medical or disability assistance expenses, Jacksonville Housing will include as an eligible expense the portion of the debt that the family expects to pay during the period for which the income determination is being made. However, amounts previously deducted will not be allowed even if the amounts were not paid as expected in a preceding period. Jacksonville Housing may require the family to provide documentation of payments made in the preceding year.

When calculating health and medical care expenses, Jacksonville Housing will include those expenses anticipated to be incurred during the 12 months following the certification date which are not covered by an outside source, such as insurance. The allowance is not intended to give a family an allowance equal to last year's expenses, but to anticipate regular ongoing and anticipated expenses during the coming year. Since these expenses are anticipated, the *PH Occupancy Guidebook* states "it is likely that actual expenses will not match what was anticipated. Typically, this would not be considered an underpayment as long as at the time of

the annual reexamination, the expenses were calculated based on the appropriate verification” [New PH OCC GB, *Income Determinations*, p. 30]. For annual reexaminations, the PHA will use information from the previous 12-month period.

## **R. DEPENDENT DEDUCTION**

An allowance of \$480 is deducted from the annual income for each dependent (which amount will be adjusted by HUD annually in accordance with the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers, rounded to the next lowest multiple of \$25) [24 CFR 5.611(a)(1)]. A *dependent* is defined as any family member other than the head, spouse, or cohead who is under the age of 18 or who is 18 or older and is a person with disabilities or a full-time student. Foster children, foster adults, and live-in aides are never considered dependents [24 CFR 5.603(b)].

## **S. ELDERLY OR DISABLED FAMILY DEDUCTION**

A single deduction of \$525 is taken for any elderly or disabled family (which amount will be adjusted by HUD annually in accordance with the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers, rounded to the next lowest multiple of \$25) [24 CFR 5.611(a)(2)].

An *elderly family* is a family whose head, spouse, cohead, or sole member is 62 years of age or older, and a *disabled family* is a family whose head, spouse, cohead, or sole member is a person with disabilities [24 CFR 5.403].

## **T. HEALTH AND MEDICAL CARE EXPENSES DEDUCTION [24 CFR 5.611(a)(3)(i) and 5.603(b)]**

Unreimbursed health and medical care expenses may be deducted to the extent that, in combination with any disability assistance expenses, they exceed ten percent of annual income.

This deduction is permitted only for families in which the head, spouse, or cohead is at least 62 or is a person with disabilities. If a family is eligible for a health and medical care expense deduction, the unreimbursed health and medical care expenses of all family members are included. The PHA calculates health and medical care expenses based on the family’s past expenses, but accounting for any anticipated changes in expenses during the certification period.

### ***Definition of Medical Expenses***

HUD regulations define *health and medical care expenses* at 24 CFR 5.603(b) to mean “any costs incurred in the diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment, or prevention of disease or payments for treatments affecting any structure or function of the body. Health and medical care expenses include medical insurance premiums and long-term care premiums that are paid or anticipated during the period for which annual income is computed.”

Health and medical care expenses may be deducted from annual income only if they are eligible under this definition and not otherwise reimbursed.

Although HUD revised the definition of *health and medical care expenses* to reflect the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) general definition of medical expenses, HUD is not permitting PHAs to

specifically align their policies to IRS Publication 502. PHAs must review each expense to determine whether it is eligible in accordance with HUD’s definition.

While PHA policies may not specifically align with IRS Publication 502, HUD recommends PHAs use it as a standard for determining allowable expenses, and the PHA may list examples of allowable expenses in their policy provided they comply with HUD’s definition at 24 CFR 5.603. The PHA may not define *health and medical care expenses* more narrowly than the regulation.

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will use the most current IRS Publication 502 as a standard for determining if expenses claimed by eligible families qualify as health and medical care expenses. However, under no circumstances will Jacksonville Housing deduct any expenses listed in IRS Publication 502 that do not conform with HUD’s definition of *health and medical care expenses*.

<b>Summary of Typical Allowable Health and Medical Care Expenses</b>	
Services of medical professionals	Substance abuse treatment programs
Surgery and medical procedures that are necessary, legal, and non-cosmetic	Psychiatric treatment
Services of medical facilities	Ambulance services and some costs of transportation related to medical expenses. The PHA will use the most current medical mileage rate listed in IRS Publication 502.
Hospitalization, long-term care, and in-home nursing services	The cost and care of necessary equipment related to a medical condition (e.g., eyeglasses/lenses, hearing aids, crutches, and artificial teeth)
Prescription medicines and insulin, but <u>not</u> nonprescription medicines even if recommended by a doctor	The costs of buying, training, and maintaining a guide dog or other service animal to assist a visually impaired or hearing disabled person, or a person with other physical disabilities. In general, this includes any costs, such as food, grooming, and veterinary care, incurred in maintaining the health and vitality of the service animal so that it may perform its duties.
Improvements to housing directly related to medical needs (e.g., ramps for a wheelchair, handrails)	
Medical insurance premiums or the cost of a health maintenance organization (HMO)	
Medicare Part B and Part D premiums	

**Note:** This chart provides a summary of eligible health and medical care expenses only. In all cases, the PHA will consider whether health and medical expenses care expenses claimed by the family are eligible under HUD's definition.

## **Families That Qualify for Both Health and Medical and Disability Assistance Expenses**

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

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

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

### **U. DISABILITY ASSISTANCE EXPENSES DEDUCTION [24 CFR 5.603(b) and 24 CFR 5.611(a)(3)(ii)]**

Unreimbursed reasonable expenses for attendant care and auxiliary apparatus for each member of the family who is a person with disabilities may be deducted if they: (1) are necessary to enable a family member 18 years or older to work, (2) are not paid to a family member or reimbursed by an outside source, (3) in combination with any medical expenses, exceed ten percent of annual income, and (4) do not exceed the earned income received by the family member who is enabled to work.

#### **Earned Income Limit on the Disability Assistance Expense Deduction**

A family can qualify for the disability assistance expense deduction only if at least one family member (who may be a person with disabilities) is enabled to work [24 CFR 5.603(b)].

The disability expense deduction is capped by the amount of "earned income received by family members who are 18 years of age or older and who are able to work" because of the expense [24 CFR 5.611(a)(3)(ii)]. The earned income used for this purpose is the amount verified before any earned income disallowances or income exclusions are applied.

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

The family must identify the family members enabled to work as a result of the disability assistance expenses. In evaluating the family's request, Jacksonville Housing will consider factors such as how the work schedule of the relevant family members relates to the hours of care provided, the time required for transportation, the relationship of the family members to the person with disabilities, and any special needs of the person with disabilities that might determine which family members are enabled to work.

When Jacksonville Housing determines that the disability assistance expenses enable more than one family member to work, the expenses will be capped by the sum of the family members' incomes.

#### *Eligible Auxiliary Apparatus [Notice PIH 2023-27]*

Auxiliary apparatus items may include expenses for wheelchairs, ramps, adaptations to vehicles, guide dogs, assistance animals, or special equipment to enable a person who is blind or has low vision to read or type or special equipment to assist a person who is deaf or hard of hearing.

#### *Eligible Attendant Care [Notice PIH 2023-27]*

Examples of attendant care expenses can include teaching a person with disabilities how to perform day-to-day tasks independently like cleaning, bathing, doing laundry, and cooking. Attendant care can be 24-hour care, or care during sporadic periods throughout the day. The family determines the type of attendant care that is appropriate for the person with disabilities.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

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

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

#### **Payments to Family Members**

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

#### **Necessary and Reasonable Expenses**

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

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing determines the reasonableness of the expenses based on typical costs of care or apparatus in the locality. To establish typical costs, Jacksonville Housing will collect information from organizations that provide services and support to persons with disabilities. A

family may be present, and Jacksonville Housing will consider, the family's justification for costs that exceed typical costs in the area.

### **Families That Qualify for Both Health and Medical and Disability Assistance Expenses**

#### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

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

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

### **V. CHILDCARE EXPENSE DEDUCTION**

HUD defines childcare expenses at 24 CFR 5.603(b) as "amounts anticipated to be paid by the family for the care of children under 13 years of age (age 12 and younger) (including foster children) during the period for which annual income is computed, but only where such care is necessary to enable a family member to actively seek employment, be gainfully employed, or to further his or her education and only to the extent such amounts are not reimbursed. The amount deducted shall reflect reasonable charges for childcare. In the case of childcare necessary to permit employment, the amount deducted shall not exceed the amount of employment income that is included in annual income."

#### **Clarifying the Meaning of Child for This Deduction**

Childcare expenses do not include child support payments made to another on behalf of a minor who is not living in an assisted family's household [VG, p. 26]. However, childcare expenses for foster children who are living in the assisted family's household are included when determining the family's childcare expenses [HCV GB, p. 5-29].

#### **Qualifying for the Deduction**

##### ***Determining Who Is Enabled to Pursue an Eligible Activity***

#### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

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

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

## ***Seeking Work***

### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

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

## ***Furthering Education***

### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

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

## ***Being Gainfully Employed***

### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

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

## **Earned Income Limit on Childcare Expense Deduction**

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

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

The PHA must not limit the deduction to the least expensive type of childcare. If the care allows the family to pursue more than one eligible activity, including work, the cap is calculated in proportion to the amount of time spent working [HCV GB, p. 5-30].

### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

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

## **Eligible Childcare Expenses**

The type of care to be provided is determined by the assisted family. The PHA may not refuse to give a family the childcare expense deduction because there is an adult family member in the household who may be available to provide childcare [VG, p. 26].

### ***Allowable Childcare Activities***

#### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

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

The costs of general housekeeping and personal services are not eligible. Likewise, childcare expenses paid to a family member who lives in the family unit are not eligible; however, payments for childcare to relatives who do not live in the unit are eligible.

If a childcare provider also renders other services to a family or childcare is used to enable a family member to conduct activities that are not eligible for consideration, Jacksonville Housing will prorate the costs and allow only that portion of the expenses that is attributable to childcare for eligible activities. For example, if the care provider also cares for a child with disabilities who is 13 or older, the cost of care will be prorated. Unless otherwise specified by the childcare provider, the calculation would be based upon the number of hours spent in each activity and/or the number of persons under care.

### ***Necessary and Reasonable Costs***

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

#### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

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

To establish the reasonableness of childcare costs, Jacksonville Housing will use the schedule of childcare costs from a qualified local entity that either subsidizes childcare costs or licenses childcare providers. Families may present to JH, and Jacksonville Housing will consider, justification for costs that exceed typical costs in the area.

## **W. HARDSHIP EXEMPTIONS [24 CFR 5.611(c), (d), and (e)]**

**Health and Medical Care and Disability Assistance Expenses [24 CFR 5.611(c); Notice PIH 2023-27]**



The regulations provide for two types of hardship exemption categories for families that qualify for unreimbursed health and medical care expenses and/or disability assistance expenses. A family will benefit from this hardship exemption only if the family has eligible expenses that can be deducted in excess of five percent of annual income. In order to claim unreimbursed health and medical care expenses, the family must have a head, cohead, or spouse that is elderly or a person with a 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 a disability) to be employed.

Families may be eligible for relief under one of two categories; phased-in relief or general relief, as defined below.

### **Phased-In Relief**

The first category is applicable to all families who received a deduction for unreimbursed health and medical care and/or reasonable attendant care or auxiliary apparatus expenses based on their most recent income review prior to January 1, 2024. The family must receive phased-in relief if they are determined to be eligible. These families will begin receiving a 24-month phased-in relief at their next annual or interim reexamination, whichever occurs first, after the date on which the PHA implements phased-in relief.

For these families, the threshold amount is phased in as follows:

- The family is eligible for a deduction totaling the sum of expenses that exceeds 5 percent of annual income for the first 12 months.
- At the conclusion of 12 months, the family is eligible for a deduction totaling the sum of their expenses that exceed 7.5 percent of annual income for another 12 months.
- At the conclusion of 24 months, the standard threshold amount of 10 percent would be used, unless the family qualifies for relief under the general hardship relief category.
- When an eligible family's phased-in relief begins at an interim reexamination, the PHA will need to process another transaction one year later to move the family along to the next phase. The transaction can be either an interim reexamination if triggered, or a non-interim reexamination transaction.

When an eligible family's phased-in relief begins at an interim reexamination, the PHA must process another transaction (either an interim reexamination or non-interim transaction, as applicable) one year later to move the family to the next phase.

Prior to the end of the 24-month period, the family may request a hardship exemption under the second category as described below. If the family is found eligible under the second category, the hardship exemption under the first category ends, and the family's hardship is administered in accordance with the requirements listed below. Once a family requests general relief, the family may no longer receive phased-in relief.

PHAs must track the 24-month phase-period for each eligible family, even if a family's expenses go below the appropriate phase-in percentage, during the first or second 12-month phase-in period. The phase-in must continue for families who move to another housing unit at the same PHA. When the family is treated as a new admission under a different property/program (e.g., the family moves from public housing to the HCV program), unless the PHA has a written policy to continue the phased-in relief upon admission, the family's expense deduction will be calculated using the 10-percent threshold unless request for general relief is approved by the PHA. When a family moves with continued assistance or ports to a new PHA, the family must continue to receive phased-in relief. The family must receive the remaining calendar months of the percentage phase-in. The PHA must use the existing phase-in documentation to determine the remaining calendar months and the percentage phase-in.

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will not continue the phased-in relief for families who move from public housing to HCV. These families will be treated as new admissions and the sum of expenses that exceeds 10 percent of annual income will be used to calculate their adjusted income.

### **General Relief**

The second category is for families that can demonstrate:

- Their health and medical and/or disability assistance expenses increased (other than the transition to the higher threshold); or
- The family's financial hardship is a result of a change in circumstances (as defined in PHA policy) that would not otherwise trigger an interim reexamination.

The family may request a hardship exemption under the second category regardless of whether the family previously received the health and medical and/or disability assistance deductions or are currently or were previously receiving relief under the phased-in relief category above. HUD requires that PHAs develop policies defining what constitutes a hardship for purposes of this exemption.

The PHA must obtain third-party verification of the hardship or must document in the file the reason third-party verification was not available. PHAs must attempt to obtain third-party verification prior to the end of the 90-day hardship exemption period.

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

To qualify for a hardship exemption, a family must submit a request in writing. The request must show that the family's health and medical and/or disability assistance expenses have increased (other than the transition to the higher threshold) and that the family's financial hardship is a result of a change in circumstances. Jacksonville Housing defines *a change in circumstances* as a decrease in income or increase in other expenses that has resulted in the family's financial hardship but does not, on its own, trigger an interim reexamination in accordance with Jacksonville Housing policies.

Examples of circumstances constituting a financial hardship may include the following situations:

- The family is awaiting an eligibility determination for a federal, state, or local assistance program, such as a determination for unemployment compensation or disability benefits;
- The family's income decreased because of a loss of employment, the death of a family member, or due to a natural or federal state-declared disaster; or
- Other circumstances as determined by Jacksonville Housing.

The family must provide third-party verification of the hardship with the request. If third-party verification is not available, Jacksonville Housing will document the file with the reason and will attempt to obtain third-party verification prior to the end of the 90-day hardship exemption period.

The PHA must promptly notify the family in writing of the change in the determination of adjusted income and the family's rent resulting from hardship exemptions. The notice must inform the family of when the hardship exemption will begin and expire [24 CFR 5.611(e)(2)].

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will determine whether the family qualifies within 30 calendar days and will notify the family in writing of the result within 10 business days of the determination.

- If Jacksonville Housing denies the hardship exemption request, Jacksonville Housing notice will also state that if the family does not agree with Jacksonville Housing's determination, the family may request a hearing.
- If the family qualifies for an exemption, Jacksonville Housing will include the date the hardship exemption will begin and the date it will expire as well as information on how to request a 90-day extension based on family circumstances.

If the family qualifies, the family will receive a deduction for the sum of eligible expenses that exceed five percent of annual income.

The family's hardship relief ends when the circumstances that made the family eligible for the relief are no longer applicable or after 90 days, whichever is earlier. However, the PHA may, at its discretion, extend the relief for one or more additional 90-day periods while the family's hardship condition continues. PHAs are not limited to a maximum number of 90-day extensions.

PHAs must establish written policies regarding the types of circumstances that will allow a family to qualify for financial hardship and when such deductions may be eligible for additional 90-day extensions. PHAs must develop policies requiring families to report if the circumstances that made the family eligible for the hardship exemption are no longer applicable.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

The family may request an extension either orally or in writing prior to the end of the hardship exemption period. Jacksonville Housing will extend relief for an additional 90-days if the family demonstrates to Jacksonville Housing's satisfaction that the family continues to qualify for the

hardship exemption based on circumstances described above. Jacksonville Housing will require updated verification based on the family's current circumstances. Additional extension(s) may be granted on a case-by-case basis provided the family continues to request extensions prior to the end of each hardship exemption period. Families must report if the circumstances that made the family eligible for the hardship exemption are no longer applicable. At any time, Jacksonville Housing may terminate the hardship exemption if Jacksonville Housing determines that the family no longer qualifies for the exemption.

### **Childcare Expense Hardship Exemption [24 CFR 5.611(d) and Notice PIH 2023-27]**

A family whose eligibility for the childcare expense deduction is ending may request a financial hardship exemption to continue receiving the deduction. If the family demonstrates to the PHA's satisfaction that the family is unable to pay their rent because of the loss of the childcare expense deduction and that the childcare expense is still necessary even though the family member is not working, looking for work, or seeking to further their education, the PHA must recalculate the family's adjusted income and continue the childcare deduction.

The PHA must develop a policy to define what constitutes a hardship, which includes the family's inability to pay rent. The PHA must obtain third-party verification of the hardship or must document in the file the reason third-party verification was not available. PHAs must attempt to obtain third-party verification prior to the end of the 90-day hardship exemption period.

#### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

For a family to qualify, they must demonstrate that their inability to pay rent would be as a result of the loss of this deduction. Jacksonville Housing defines this hardship as a potential decrease in income or increase in other expenses that would result from the loss of the childcare expense and such loss would impact the family's ability to pay their rent.

Some factors to consider when determining if the family is unable to pay rent may include determining that the rent, utility payment, and applicable expenses (childcare expenses or health and medical expenses) are more than 40 percent of the family's adjusted income, or verifying whether the family has experienced unanticipated expenses, such as large medical bills, that have affected their ability to pay their rent.

The family must also demonstrate that the childcare expense is still necessary even though the family member is no longer employed or furthering their education. Jacksonville Housing will consider qualification under this criterion on a case-by-case basis (for example, if the family member who was employed has left their job in order to provide uncompensated care to an elderly friend or family member who is severely ill and lives across town).

The family must provide third-party verification of the hardship with the request. If third-party verification is not available, Jacksonville Housing will document the file with the reason and will attempt to obtain third-party verification prior to the end of the 90-day hardship exemption period.

The PHA must promptly notify the family in writing of the change in the determination of adjusted income and the family's rent resulting from hardship exemptions.

If the PHA denies the request, the notice must specifically state the reason for the denial. PHAs must provide families with 30 days' notice of any increase in rent.

If the PHA approves the request, the notice must inform the family of when the hardship exemption will begin and expire [24 CFR 5.611(e)(2)]. The notice must also state the requirement for the family to report to the PHA if the circumstances that made the family eligible for relief are no longer applicable and that the family's adjusted income and tenant rent will be recalculated upon expiration of the hardship exemption [Notice PIH 2023-27].

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will determine whether the family qualifies within 30 calendar days and will notify the family in writing of the result within 10 business days of the determination.

If Jacksonville Housing denies the hardship exemption request, JH notice will also state that if the family does not agree with Jacksonville Housing's determination, the family may request an informal hearing.

If the family qualifies for an exemption, Jacksonville Housing will include all required information listed above as well as information on how to request a 90-day extension based on family circumstances.

If the family qualifies, the hardship exemption and the resulting alternative adjusted income calculation must remain in place for a period of up to 90 days.

The PHA may, at its discretion, extend the hardship exemptions for additional 90-day periods based on family circumstances and as stated in PHA policies. PHAs are not limited to a maximum number of 90-day extensions. PHAs must develop policies requiring families to report if the circumstances that made the family eligible for the hardship exemption are no longer applicable.

PHAs must promptly notify families in writing if they are denied either an initial hardship exemption or an additional 90-day extension of the exemption. If the PHA denies the request, the notice must specifically state the reason for the denial.

PHAs must notify the family if the hardship exemption is no longer necessary, and the hardship exemption will be terminated because the circumstances that made the family eligible for the exemption are no longer applicable. The notice must state the termination date and provide 30 days' notice of the rent increase, if applicable.

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

The family may request an extension either orally or in writing prior to the end of the hardship exemption period. Jacksonville Housing will extend relief for an additional 90 days if the family demonstrates to Jacksonville Housing's satisfaction that the family continues to qualify for the hardship exemption. Jacksonville Housing will require updated verification based on the family's

current circumstances. Additional extensions may be granted on a case-by-case basis provided the family continues to request extensions prior to the end of each hardship exemption period. Families must report if the circumstances that made the family eligible for the hardship exemption are no longer applicable. At any time, Jacksonville Housing may terminate the hardship exemption if Jacksonville Housing determines that the family no longer qualifies for the exemption.

#### **X. PERMISSIVE DEDUCTIONS [24 CFR 5.611(b)(1)(ii)]**

The PHA may adopt additional permissive deductions from annual income if they establish a policy in the administrative plan. Permissive deductions are additional, optional deductions that may be applied to annual income. As with mandatory deductions, permissive deductions must be based on need or family circumstance, and deductions must be designed to encourage self-sufficiency or other economic purposes. If the PHA offers permissive deductions, they must be granted to all families that qualify for them and should complement existing income exclusions and deductions [PH Occ GB, p. 128]. Permissive deductions may be used to incentivize or encourage self-sufficiency and economic mobility.

A PHA that adopts such deductions must have sufficient funding to cover the increased housing assistance payment cost of the deductions. A PHA will not be eligible for an increase in HCV renewal funding for subsidy costs resulting from such deductions.

#### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

Jacksonville Housing has opted not to use permissive deductions.

#### **Y. CALCULATING FAMILY SHARE AND PHA SUBSIDY**

##### **OVERVIEW OF RENT AND SUBSIDY CALCULATIONS**

##### **TTP Formula [24 CFR 5.628]**

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

- 30 percent of the family's monthly adjusted income (adjusted income is defined in Part II)
- 10 percent of the family's monthly gross income (annual income, as defined in Part I, divided by 12)
- The welfare rent (in as-paid states only)
- A minimum rent between \$0 and \$50 that is established by the PHA

The PHA has the authority to suspend and exempt families from minimum rent when a financial hardship exists, as defined in section 6-IV.B.

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

***Welfare Rent [24 CFR 5.628]***

Jacksonville Housing Policy

Welfare rent does not apply in this locality.

***Minimum Rent [24 CFR 5.630]***

Jacksonville Housing Policy

The minimum rent for this locality is \$0.

**Family Share [24 CFR 982.305(a)(5)]**

If a family chooses a unit with a gross rent (rent to owner plus an allowance for tenant-paid utilities) that exceeds the PHA's applicable payment standard: (1) the family will pay more than the TTP, and (2) at initial occupancy the PHA may not approve the tenancy if it would require the family share to exceed 40 percent of the family's monthly adjusted income. The income used for this determination must have been verified no earlier than 60 days before the family's voucher was issued.

**PHA Subsidy [24 CFR 982.505(b)]**

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

**Utility Reimbursement [24 CFR 982.514(b); 982.514(c)]**

When the PHA subsidy for a family exceeds the rent to the owner, the family is due a utility reimbursement. HUD permits the PHA to pay the reimbursement to the family or directly to the utility provider.

Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will make utility reimbursements to the family.

The PHA may make all utility reimbursement payments to qualifying families on a monthly basis or may make quarterly payments when the monthly reimbursement amount is \$15.00 or less. Reimbursements must be made once per calendar year quarter and must be prorated if the family leaves the program in advance of its next quarterly reimbursement. The PHA must also adopt hardship policies for families for whom receiving quarterly reimbursement would create a financial hardship.

Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will issue all utility reimbursements monthly.

## **Z. FINANCIAL HARDSHIPS AFFECTING MINIMUM RENT [24 CFR 5.630]**

### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

The financial hardship rules described below apply in this jurisdiction because Jacksonville Housing has established a minimum rent of \$50.

#### **Overview**

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

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

#### **HUD-Defined Financial Hardship**

Financial hardship includes the following situations:

- (1) The family has lost eligibility for or is awaiting an eligibility determination for a federal, state, or local assistance program. This includes a family member who is a noncitizen lawfully admitted for permanent residence under the Immigration and Nationality Act and who would be entitled to public benefits but for Title IV of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act of 1996.

### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

A hardship will be considered to exist only if the loss of eligibility has an impact on the family's ability to pay the minimum rent.

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

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

### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

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

- (3) Family income has decreased because of changed family circumstances, including the loss of employment.
- (4) A death has occurred in the family.



### Jacksonville Housing Policy

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

- (5) The family has experienced other circumstances determined by Jacksonville Housing.

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing has not established any additional hardship criteria.

## **Implementation of Hardship Exemption**

### ***Determination of Hardship***

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

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

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing defines temporary hardship as a hardship expected to last 90 days or less. Long-term hardship is defined as a hardship expected to last more than 90 days.

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

<b>Example: Impact of Minimum Rent Exemption</b>			
Assume the PHA has established a minimum rent of \$50.			
<b>Family Share – No Hardship</b>		<b>Family Share – With Hardship</b>	
\$0	30% of monthly adjusted income	\$0	30% of monthly adjusted income
\$15		\$15	
N/A	10% of monthly gross income	N/A	10% of monthly gross income
\$50	Welfare rent	\$50	Welfare rent
	Minimum rent		Minimum rent
Minimum rent applies.		Hardship exemption granted.	
TTP = \$50		TTP = \$15	

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

To qualify for a hardship exemption, a family must submit a written request explaining the nature of the hardship and how it has affected the family's ability to pay the minimum rent. Jacksonville Housing will determine the hardship within 30 calendar days.

### ***No Financial Hardship***

If the PHA determines there is no financial hardship, it will reinstate the minimum rent and require the family to repay the suspended amounts.

#### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

Jacksonville Housing will require the family to repay the suspended amount within 30 calendar days of the PHA's notice that a hardship exemption has not been granted.

### ***Temporary Hardship***

If the PHA determines that a qualifying financial hardship is temporary, it must suspend the minimum rent for 90 days beginning the first of the month following the date of the family's request for a hardship exemption.

At the end of the 90-day suspension period, the family must resume payment of the minimum rent and repay the PHA the amounts suspended. HUD requires the PHA to offer a reasonable repayment agreement on the terms and conditions established by the PHA. The PHA may also determine that circumstances have changed and that the hardship is now a long-term hardship.

#### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

Jacksonville Housing will enter into a repayment agreement in accordance with the procedures found in Chapter 16 of this plan.

### ***Long-Term Hardship***

If the PHA determines that the financial hardship is long-term, it must exempt the family from the minimum rent requirement for as long as the hardship continues. The exemption will apply from the first of the month following the family's request until the end of the qualifying hardship. When the financial hardship has been determined to be long-term, the family is not required to repay the minimum rent.

#### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

The hardship period ends when any of the following circumstances apply:

- (1) At an interim or annual reexamination, the family's calculated TTP is greater than the minimum rent.
- (2) For hardship conditions based on loss of income, the hardship condition will continue to be recognized until new sources of income are received that are at least equal to the amount lost. For example, if a hardship is approved because a family no longer receives a \$60/month child support payment, the hardship will continue to exist until the family

receives at least \$60/month in income from another source or once again begins to receive the child support.

- (3) For hardship conditions based upon hardship-related expenses, the minimum rent exemption will continue to be recognized until the cumulative amount exempted is equal to the expense incurred.

## **AA. APPLYING PAYMENT STANDARDS [24 CFR 982.505; 982.503(b)]**

### **Overview**

The PHA's schedule of payment standards is used to calculate housing assistance payments for HCV families. This section covers the application of the PHA's payment standards. The establishment and revision of the PHA's payment standard schedule are covered in Chapter 16.

*Payment standard* is defined as "the maximum monthly assistance payment for a family assisted in the voucher program (before deducting the total tenant payment by the family)" [24 CFR 982.4(b)].

The payment standard for a family is the lower of (1) the payment standard for the family unit size, which is defined as the appropriate number of bedrooms for the family under the PHA's subsidy standards [24 CFR 982.4(b)], or (2) the payment standard for the size of the dwelling unit rented by the family.

If the PHA has established an exception payment standard for a designated part of a zip code area or FMR area and a family's unit is located in the exception area, the PHA must use the appropriate payment standard for the exception area.

The PHA is required to pay a monthly housing assistance payment (HAP) for a family that is the lower of (1) the payment standard for the family minus the family's TTP or (2) the gross rent for the family's unit minus the TTP.

If the owner lowers the rent during the term of the HAP contract for a family unit, the PHA will recalculate the HAP using the lower initial payment standard or the gross rent for the unit [HCV GB, pp. 7-8].

### **Changes in Payment Standards**

When the PHA revises its payment standards during the term of the HAP contract for a family unit, it will apply the new payment standards in accordance with HUD regulations.

#### ***Decreases***

If a PHA changes its payment standard schedule, resulting in a lower payment standard amount, during the term of a HAP contract, the PHA is not required to reduce the payment standard used to calculate subsidy for families under HAP contract as long as the HAP contract remains in effect [FR Notice 11/16/16].

However, if the PHA does choose to reduce the payment standard for families currently under HAP contract, the initial reduction to the payment standard may not be applied any earlier than

the effective date of the family's second regular reexamination following the effective date of the decrease in the payment standard amount. At that point, the PHA may either reduce the payment standard to the current amount in effect on the PHA's payment standard schedule or may reduce the payment standard to another amount that is higher than the normally applicable amount on the schedule. The PHA may also establish different policies for designated areas within their jurisdiction (e.g., different zip code areas).

In any case, the PHA must provide the family with at least 12 months' notice that the payment standard is being reduced before the effective date of the change. The PHA's policy on decreases in the payment standard during the term of the HAP contract applies to all families under HAP contract at the time of the effective date of the decrease in the payment standard within the designated area.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

If a Jacksonville Housing changes its payment standard schedule resulting in a lower payment standard amount, during the term of a HAP contract, Jacksonville Housing will not reduce the payment standard used to calculate subsidy for families under HAP contract as long as the HAP contract remains in effect.

Jacksonville Housing will not establish different policies for decreases in the payment standard for designated areas within their jurisdiction.

#### ***Increases***

If the payment standard is increased during the term of the HAP contract, the increased payment standard will be used to calculate the monthly housing assistance payment for the family beginning on the effective date of the family's first regular reexamination on or after the effective date of the increase in the payment standard.

Families requiring or requesting interim reexaminations will not have their HAP payments calculated using the higher payment standard until their next annual reexamination [HCV GB, p. 7-8].

#### ***Changes in Family Unit Size (Voucher Size)***

Irrespective of any increase or decrease in the payment standard, if the family unit size increases or decreases during the HAP contract term, the new family unit size must be used to determine the payment standard for the family beginning at the family's first regular reexamination following the change in family unit size.

#### **Reasonable Accommodation**

If a family requires a higher payment standard as a reasonable accommodation for a family member who is a person with disabilities, the PHA is allowed to establish a higher payment standard for the family of not more than 120 percent of the published FMR.

## **BB. APPLYING UTILITY ALLOWANCES [24 CFR 982.517]**

### **Overview**

A PHA-established utility allowance schedule is used in determining family share and PHA subsidy. A family's utility allowance is determined by the size of dwelling unit leased by a family or the voucher unit size for which the family qualifies using PHA subsidy standards, whichever is the lowest of the two. See Chapter 5 for information on the PHA's subsidy standards.

For policies on establishing and updating utility allowances, see Chapter 16.

### **Reasonable Accommodation and Individual Relief**

On request from a family that includes a person with disabilities, the PHA must approve a utility allowance which is higher than the applicable amount on the utility allowance schedule if a higher utility allowance is needed as a reasonable accommodation to make the program accessible and usable by the family member with a disability [24 CFR 982.517(e)]. (See Chapter 4 for policies regarding the request and approval of reasonable accommodations.)

Further, the PHA may grant requests for individual relief from charges in excess of the utility allowance on reasonable grounds, such as special factors not within control of the resident, as the PHA deems appropriate. The family must request the higher allowance and provide the PHA an explanation of the need for individual relief and an explanation about the amount of additional allowance required [see HCV GB, p. 18-8].

PHAs should develop criteria for granting individual relief, notify residents about the availability of individual relief, and notify participants about the availability of individual relief programs (sometimes referred to as "Medical Baseline discounts") offered by the local utility company.

### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

The family must request the higher allowance and provide Jacksonville Housing with information about the amount of additional allowance required.

Jacksonville Housing will consider the following criteria as valid reasons for granting individual relief:

The family's consumption was mistakenly portrayed as excessive due to defects in the meter or errors in the meter reading.

The excessive consumption is caused by a characteristic of the unit or owner-supplied equipment that is beyond the family's control, such as a particularly inefficient refrigerator or inadequate insulation. The allowance should be adjusted to reflect the higher consumption needs associated with the unit until the situation is remedied. The resident should be granted individual relief until the allowance is adjusted.

Excessive consumption is due to special needs of the family that are beyond their control, such as the need for specialized equipment in the case of a family member who is ill, elderly, or who has a disability.

In determining the amount of the reasonable accommodation or individual relief, the PHA will allow a reasonable measure of additional usage as necessary. To arrive at the amount of additional utility cost of specific equipment, the family may provide information from the manufacturer of the equipment, or the family or PHA may conduct an internet search for an estimate of usage or additional monthly cost.

Information on reasonable accommodation and individual relief for charges in excess of the utility allowance will be provided to all families at admission as part of the information on payment standards and utility allowances in the briefing packet. The PHA will also provide information on utility relief programs or medical discounts (sometimes referred to as “Medical Baseline discounts”) that may be available through local utility providers.

At its discretion, the PHA may reevaluate the need for the increased utility allowance at any regular reexamination.

If the excessive consumption is caused by a characteristic of the unit or PHA-supplied equipment that is beyond the family’s control, such as a particularly inefficient refrigerator or inadequate insulation, the individual relief to the resident will cease when the situation is remedied.

### **Utility Allowance Revisions**

At reexamination, the PHA must use the current utility allowance schedule [HCV GB, p. 18-8].

### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

Revised utility allowances will be applied to a family’s rent and subsidy calculations at the first annual reexamination that is effective after the allowance is adopted.

### **CC. PRORATED ASSISTANCE FOR MIXED FAMILIES [24 CFR 5.520]**

HUD regulations prohibit assistance to ineligible family members. A *mixed family* is one that includes at least one U.S. citizen or eligible immigrant and any number of ineligible family members. The PHA must prorate the assistance provided to a mixed family. The PHA will first determine assistance as if all family members were eligible and then prorate the assistance based upon the percentage of family members that actually are eligible. For example, if the PHA subsidy for a family is calculated at \$500 and two of four family members are ineligible, the PHA subsidy would be reduced to \$250.

<b>EXHIBIT 6-1: ANNUAL INCOME FULL DEFINITION</b>
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**24 CFR 5.609**

(a) Annual income includes, with respect to the family:

(1) All amounts, not specifically excluded in paragraph (b) of this section, received from all sources by each member of the family who is 18 years of age or older or is the head of household or spouse of the head of household, plus unearned income by or on behalf of each dependent who is under 18 years of age, and

(2) When the value of net family assets exceeds \$50,000 (which amount HUD will adjust annually in accordance with the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers) and the actual returns from a given asset cannot be calculated, imputed returns on the asset based on the current passbook savings rate, as determined by HUD.

*(b) Annual income does not include the following:*

(1) Any imputed return on an asset when net family assets total \$50,000 or less (which amount HUD will adjust annually in accordance with the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers) and no actual income from the net family assets can be determined.

(2) The following types of trust distributions:

(i) For an irrevocable trust or a revocable trust outside the control of the family or household excluded from the definition of net family assets under § 5.603(b):

(A) Distributions of the principal or corpus of the trust; and

(B) Distributions of income from the trust when the distributions are used to pay the costs of health and medical care expenses for a minor.

(ii) For a revocable trust under the control of the family or household, any distributions from the trust; except that any actual income earned by the trust, regardless of whether it is distributed, shall be considered income to the family at the time it is received by the trust.

(3) Earned income of children under 18 years of age.

(4) Payments received for the care of foster children or foster adults, or State or Tribal kinship or guardianship care payments.

(5) Insurance payments and settlements for personal or property losses, including but not limited to payments through health insurance, motor vehicle insurance, and workers' compensation.

(6) Amounts received by the family that are specifically for, or in reimbursement of, the cost of health and medical care expenses for any family member.

(7) Any amounts recovered in any civil action or settlement based on a claim of malpractice, negligence, or other breach of duty owed to a family member arising out of law, that resulted in a member of the family becoming disabled.

(8) Income of a live-in aide, foster child, or foster adult as defined in §§ 5.403 and 5.603, respectively.

(9)

(i) Any assistance that section 479B of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (20 U.S.C. 1087uu), requires be excluded from a family's income; and

(ii) Student financial assistance for tuition, books, and supplies (including supplies and equipment to support students with learning disabilities or other disabilities), room and board, and other fees required and charged to a student by an institution of higher education (as defined under Section 102 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002)) and, for a student who is not the head of household or spouse, the reasonable and actual costs of housing while attending the institution of higher education and not residing in an assisted unit.

(A) Student financial assistance, for purposes of this paragraph (9)(ii), means a grant or scholarship received from— (

1) The Federal government;

(2) A State, Tribe, or local government;

(3) A private foundation registered as a nonprofit under 26 U.S.C. 501(c)(3);

(4) A business entity (such as a corporation, general partnership, limited liability company, limited partnership, joint venture, business trust, public benefit corporation, or nonprofit entity); or

(5) An institution of higher education.

(B) Student financial assistance, for purposes of this paragraph (9)(ii), does not include—

(1) Any assistance that is excluded pursuant to paragraph (b)(9)(i) of this section;

(2) Financial support provided to the student in the form of a fee for services performed (e.g., a work-study or teaching fellowship that is not excluded pursuant to paragraph (b)(9)(i) of this section);

3) Gifts, including gifts from family or friends; or

(4) Any amount of the scholarship or grant that, either by itself or in combination with assistance excluded under this paragraph or paragraph (b)(9)(i), exceeds the actual covered costs of the student. The actual covered costs of the student are the actual costs of tuition, books, and supplies (including supplies and equipment to support students with learning disabilities or other disabilities), room and board, or other fees required and charged to a student by the education institution, and, for a student who is not the head of household or spouse, the reasonable and actual costs of housing while attending the institution of higher education and not residing in an assisted unit. This calculation is described further in paragraph (b)(9)(ii) of this section.

(C) Student financial assistance, for purposes of this paragraph (b)(9)(ii) must be:



(1) Expressly for tuition, books, room and board, or other fees required and charged to a student by the education institution;

(2) Expressly to assist a student with the costs of higher education; or

(3) Expressly to assist a student who is not the head of household or spouse with the reasonable and actual costs of housing while attending the education institution and not residing in an assisted unit.

(D) Student financial assistance, for purposes of this paragraph (b)(9)(ii), may be paid directly to the student or to the educational institution on the student's behalf. Student financial assistance paid to the student must be verified by the responsible entity as student financial assistance consistent with this paragraph (b)(9)(ii).

(E) When the student is also receiving assistance excluded under paragraph (b)(9)(i) of this section, the amount of student financial assistance under this paragraph (b)(9)(ii) is determined as follows:

(1) If the amount of assistance excluded under paragraph (b)(9)(i) of this section is equal to or exceeds the actual covered costs under paragraph (b)(9)(ii)(B)(4) of this section, none of the assistance described in this paragraph (b)(9)(ii) of this section is considered student financial assistance excluded from income under this paragraph (b)(9)(ii)(E).

(2) If the amount of assistance excluded under paragraph (b)(9)(i) of this section is less than the actual covered costs under paragraph (b)(9)(ii)(B)(4) of this section, the amount of assistance described in paragraph (b)(9)(ii) of this section that is considered student financial assistance excluded under this paragraph is the lower of:

(i) the total amount of student financial assistance received under this paragraph (b)(9)(ii) of this section, or

(ii) the amount by which the actual covered costs under paragraph (b)(9)(ii)(B)(4) of this section exceeds the assistance excluded under paragraph (b)(9)(i) of this section.

(10) Income and distributions from any Coverdell education savings account under section 530 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or any qualified tuition program under section 529 of such Code; and income earned by government contributions to, and distributions from, "baby bond" accounts created, authorized, or funded by Federal, State, or local government.

(11) The special pay to a family member serving in the Armed Forces who is exposed to hostile fire.

(12)

(i) 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);

(ii) Amounts received by a participant in other publicly assisted programs which are specifically for or in reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses incurred (e.g., special equipment, clothing, transportation, childcare, etc.) and which are made solely to allow participation in a specific program;

(iii) Amounts received under a resident service stipend not to exceed \$200 per month. A resident service stipend is a modest amount received by a resident for performing a service for the PHA or owner, on a part-time basis, that enhances the quality of life in the development.

(iv) Incremental earnings and benefits resulting to any family member from participation in training programs funded by HUD or in qualifying Federal, State, Tribal, or local employment training programs (including training programs not affiliated with a local government) and training of a family member as resident management staff. Amounts excluded by this provision must be received under employment training programs with clearly defined goals and objectives and are excluded only for the period during which the family member participates in the employment training program unless those amounts are excluded under paragraph (b)(9)(i) of this section.

(13) 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.

(14) Earned income of dependent fulltime students in excess of the amount of the deduction for a dependent in § 5.611.

(15) Adoption assistance payments for a child in excess of the amount of the deduction for a dependent in § 5.611.

(16) Deferred periodic amounts from Supplemental Security Income and Social Security benefits that are received in a lump sum amount or in prospective monthly amounts, or any deferred Department of Veterans Affairs disability benefits that are received in a lump sum amount or in prospective monthly amounts.

(17) Payments related to aid and attendance under 38 U.S.C. 1521 to veterans in need of regular aid and attendance.

(18) 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.

(19) Payments made by or authorized by a State Medicaid agency (including through a managed care entity) or other State or Federal agency to a family to enable a family member who has a disability to reside in the family's assisted unit. Authorized payments may include payments to a member of the assisted family through the State Medicaid agency (including through a managed care entity) or other State or Federal agency for caregiving services the family member provides to enable a family member who has a disability to reside in the family's assisted unit.

(20) Loan proceeds (the net amount disbursed by a lender to or on behalf of a borrower, under the terms of a loan agreement) received by the family or a third party (e.g., proceeds received by

the family from a private loan to enable attendance at an educational institution or to finance the purchase of a car).

(21) Payments received by Tribal members as a result of claims relating to the mismanagement of assets held in trust by the United States, to the extent such payments are also excluded from gross income under the Internal Revenue Code or other Federal law.

(22) Amounts that HUD is required by Federal statute to exclude from consideration as income for purposes of determining eligibility or benefits under a category of assistance programs that includes assistance under any program to which the exclusions set forth in paragraph (b) of this section apply. HUD will publish a notice in the Federal Register to identify the benefits that qualify for this exclusion. Updates will be published when necessary.

(23) Replacement housing “gap” payments made in accordance with 49 CFR part 24 that offset increased out of pocket costs of displaced persons that move from one federally subsidized housing unit to another Federally subsidized housing unit. Such replacement housing “gap” payments are not excluded from annual income if the increased cost of rent and utilities is subsequently reduced or eliminated, and the displaced person retains or continues to receive the replacement housing “gap” payments.

(24) Nonrecurring income, which is income that will not be repeated in the coming year based on information provided by the family. Income received as an independent contractor, day laborer, or seasonal worker is not excluded from income under this paragraph, even if the source, date, or amount of the income varies. Nonrecurring income includes:

(i) Payments from the U.S. Census Bureau for employment (relating to decennial census or the American Community Survey) lasting no longer than 180 days and not culminating in permanent employment.

(ii) Direct Federal or State payments intended for economic stimulus or recovery.

(iii) Amounts directly received by the family as a result of State refundable tax credits or State tax refunds at the time they are received.

(iv) Amounts directly received by the family as a result of Federal refundable tax credits and Federal tax refunds at the time they are received.

(v) Gifts for holidays, birthdays, or other significant life events or milestones (e.g., wedding gifts, baby showers, anniversaries).

(vi) Non-monetary, in-kind donations, such as food, clothing, or toiletries, received from a food bank or similar organization.

(vii) Lump-sum additions to net family assets, including but not limited to lottery or other contest winnings.

(25) Civil rights settlements or judgments, including settlements or judgments for back pay.

(26) Income received from any account under a retirement plan recognized as such by the Internal Revenue Service, including individual retirement arrangements (IRAs), employer retirement plans, and retirement plans for self-employed individuals; except that any distribution of periodic payments from such accounts shall be income at the time they are received by the family.

(27) Income earned on amounts placed in a family's Family Self Sufficiency Account.

(28) Gross income a family member receives through self-employment or operation of a business; except that the following shall be considered income to a family member:

(i) Net income from the operation of a business or profession. Expenditures for business expansion or amortization of capital indebtedness shall not be used as deductions in determining net income. An allowance for depreciation of assets used in a business or profession may be deducted, based on straight line depreciation, as provided in Internal Revenue Service regulations; and

(ii) Any withdrawal of cash or assets from the operation of a business or profession will be included in income, except to the extent the withdrawal is reimbursement of cash or assets invested in the operation by the family.

## EXHIBIT 6-2: TREATMENT OF FAMILY ASSETS

### 24 CFR 5.603(b) Net Family Assets

1) Net family assets is the net cash value of all assets owned by the family, after deducting reasonable costs that would be incurred in disposing real property, savings, stocks, bonds, and other forms of capital investment.

(2) In determining net family assets, PHAs or owners, as applicable, must include the value of any business or family assets disposed of by an applicant or tenant for less than fair market value (including a disposition in trust, but not in a foreclosure or bankruptcy sale) during the two years preceding the date of application for the program or reexamination, as applicable, in excess of the consideration received therefor. In the case of a disposition as part of a separation or divorce settlement, the disposition will not be considered to be for less than fair market value if the applicant or tenant receives consideration not measurable in dollar terms. Negative equity in real property or other investments does not prohibit the owner from selling the property or other investments, so negative equity alone would not justify excluding the property or other investments from family assets.

(3) Excluded from the calculation of net family assets are: (i) The value of necessary items of personal property; (ii) The combined value of all unnecessary items of personal property if the combined total value does not exceed \$50,000 (which amount will be adjusted by HUD in accordance with the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers); (iii) The value of any account under a retirement plan recognized as such by the Internal Revenue Service, including individual retirement arrangements (IRAs), employer retirement plans, and retirement plans for self-employed individuals; (iv) The value of real property that the family does not have the effective legal authority to sell in the jurisdiction in which the property is located; (v) Any amounts recovered in any civil action or settlement based on a claim of malpractice, negligence, or other breach of duty owed to a family member arising out of law, that resulted in a family member being a person with a disability; (vi) The value of any Coverdell education savings account under section 530 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, the value of any qualified tuition program under section 529 of such Code, the value of any Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) account authorized under Section 529A of such Code, and the value of any “baby bond” account created, authorized, or funded by Federal, State, or local government. (vii) Interests in Indian trust land; (viii) Equity in a manufactured home where the family receives assistance under 24 CFR part 982; (ix) Equity in property under the Homeownership Option for which a family receives assistance under 24 CFR part 982; (x) Family Self-Sufficiency Accounts; and (xi) Federal tax refunds or refundable tax credits for a period of 12 months after receipt by the family.

(4) In cases where a trust fund has been established and the trust is not revocable by, or under the control of, any member of the family or household, the trust fund is not a family asset and the value of the trust is not included in the calculation of net family assets, so long as the fund continues to be held in a trust that is not revocable by, or under the control of, any member of the family or household.

<b>EXHIBIT 6-3: THE EFFECT OF WELFARE BENEFIT REDUCTION</b>
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**24 CFR 5.615****Public housing program and Section 8 tenant-based assistance program: How welfare benefit reduction affects family income.**

*a) Applicability.* This section applies to covered families who reside in public housing (part 960 of this title) or receive Section 8 tenant-based assistance (part 982 of this title).

*(b) Definitions.* The following definitions apply for purposes of this section:

*Covered families.* Families who receive welfare assistance or other public assistance benefits (“welfare benefits”) from a State or other public agency (“welfare agency”) under a program for which Federal, State, or local law requires that a member of the family must participate in an economic self-sufficiency program as a condition for such assistance.

*Economic self-sufficiency program.* See definition at Sec. 5.603.

*Imputed welfare income.* The amount of annual income not actually received by a family, as a result of a specified welfare benefit reduction, that is nonetheless included in the family's annual income for purposes of determining rent.

*Specified welfare benefit reduction.*

(1) A reduction of welfare benefits by the welfare agency, in whole or in part, for a family member, as determined by the welfare agency, because of fraud by a family member in connection with the welfare program; or because of welfare agency sanction against a family member for noncompliance with a welfare agency requirement to participate in an economic self-sufficiency program.

(2) “Specified welfare benefit reduction” does not include a reduction or termination of welfare benefits by the welfare agency:

- (i) at expiration of a lifetime or other time limit on the payment of welfare benefits;
- (ii) because a family member is not able to obtain employment, even though the family member has complied with welfare agency economic self-sufficiency or work activities requirements; or
- (iii) because a family member has not complied with other welfare agency requirements.

*(c) Imputed welfare income.*

(1) A family's annual income includes the amount of imputed welfare income (because of a specified welfare benefits reduction, as specified in notice to the PHA by the welfare agency), plus the total amount of other annual income as determined in accordance with Sec. 5.609.

(2) At the request of the PHA, the welfare agency will inform the PHA in writing of the amount and term of any specified welfare benefit reduction for a family member, and the reason for such reduction, and will also inform the PHA of any subsequent changes in the term or amount of

such specified welfare benefit reduction. The PHA will use this information to determine the amount of imputed welfare income for a family.

(3) A family's annual income includes imputed welfare income in family annual income, as determined at the PHA's interim or regular reexamination of family income and composition, during the term of the welfare benefits reduction (as specified in information provided to the PHA by the welfare agency).

(4) The amount of the imputed welfare income is offset by the amount of additional income a family receives that commences after the time the sanction was imposed. When such additional income from other sources is at least equal to the imputed

(5) The PHA may not include imputed welfare income in annual income if the family was not an assisted resident at the time of sanction.

*(d) Review of PHA decision.*

(1) Public housing. If a public housing tenant claims that the PHA has not correctly calculated the amount of imputed welfare income in accordance with HUD requirements, and if the PHA denies the family's request to modify such amount, the PHA shall give the tenant written notice of such denial, with a brief explanation of the basis for the PHA determination of the amount of imputed welfare income. The PHA notice shall also state that if the tenant does not agree with the PHA determination, the tenant may request a grievance hearing in accordance with part 966, subpart B of this title to review the PHA determination. The tenant is not required to pay an escrow deposit pursuant to Sec. 966.55(e) for the portion of tenant rent attributable to the imputed welfare income in order to obtain a grievance hearing on the PHA determination.

(2) Section 8 participant. A participant in the Section 8 tenant-based assistance program may request an informal hearing, in accordance with Sec. 982.555 of this title, to review the PHA determination of the amount of imputed welfare income that must be included in the family's annual income in accordance with this section. If the family claims that such amount is not correctly calculated in accordance with HUD requirements, and if the PHA denies the family's request to modify such amount, the PHA shall give the family written notice of such denial, with a brief explanation of the basis for the PHA determination of the amount of imputed welfare income. Such notice shall also state that if the family does not agree with the PHA determination, the family may request an informal hearing on the determination under the PHA hearing procedure.

*(e) PHA relation with welfare agency.*

(1) The PHA must ask welfare agencies to inform the PHA of any specified welfare benefits reduction for a family member, the reason for such reduction, the term of any such reduction, and any subsequent welfare agency determination affecting the amount or term of a specified welfare benefits reduction. If the welfare agency determines a specified welfare benefits reduction for a family member, and gives the PHA written notice of such reduction, the family's annual incomes shall include the imputed welfare income because of the specified welfare benefits reduction.

(2) The PHA is responsible for determining the amount of imputed welfare income that is included in the family's annual income as a result of a specified welfare benefits reduction as determined by the welfare agency and specified in the notice by the welfare agency to the PHA. However, the PHA is not responsible for determining whether a reduction of welfare benefits by the welfare agency was correctly determined by the welfare agency in accordance with welfare program requirements and procedures, nor for providing the opportunity for review or hearing on such welfare agency determinations.

(3) Such welfare agency determinations are the responsibility of the welfare agency, and the family may seek appeal of such determinations through the welfare agency's normal due process procedures. The PHA shall be entitled to rely on the welfare agency notice to the PHA of the welfare agency's determination of a specified welfare benefits reduction.



## **CHAPTER 7 VERIFICATIONS**

### **INTRODUCTION** [24 CFR 982.516, 24 CFR 982.551, 24 CFR 5.230, Notice PIH 2023-27]

The PHA must verify all information that is used to establish the family's eligibility and level of assistance and is required to obtain written authorization from the family in order to collect the information. Applicants and program participants must cooperate with the verification process as a condition of receiving assistance. The PHA must not pass on the cost of verification to the family.

The PHA must follow the verification guidance provided by HUD in Notice PIH 2023-27 and any subsequent guidance issued by HUD. This chapter summarizes those requirements and provides supplementary PHA policies.

Part I describes the general verification process. Part II provides more detailed requirements related to family information. Part III provides information on income and assets, and Part IV covers mandatory deductions.

Verification policies, rules, and procedures will be modified as needed to accommodate persons with disabilities. All information obtained through the verification process will be handled in accordance with the records management policies of the PHA.

### **A. FAMILY CONSENT TO RELEASE OF INFORMATION** [24 CFR 982.516; 982.551; CFR 5.230; and Notice PIH 2023-27]

#### **Consent Forms**

The family must supply any information that the PHA or HUD determines is necessary to the administration of the program and must consent to PHA verification of that information [24 CFR 982.551]. All adult family members must sign consent forms as needed to collect information relevant to the family's eligibility and level of assistance. While PHAs must use form HUD-9886-A, this form does not release all the information necessary to the administration of the program. The PHA must also develop its own release forms to cover all other necessary information.

#### **Form HUD-9886-A** [24 CFR 5.230(b)(1), b(2), (c)(4), and (c)(5); and Notice PIH 2023-27]

All adult applicants and participants sign form HUD-9886-A, Authorization for Release of Information. All adult family members (and the head and spouse/cohead, regardless of age) are required to sign Form HUD-9886-A at admission. Participants, prior to January 1, 2024, signed and submitted Form HUD-9886 at each annual reexamination. HOTMA eliminated this requirement and instead required that Form HUD-9886-A be signed only once. On or after January 1, 2024 (regardless of the PHA's HOTMA compliance date), current program participants must sign and submit a new Form HUD-9886-A at their next interim or annual reexamination. This form will only be signed once. Another Form HUD-9886-A will not be submitted to the PHA except under the following circumstances:

- When any person 18 years or older becomes a member of the family;
- When a current member of the family turns 18; or
- As required by HUD or the PHA in administrative instructions.

The PHA has the discretion to establish policies around when family members must sign consent forms when they turn 18. PHAs must establish these policies stating when family members will be required to sign consent forms at intervals other than at reexamination.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Family members turning 18 years of age between annual recertifications will be notified in writing that they are required to sign the required Consent to the Release of Information Form HUD-9886-A within 10 business days of turning 18 years of age at the family's next annual or interim reexamination, whichever is earlier.

The purpose of form HUD-9886-A is to facilitate automated data collection and computer matching from specific sources and provide the family's consent only for the specific purposes listed on the form. HUD and the PHA may collect information from State Wage Information Collection Agencies (SWICAs) and current and former employers of adult family members. Only HUD is authorized to collect information directly from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and the Social Security Administration (SSA).

The PHA may obtain any financial record from any financial institution, as the terms financial record and financial institution are defined in the Right to Financial Privacy Act (12 U.S.C. 3401), whenever the PHA determines the record is needed to determine an applicant's or participant's eligibility for assistance or level of benefits [24 CFR 5.230(c)(4)].

The executed form will remain effective until the family is denied assistance, assistance is terminated, or the family provides written notification to the PHA to revoke consent.

#### **Penalties for Failing to Consent [24 CFR 5.232]**

If any family member who is required to sign a consent form fails to do so, the PHA must deny admission to applicants and terminate the assistance of participants. The family may request an informal review (applicants) or informal hearing (participants) in accordance with PHA procedures.

However, this does not apply if the applicant, participant, or any member of their family, revokes their consent with respect to the ability of the PHA to access financial records from financial institutions unless the PHA establishes a policy that revocation of consent to access financial records will result in denial of admission or termination of assistance [24 CFR 5.232(c)]. PHAs may not process interim or annual reexaminations of income without the family's executed consent forms.

## Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing has established a policy that revocation of consent to access financial records will result in denial of admission or termination of assistance in accordance with JH policy.

In order for a family to revoke their consent, the family must provide written notice to Jacksonville Housing.

Within 10 business days of the date the family provides written notice, Jacksonville Housing will send the family a notice acknowledging receipt of the request and explaining that revocation of consent will result in denial or termination of assistance, as applicable. At the same time, Jacksonville Housing will notify their local HUD office.

### **B. USE OF OTHER PROGRAMS' INCOME DETERMINATIONS [24 CFR 5.609(c)(3) and Notice PIH 2023-27]**

PHAs may, but are not required to, determine a family's annual income, including income from assets, prior to the application of any deductions, based on income determinations made within the previous 12-month period, using income determinations from means-tested federal public assistance programs. PHAs are not required to accept or use determinations of income from other federal means-tested forms of assistance. If the PHA adopts a policy to accept this type of verification, the PHA must establish in policy when they will accept Safe Harbor income determinations and from which programs. PHAs must also create policies that outline the course of action when families present multiple verifications from the same or different acceptable Safe Harbor programs.

Means-tested federal public assistance programs include:

- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) (42 U.S.C. 601, et seq.);
- Medicaid (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.);
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (42 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.);
- Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) (26 U.S.C. 32);
- Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) program (26 U.S.C. 42);
- Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Woman, Infants, and Children (WIC) (42 U.S.C. 1786);
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI) (42 U.S.C. 1381 et seq.);
- Other programs administered by the HUD Secretary;
- Other means-tested forms of federal public assistance for which HUD has established a memorandum of understanding; and

- Other federal benefit determinations made in other forms of means-tested federal public assistance that the Secretary determines to have comparable reliability and announces through the *Federal Register*.

If the PHA elects to use the annual income determination from one of the above-listed forms of means-tested federal public assistance, then they must obtain the income information by means of third-party verification. The third-party verification must state the family size, must be for the entire family, and must state the amount of the family's annual income. The annual income need not be broken down by family member or income type. Annual income includes income earned from assets, therefore when using Safe Harbor to verify a family's income, PHAs will neither further inquire about a family's net family assets, nor about the income earned from those assets, except with respect to whether or not the family owns assets that exceed the asset limitation in 24 CFR 5.618. The Safe Harbor documentation will be considered acceptable if any of the following dates fall into the 12-month period prior to the receipt of the documentation by the PHA:

- Income determination effective date;
- Program administrator's signature date;
- Family's signature date;
- Report effective date; or
- Other report-specific dates that verify the income determination date.

The only information that PHAs are permitted to use to determine income under this method is the total income determination made by the federal means-tested program administrator. Other federal programs may provide additional information about income inclusions and exclusions in their award letters; however, these determinations and any other information must not be considered by the PHA. PHAs are not permitted to mix and match Safe Harbor income determinations and other income verifications.

If the PHA is unable to obtain Safe Harbor documentation or if the family disputes the other program's income determination, the PHA must calculate the family's annual income using traditional methods as outlined in Notice PIH 2023-27 and this chapter.

If the PHA uses a Safe Harbor determination to determine the family's income, the family is obligated to report changes in income that meet the PHA's reporting requirement and occur after the effective date of the transaction.

The amounts of unreimbursed reasonable attendant care expenses and child-care expenses deducted from a family's annual income, except for when a family is approved for a child-care expense hardship exemption, must still be capped by the amount earned by any family member who is enabled to work as a result of the expense. PHAs are therefore required to obtain third-party verification of the applicable employment income and cap the respective expense deductions accordingly.

## Jacksonville Housing Policy

When available and applicable, Jacksonville Housing will accept other programs' Safe Harbor determinations of income at annual reexamination to determine the family's total annual income. Jacksonville Housing will still require third-party verification of all deductions such as the health and medical care expense or childcare expense deductions. Further, if the family is eligible for and claims the disability assistance expense or childcare expense deductions, where applicable, Jacksonville Housing will obtain third-party verification of the amount of employment income of the individual(s) enabled to work in order to cap the respective expenses as required.

Prior to using any Safe Harbor determination from another program, Jacksonville Housing will ask the family if they agree with the income amounts listed. If the family disputes the income amounts on the Safe Harbor determination, Jacksonville Housing will obtain third-party verification of all sources of income and assets (as applicable).

Jacksonville Housing will not accept other programs' determinations of income for any new admission or interim reexamination.

With the exception of income determinations made under the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) program, Jacksonville Housing will accept Safe Harbor determinations from any of the programs listed above.

In order to be acceptable, the income determination must:

- Be dated within 12 months of the dates listed above;
- State the family size
- Be for the entire family (i.e., the family members listed in the documentation must match the family's composition in the assisted unit, except for household members); and
- Must state the amount of the family's annual income.

The determination need not list each source of income individually. If the PHA does not receive any acceptable income determination documentation or is unable to obtain documentation, then the PHA will revert to third-party verification of income for the family.

When families present multiple verifications from the same or different acceptable Safe Harbor programs, the PHA will use the most recent income determination, unless the family presents acceptable evidence that the PHA should consider an alternative verification from a different Safe Harbor source.

When the PHA uses a Safe Harbor income determination from another program, and the family's income subsequently changes, the family is required to report the change to the PHA. Depending on when the change occurred, the change may or may not impact the PHA's calculation of the family's total annual income. Changes that occur between the time the PHA receives the Safe Harbor documentation, and the effective date of the family's annual reexamination will not be considered. If the family has a change in income that occurs after the annual reexamination effective date, the PHA will conduct an interim reexamination if the change meets the

requirements for performing an interim reexamination as outlined in Chapter 11. In this case, the PHA will use third-party verification to verify the change.

**C. STREAMLINED INCOME DETERMINATIONS [24 CFR 960.257(c); Notice PIH 2023-27]**

HUD permits PHAs to streamline the income determination process for family members with fixed sources of income. While third-party verification of all income sources must be obtained during the intake process and every three years thereafter, in the intervening years, the PHA may determine income from fixed sources by applying a verified cost of living adjustment (COLA) or other inflationary adjustment factor. Streamlining policies are optional. The PHA may, however, obtain third-party verification of all income, regardless of the source. Further, upon request of the family, the PHA must perform third-party verification of all income sources.

Fixed sources of income include Social Security and SSI benefits, pensions, annuities, disability or death benefits, and other sources of income subject to a COLA or rate of interest. The determination of fixed income may be streamlined even if the family also receives income from other non-fixed sources.

Two streamlining options are available, depending upon the percentage of the family's income that is received from fixed sources.

When 90 percent or more of a family's unadjusted income is from fixed sources, the PHA may apply the inflationary adjustment factor to the family's fixed-income sources, provided that the family certifies both that 90 percent or more of their unadjusted income is fixed and that their sources of fixed income have not changed from the previous year. Sources of non-fixed income are not required to be adjusted and must not be adjusted by a COLA, but PHAs may choose to adjust sources of non-fixed income based on third-party verification. PHAs have the discretion to either adjust the non-fixed income or carry over the calculation of non-fixed income from the first year to years two and three.

When less than 90 percent of a family's unadjusted income consists of fixed income, PHAs may apply a COLA to each of the family's sources of fixed income. PHAs must determine all other income using standard verification requirements as outlined in Notice PIH 2023-27.

**Jacksonville Housing Policy**

When Jacksonville Housing does not use a Safe Harbor income determination from a federal assistance program to determine the family's annual income as outlined above, then Jacksonville Housing will use a streamlined income determination where applicable.

Regardless of the percent of a family's unadjusted income from fixed income sources:

- Jacksonville Housing will streamline the annual reexamination process by applying the verified COLA/inflationary adjustment factor to fixed-income sources.
- The family will be required to sign a self-certification stating that their sources of fixed income have not changed from the previous year.

- Jacksonville Housing will document in the file how the determination that a source of income was fixed was made.
- If the family's sources of fixed income have changed from the previous year, Jacksonville Housing will obtain third-party verification of any new sources of fixed income.
- All other income will be verified using third-party verification as outlined in Notice PIH 2023-27.

In the following circumstances, regardless of the percentage of income received from fixed sources, the PHA will obtain third-party verification as outlined in Notice PIH 2023-27 and in this Administrative Plan:

- Of all assets when net family assets exceed \$50,000;
- Of all deductions and allowances from annual income;
- If a family member with a fixed source of income is added;
- If verification of the COLA or rate of interest is not available;
- During the intake process and at least once every three years thereafter.

#### **D. VERIFICATION HIERARCHY [Notice PIH 2023-27]**

When the PHA does not use a streamlined determination of income or an income determination from a means-tested federal assistance program, HUD requires the PHA to obtain third-party verification of:

- Reported family annual income;
- The value of net family assets when the net value exceeds \$50,000 (as adjusted annually);
- Expenses related to deductions from annual income; and
- Other factors that affect the determination of adjusted income.

HUD mandates the use of the EIV system, offers administrative guidance on the use of other methods to verify family information, and specifies the circumstances in which each method will be used. In general, HUD requires the PHA to use the most reliable form of verification that is available and to document the reasons why the PHA uses a lesser form of verification.

In order of priority, the forms of verification that the PHA will use are:

HUD developed a hierarchy that described verification documentation from most acceptable to least acceptable. The PHA must demonstrate efforts to obtain third-party verification prior to accepting self-certification except in instances when self-certification is explicitly allowed.

In order of priority, the hierarchy is:

- Highest: Level 6: Up-front Income Verification (UIV) using HUD's Enterprise Income Verification (EIV) system
- Highest: Level 5: Up-front Income Verification (UIV) using a non-EIV system

- High: Level 4:
  - Written third-party verification from the source, also known as “family-provided verification”
  - Or EIV plus self-certification
- Medium: Level 3: Written third-party verification form
- Medium: Level 2: Oral third-party verification
- Low: Level 1: Self-certification (not third-party verification)

Each of the verification methods is discussed in subsequent sections below.

#### File Documentation

The PHA must document in the file how the figures used in income and rent calculations were determined. All verification attempts, information obtained, and decisions reached during the verification process will be recorded in the family’s file in sufficient detail to demonstrate that the PHA has followed all of the verification policies set forth in this plan. The record should be sufficient to enable a staff member or HUD reviewer to understand the process followed and the conclusions reached.

#### **E. LEVEL 5 AND 6 VERIFICATIONS: UP-FRONT INCOME VERIFICATION (UIV)**

Up-front income verification (UIV) refers to the PHA’s use of the verification tools available from independent sources that maintain computerized information about earnings and benefits for a number of individuals. PHAs may use UIV sources before or during a family reexamination.

UIV will be used to the extent that these systems are available to the PHA.

There may be legitimate differences between the information provided by the family and UIV-generated information. If the family disputes the accuracy of UIV data, no adverse action can be taken until the PHA has independently verified the UIV information and granted the family an opportunity to contest any adverse findings through the informal review/hearing process of the PHA.

#### **HUD’s Enterprise Income Verification (EIV) System (Mandatory)**

PHAs must use HUD’s EIV system in its entirety as a third-party source to verify tenant employment and income information during annual and streamlined reexaminations of family composition and income in accordance with 24 CFR 5.236 and Notice PIH 2023-27.

HUD’s EIV system contains data showing earned income, unemployment benefits, social security benefits, and SSI benefits for participant families.



The income validation tool (IVT) in EIV provides projections of discrepant income for wages, unemployment compensation, and SSA benefits pursuant to HUD's data sharing agreements with other departments.

The following policies apply to the use of HUD's EIV system.

### ***EIV Income Report***

PHAs are required to obtain an EIV Income Report for each family any time the PHA conducts an annual reexamination. However, PHAs are not required to use the EIV Income Report:

- At annual reexamination if the PHA used Safe Harbor verification from another means-tested federal assistance program to determine the family's income; or
- During any interim reexaminations.

The EIV Income Report is also not available for program applicants at admission.

When required to use the EIV Income Report, the PHA must pull it within 120 days of the effective date of the annual reexamination for it to be considered current.

The EIV Income Report may be used to verify and calculate income at annual reexamination if the family self-certifies that the amount is accurate and representative of current income. The family must be provided with the information in EIV.

### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

Except for when Safe Harbor verification from another means-tested federal assistance program is used to determine the family's annual income, Jacksonville Housing will obtain an EIV Income Report for all annual reexaminations for all families on a monthly basis. Jacksonville Housing will ensure that all EIV Income Reports are pulled within 120 days of the effective date of the annual reexamination.

Income reports will only be used for interim reexaminations as necessary. For example, EIV may be used to verify that families claiming zero income are not receiving income from any sources listed in EIV.

Income reports will be retained in participant files with the applicable annual documents or interim reexamination documents (if applicable) for the duration of the family's participation.

When Jacksonville Housing determines through EIV reports and third-party verification that a family has concealed or under-reported income, corrective action will be taken pursuant to the policies in Chapter 14, Program Integrity.

### ***New Hires Report [Notice PIH 2023-27]***

The New Hires Report identifies participant families who have had new employment within the last six months. The report is updated monthly.

PHAs must review this information at annual reexamination except when the PHA uses Safe Harbor verification from another means-tested federal assistance program to determine the family's income.

PHAs that do not require families to undergo interim reexaminations for earned income increases after an interim decrease are not required to review this report between a family's annual reexamination. If the PHA requires an interim for increases in earned income after an interim decrease, then the PHA must review the report quarterly after the family's interim decrease.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

In accordance with Jacksonville Housing policies in Chapter 11, Jacksonville Housing does not process interim reexaminations for families who have increases in earned income. Except for instances in which Jacksonville Housing uses Safe Harbor income determinations to determine a family's annual income Jacksonville Housing will only review the New Hires Report at annual reexamination.

#### ***No Income Reported by HHS or SSA Report***

This report is a tool for PHAs to identify participants who passed the SSA identity test but did not report income information to either HHS or SSA records. This scenario does not mean that the participant does not have any income. PHAs obtain written, third-party verification of any income reported by the participant. The PHA must identify in its policies and procedures when this report will be pulled [Notice PIH 2023-27].

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will generate the No Income Reported by HHS or SSA Report quarterly and will retain the report.

The PHA will re-verify the status of participants identified on the report quarterly. Based on the information provided by the family and in EIV, the PHA may require that family members provide verifications or sign release forms in order to obtain additional verification.

When the PHA determines through this report and third-party verification that a family has concealed or under-reported income, corrective action will be taken pursuant to the policies in Chapter 14, Program Integrity

#### ***EIV Identity Verification Report***

The EIV system verifies tenant identities against SSA records. These records are compared to HUD data for a match on social security number, name, and date of birth.

PHAs are required to use EIV's *Identity Verification Report* on a monthly basis to improve the availability of income information in EIV [Notice PIH 2023-27].

When identity verification for a participant fails, a message will be displayed within the EIV system, and no income information will be displayed.

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will identify participants whose identity verification has failed by reviewing EIV's *Identity Verification Report* on a monthly basis.

Jacksonville Housing will attempt to resolve discrepancies by obtaining appropriate documentation from the participants. When Jacksonville Housing determines that discrepancies exist as a result of PHA errors such as spelling errors or incorrect birth dates, it will correct the errors promptly.

### ***Deceased Tenants Reports [Notice PIH 2012-4 and Notice PIH 2023-27]***

The Deceased Tenant Report identifies residents who have been reported by the SSA as deceased. The PHA is required to review the report at least quarterly.

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will review the Deceased Tenants Report on a monthly basis.

When the Deceased Tenants Report identifies an individual as being deceased, PHAs must immediately send a letter to the head of household or emergency contact person (if the head of household is deceased and there is no other adult household member) to confirm the death of the listed household member. The PHA must notify the owner in writing of the deceased head of household.

PHAs may list the EOP as the last day of the month in which the death occurred. The landlord is entitled to receive the full HAP amount for the month in which the tenant's death occurred.

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will list the end of participation (EOP) as the last day of the month in which the death occurred. The landlord is entitled to receive the full HAP amount for the month in which the tenant's death occurred.

When the only remaining household member is the live-in aide, the live-in aide is not entitled or eligible for any rental assistance or continued occupancy. The PHA may not designate the live-in aide as the new head of household or change the relation code on Form HUD-50058.

### ***Other EIV Reports [Notice PIH 2023-27]***

The PHA is required to review the Multiple Subsidy Report at least quarterly and the Failed EIV Pre-Screening and Failed Verification (Failed SSA Identity Test) reports at least monthly.

### **Upfront Income Verification Using Non-HUD Systems**

In addition to mandatory use of the EIV system, HUD encourages PHAs to utilize other upfront verification sources.

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will inform all applicants and participants of its use of the following UIV resources: The Work Number

#### **F. LEVEL 4 VERIFICATION [Notice PIH 2023-27]**

HUD identifies two types of Level 4 verification: written third-party verification from the source and EIV + self-certification.

##### **EIV + Self-Certification**

EIV may be used as written third-party verification and may be used to calculate income if the family agrees with the information in EIV and self-certifies that the amount is accurate and representative of current income. This practice is known as *EIV + self-certification*. When calculating income using this method, the PHA may use its discretion to determine which method of calculation is reasonable: the last four quarters combined or an average of any number of quarters. The family must be provided with the information from EIV.

##### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

At the annual reexamination, if Jacksonville Housing is unable to use a determination of income from a means-tested federal assistance program and if there are no reported changes to an income source, Jacksonville Housing will use EIV + self-certification as verification of employment income, provided the family agrees with the amounts listed in EIV.

Jacksonville Housing will use an average of the last two-quarters of income listed in EIV to determine income from employment. Jacksonville Housing will provide the family with the information in EIV. The family will be required to sign a self-certification stating that the amount listed in EIV is accurate and representative of current income. If the family disagrees with the amount in EIV, the amount is not reflective of current income, or if less than two quarters are available in EIV, Jacksonville Housing will use written third-party verification from the source as outlined below.

Jacksonville Housing will not use this method of verification at new admission since EIV is not available for applicant families or at interim reexamination since the income information in EIV is not current.

##### **Written Third-Party Verification from the Source**

Written, third-party verification from the source is also known as “tenant-provided verification.” In order to qualify as written third-party verification from the source, the documents must be original or authentic and (generally) dated within 120 days of the date received by the PHA. For fixed-income sources, a statement dated within the appropriate benefit year is acceptable documentation. The PHA may use the verification obtained during an interim reexamination for an annual reexamination if there have been no other changes to annual income since the interim reexamination. Documents may be supplied by the family or received from a third-party source.

Examples of acceptable tenant-provided documents include, but are not limited to pay stubs, payroll summary reports, employer notice or letters of hire and termination, SSA benefit

verification letters, bank statements, child support payment stubs, welfare benefit letters and/or printouts, and unemployment monetary benefit notices. Income tax returns with corresponding official tax forms and schedules attached and including third-party receipt of transmission for income tax return filed (i.e., tax preparer's transmittal receipt, summary of transmittal from online source, etc.) are an acceptable form of written, third-party verification.

The PHA is required to obtain, at minimum, two current and consecutive pay stubs when calculating income using third-party verification from the source. For new income sources or when two pay stubs are not available, the PHA should determine income based on the information from a traditional written, third-party verification form or the best available information.

When the family disputes EIV-reported employment income, the PHA uses written third-party verification.

When verification of assets is required, PHAs are required to obtain a minimum of one statement that reflects the current balance of banking/financial accounts.

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

In general, Jacksonville Housing will use third-party verification from the source in the following circumstances:

- At annual reexamination when EIV + self-certification is not used;
- For all new admissions; and
- For all interim reexaminations.

Jacksonville Housing will not use this method if JH is able to use an income determination from a means-tested federal assistance program or if Jacksonville Housing uses EIV + self-certification as outlined above.

In general, third-party documents provided by the family or the source must be dated within 120 days of the date received by Jacksonville Housing. However, for fixed-income sources, a statement dated within the appropriate benefit year is acceptable documentation.

Jacksonville Housing may reject documentation provided by the family if the document is not the original, if the document appears to be forged, or if the document is altered, mutilated, or illegible. If Jacksonville Housing determines that third-party documents provided by the family are not acceptable, Jacksonville Housing will explain the reason to the family and request additional documentation from the family or will use a lower form of verification such as a written third-party verification form.

When verification of assets held by a banking or financial institution is required, Jacksonville Housing will obtain one statement that reflects the current balance of the account.

When pay stubs are used, Jacksonville Housing will require the family to provide the two most current, consecutive pay stubs. At Jacksonville Housing's discretion, if additional paystubs are

needed due to the family's circumstances (e.g., sporadic income, fluctuating schedule, etc.), Jacksonville Housing may request additional paystubs or a payroll record.

### **G. LEVEL 3 VERIFICATION: WRITTEN, THIRD-PARTY FORM** [Notice PIH 2023 -27]

This type of verification is a form developed by the PHA and used uniformly for all families when needed to collect information from a third-party source. This is known as “traditional third-party verification.” PHAs send a PHA-developed form directly to the third-party source by mail, fax, or email and the source completes the form by hand (in writing or typeset).

The PHA may use this method when higher forms are unavailable or are rejected by the PHA or when the family is unable to provide acceptable verification. The PHA may skip this level of verification and may instead substitute oral third-party verification before moving to self-certification.

#### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

Typically, Jacksonville Housing will attempt to send written third-party verification forms to the verification source whenever higher forms of verification are unavailable. However, on a case-by-case basis, Jacksonville Housing may choose to obtain oral third-party verification without first attempting, and in lieu of, a written third-party verification form.

### **H. LEVEL 2: ORAL THIRD-PARTY VERIFICATION** [Notice PIH 2023-27]

For third-party oral verification, the PHA contact sources are identified by UIV techniques or by the family, by telephone or in person.

Third-party oral verification may be used when requests for written third-party verification forms have not been returned within a reasonable time—e.g., 10 business days.

PHAs must document in the file the date and time of the telephone call or visit, the name of the person contacted, the telephone number, as well as the information confirmed.

The PHA may skip this level of verification if they attempted written third-party verification via a form and the source did not respond and move directly to self-certification.

#### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

In general, Jacksonville Housing will attempt to obtain written third-party verification via a form from the verification source. If written third-party verification forms are not returned within 10 business days, Jacksonville Housing will accept self-certification from the family without attempting to obtain oral third-party verification.

However, if Jacksonville Housing chooses to obtain oral third-party verification, it will document in the file the date and time of the telephone call or visit, the name of the person contacted, the telephone number, and the information confirmed.

## **When Third-Party Verification is Not Required [Notice PIH 2023-27]**

Third-party verification may not be available in all situations. HUD has acknowledged that it may not be cost-effective or reasonable to obtain third-party verification of income, assets, or expenses when these items would have a minimal impact on the family's total tenant payment.

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

If the family cannot provide original documents, Jacksonville Housing will pay the service charge required to obtain third-party verification, unless it is not cost-effective in which case a self-certification will be acceptable as the only means of verification. The cost of verification will not be passed on to the family.

The cost of postage and envelopes to obtain third-party verification of income, assets, and expenses is not an unreasonable cost [VG, p. 18].

### ***Primary Documents***

Third-party verification is not required when legal documents are the primary source, such as a birth certificate or other legal documentation of birth.

## **I. LEVEL 1: NON-THIRD-PARTY VERIFICATION TECHNIQUE: SELF-CERTIFICATION [Notice PIH 2023-27]**

Non-third-party verification consists of a signed statement of reported income and/or expenses. This verification method should be used as a last resort when the PHA has not been successful in obtaining information via all other required verification techniques.

Self-certification, however, is an acceptable form of verification when:

- A source of income is fully excluded
- Net family assets total \$50,000 or less, and the PHA has adopted a policy to accept self-certification
- The family declares that they do not have any present ownership in any real property
- A family reports zero income;
- A family states that they have non-recurring income that will not be repeated in the coming year; and/or
- The PHA has adopted a policy to implement streamlined verification for fixed sources of income (See Chapter 11)

When the PHA was required to obtain third-party verification but instead relied on self-certification, the family's file must be documented to explain why third-party verification was not available. HUD does not require that a self-certification be notarized; however, HUD recommends including language on any self-certification to ensure the certifier understands the consequences of knowingly providing false information.

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

When information cannot be verified by a third party or by review of documents, family members will be required to submit self-certifications attesting to the accuracy of the information they have provided to Jacksonville Housing.

Jacksonville Housing may require a family to certify that a family member does not receive a particular type of income or benefit.

The self-certification must be made in a format acceptable to the PHA and must be signed by the family member whose information or status is being verified.

All self-certifications will include the following language:

*“I/We, the undersigned, certify under penalty of perjury that the information provided here is true and correct, to the best of my knowledge and recollection. WARNING: Anyone who knowingly submits a false claim or knowingly makes a false statement is subject to criminal and/or civil penalties, including confinement for up to five years, fines, and civil and administrative penalties (18 U.S.C. 287, 1001, 1010, 1012; 31 U.S.C. 3279, 3802).”*

## **VERIFYING FAMILY INFORMATION**

### **J. VERIFICATION OF LEGAL IDENTITY**

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will require families to furnish verification of legal identity for each household member.

<b>Verification of Legal Identity for Adults</b>	<b>Verification of Legal Identity for Children</b>
Certificate of birth, naturalization papers	Certificate of birth
Church-issued baptismal certificate	Adoption papers
Current, valid driver’s license or Department of Motor Vehicles identification card	Custody agreement
U.S. military discharge (DD 214)	Health and Human Services ID
Current U.S. passport	Certified school records
Current government employer identification card with picture	

If a document submitted by a family is illegible for any reason or otherwise questionable, more than one of these documents may be required.



If none of these documents can be provided and at the PHA's discretion, a third party who knows the person may attest to the person's identity. The certification must be provided in a format acceptable to the PHA and must be signed by the family member whose information or status is being verified.

Legal identity will be verified for all applicants at the time of eligibility determination and in cases where the PHA has reason to doubt the identity of a person representing themselves to be a participant.

#### **K. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS [24 CFR 5.216, Notice PIH 2023-27]**

The family must provide documentation of a valid Social Security number (SSN) for each member of the household, with the exception of individuals who do not contend with eligible immigration status. Exemptions also include existing program participants who were at least 62 years of age as of January 31, 2010, and had not previously disclosed an SSN.

Note that an individual who previously declared to have eligible immigration status may not change their declaration for the purpose of avoiding compliance with the SSN disclosure and documentation requirements or penalties associated with noncompliance with these requirements. Nor may the head of household opt to remove a household member from the family composition for this purpose.

The PHA must accept the following documentation as acceptable evidence of the social security number:

- An original SSN card issued by the Social Security Administration (SSA)
- An original SSA-issued document, which contains the name and SSN of the individual
- An original document issued by a federal, state, or local government agency, which contains the name and SSN of the individual

While PHAs must attempt to gather third-party verification of SSNs prior to admission as listed above, PHAs also have the option of accepting a self-certification and a third-party document (such as a bank statement, utility or cell phone bill, or benefit letter) with the applicant's name printed on it to satisfy the SSN disclosure requirement if the PHA has exhausted all other attempts to obtain the required documentation. If verifying an individual's SSN using this method, the PHA must document why the other SSN documentation was not available.

If the tenant's SSN becomes verified in EIV, no further verification is required. If the tenant's SSN fails the SSA identity match, the PHA must obtain a valid SSN card issued by the SSA or an original document issued by a federal or state government agency that contains the individual's name and SSN, along with other identifying information. The tenant's assistance must be terminated if they fail to provide the required documentation.

#### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

Jacksonville Housing will verify an individual's SSN in the situations described above using the method described above as a last resort when no other forms of verification are available.

Jacksonville Housing may only reject documentation of an SSN provided by an applicant or participant if the document is not original or if the original document has been altered, mutilated, illegible, or appears to be forged.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will explain to the applicant or participant the reasons the document is not acceptable and request that the individual obtain and submit acceptable documentation of the SSN to Jacksonville Housing within 90 days.

In the case of Moderate Rehabilitation Single Room Occupancy (SRO) individuals, the required documentation must be provided within 90 calendar days from the date of admission into the program. The PHA must grant one additional 90-day extension if it determines that the applicant's failure to comply was due to circumstances that were beyond the applicant's control and could not have been reasonably foreseen.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will grant one additional 90-day extension if needed for reasons beyond the participant's control, such as the SSA's delayed processing of the SSN application, natural disaster, fire, death in the family, or other emergency. If the individual fails to comply with SSN disclosure and documentation requirements upon expiration of the provided time period, Jacksonville Housing will terminate the individual's assistance.

If an applicant family includes a child under 6 years of age who joined the household within the 6 months prior to the date of voucher issuance, an otherwise eligible family may be admitted to the program and the family must provide documentation of the child's SSN within 90 days of the effective date of the initial HAP contract. A 90-day extension will be granted if Jacksonville Housing determines that the participant's failure to comply was due to unforeseen circumstances and was outside of the participant's control.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

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

When a participant requests to add a new household member who is at least 6 years of age, or who is under the age of 6 and has an SSN, the participant must provide the complete and accurate SSN assigned to each new member at the time of reexamination or recertification, in addition to the documentation required to verify it. Jacksonville Housing may not add the new household member until such documentation is provided.

When a participant requests to add a new household member who is under the age of 6 and has not been assigned an SSN, the participant must provide the SSN assigned to each new child and the required documentation within 90 calendar days of the child being added to the household. A 90-day extension will be granted if the PHA determines that the participant's failure to comply was due to unforeseen circumstances and was outside of the participant's control. During the

period the PHA is awaiting documentation of the SSN, the child will be counted as part of the assisted household.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

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

Social security numbers must be verified only once during continuously assisted occupancy.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will verify each disclosed SSN by:

Obtaining documentation from applicants and participants that is acceptable as evidence of social security numbers

Making a copy of the original documentation submitted, returning it to the individual, and retaining a copy in the file folder

Once the individual's verification status is classified as "verified," the PHA may, at its discretion, remove and destroy copies of documentation accepted as evidence of social security numbers. The retention of the EIV Summary Report or Income Report is adequate documentation of an individual's SSN.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Once an individual's status is classified as "verified" in HUD's EIV system, the PHA will not remove and destroy copies of documentation accepted as evidence of social security numbers.

### **L. DOCUMENTATION OF AGE**

A birth certificate or other official record of birth is the preferred form of age verification for all family members. For elderly family members, an original document that provides evidence of the receipt of Social Security retirement benefits is acceptable.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

If an official record of birth or evidence of social security retirement benefits cannot be provided, Jacksonville Housing will require the family to submit other documents that support the reported age of the family member (e.g., school records, driver's license if the birth year is recorded) and to provide a self-certification.

Age must be verified only once during continuously assisted occupancy.

### **M. FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS**

Applicants and program participants are required to identify the relationship of each household member to the head of household. Definitions of the primary household relationships are provided in the Eligibility chapter.

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Family relationships are verified only to the extent necessary to determine a family's eligibility and level of assistance. Certification by the head of household normally is sufficient verification of family relationships.

#### **Marriage**

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Certification by the head of the household is normally sufficient verification. If the PHA has reasonable doubts about a marital relationship, Jacksonville Housing will require the family to document the marriage.

A marriage certificate generally is required to verify that a couple is married.

In the case of a common law marriage, the couple must demonstrate that they hold themselves to be married (e.g., by telling the community they are married, calling each other husband and wife, using the same last name, and filing joint income tax returns).

#### **Separation or Divorce**

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Certification by the head of the household is normally sufficient verification. If Jacksonville Housing has reasonable doubts about a separation or divorce, Jacksonville Housing will require the family to provide documentation of the divorce or separation.

A certified copy of a divorce decree, signed by a court officer, is required to document that a couple is divorced.

A copy of a court-ordered maintenance or other court record is required to document a separation.

If no court document is available, documentation from a community-based agency will be accepted.

#### **Absence of Adult Member**

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

If an adult member who was formerly a member of the household is reported to be permanently absent, the family must provide evidence to support that the person is no longer a member of the family (e.g., documentation of another address at which the person resides such as a lease or utility bill), if Jacksonville Housing so requests.

#### **Foster Children and Foster Adults**

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Third-party verification from the state or local government agency responsible for the placement of the individual with the family is required.

## **N. VERIFICATION OF STUDENT STATUS**

### **General Requirements**

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

The PHA requires families to provide information about the student status of all students who are 18 years of age or older. This information will be verified only if:

- The family reports full-time student status for an adult other than the head, spouse, or cohead.
- The family reports childcare expenses to enable a family member to further their education.
- The family includes a student enrolled in an *institution of higher education*.

### **Restrictions on Assistance to Students Enrolled in Institutions of Higher Education**

This section applies only to students who are seeking assistance on their own, separately from their parents. It does not apply to students residing with parents who are seeking or receiving HCV assistance.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

In accordance with the verification hierarchy described in section B, Jacksonville Housing will determine whether the student is exempt from the restrictions in 24 CFR 5.612 by verifying any one of the following exemption criteria:

- The student is enrolled at an educational institution that does not meet the definition of an *institution of higher education* in the Higher Education Act of 1965 (see section Exhibit 3-2).
- The student is at least 24 years old.
- The student is a veteran, as defined in section 3-II.E.
- The student is married.
- The student has at least one dependent child, as defined in section 3-II.E.
- The student is a person with disabilities, as defined in section 3-II.E, and was receiving assistance before November 30, 2005.

If the PHA cannot verify at least one of these exemption criteria, the PHA will conclude that the student is subject to the restrictions on assistance at 24 CFR 5.612. In addition to verifying the student's income eligibility, the PHA will then proceed to verify either the student's parent's income eligibility (see section J) or the student's independence from their parents (see below).

## ***Independent Student***

### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

Jacksonville Housing will verify a student's independence from their parents to determine that the student's parents' income is not relevant for determining the student's eligibility by doing all of the following:

- Either reviewing and verifying previous address information to determine whether the student has established a household separate from their parents for at least one year or reviewing and verifying documentation relevant to determining whether the student meets the U.S. Department of Education's definition of *independent student* (see section E)
- Reviewing the student's prior year income tax returns to verify the student is independent or verifying the student meets the U.S. Department of Education's definition of *independent student* (see section E)
- Requesting and obtaining written certification directly from the student's parents identifying the amount of support they will be providing to the student, even if the amount of support is \$0, except in cases in which the PHA determines that the student is a *vulnerable youth* (see section E)

### **O. DOCUMENTATION OF DISABILITY**

The PHA must verify the existence of a disability in order to allow certain income disallowances and deductions from income. The PHA is not permitted to inquire about the nature or extent of a person's disability [24 CFR 100.202(c)]. The PHA may not inquire about a person's diagnosis or details of treatment for a disability or medical condition. If the PHA receives a verification document that provides such information, the PHA will not place this information in the tenant file. Under no circumstances will the PHA request a participant's medical record(s). For more information on healthcare privacy laws, see the Department of Health and Human Services' website at <http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/>.

The above-cited regulation does not prohibit the following inquiries, provided these inquiries are made of all applicants, whether or not they are persons with disabilities [VG, p. 24]:

- Inquiry into an applicant's ability to meet the requirements of ownership or tenancy
- Inquiry to determine whether an applicant is qualified for a dwelling available only to persons with disabilities or to persons with a particular type of disability
- Inquiry to determine whether an applicant for a dwelling is qualified for a priority available to persons with disabilities or to persons with a particular type of disability
- Inquiring whether an applicant for a dwelling is a current illegal abuser or addict of a controlled substance
- Inquiring whether an applicant has been convicted of the illegal manufacture or distribution of a controlled substance

## **Family Members Receiving SSA Disability Benefits**

Verification of the receipt of disability benefits from the Social Security Administration (SSA) is sufficient verification of disability for the purpose of qualifying for waiting list preferences (if applicable) or certain income disallowances and deductions [VG, p. 23].

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

For family members claiming disability who receive disability benefits from the SSA, Jacksonville Housing will attempt to obtain information about disability benefits through the HUD Enterprise Income Verification (EIV) system. If documentation from HUD's EIV System is not available, Jacksonville Housing will request a current (dated within the last 60 days) SSA benefit verification letter from each family member claiming disability status. If the family is unable to provide the document(s), Jacksonville Housing will ask the family to request a benefit verification letter by either calling SSA at 1-800-772-1213 or by requesting it from [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov). Once the applicant or participant receives the benefit verification letter, they will be required to provide it to Jacksonville Housing.

## **Family Members Not Receiving SSA Disability Benefits**

Receipt of veteran's disability benefits, worker's compensation, or other non-SSA benefits based on the individual's claimed disability is not sufficient verification that the individual meets HUD's definition of disability in 24 CFR 5.403.

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

For family members claiming disability who do not receive disability benefits from the SSA, a knowledgeable professional must provide third-party verification that the family member meets the HUD definition of disability. See the Eligibility chapter for the HUD definition of disability. The knowledgeable professional will verify whether the family member does or does not meet the HUD definition.

## **P. CITIZENSHIP OR ELIGIBLE IMMIGRATION STATUS [24 CFR 5.508]**

### **Overview**

Housing assistance is not available to persons who are not citizens, nationals, or eligible immigrants. Prorated assistance is provided for "mixed families" containing both eligible and ineligible persons. The Eligibility chapter details Eligibility requirements. This verifications chapter discusses HUD and PHA verification requirements related to citizenship status.

The family must provide a certification that identifies each family member as a U.S. citizen, a U.S. national, an eligible noncitizen or an ineligible noncitizen and submit the documents discussed below for each family member. Once eligibility to receive assistance has been verified for an individual it need not be collected or verified again during continuously-assisted occupancy. [24 CFR 5.508(g)(5)]

### **U.S. Citizens and Nationals**

HUD requires a declaration for each family member who claims to be a U.S. citizen or national. The declaration must be signed personally by any family member 18 or older and by a guardian for minors.

The PHA may request verification of the declaration by requiring presentation of a birth certificate, United States passport or other appropriate documentation.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

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

### **Eligible Immigrants**

#### ***Documents Required***

All family members claiming eligible immigration status must declare their status in the same manner as U.S. citizens and nationals.

The documentation required for eligible noncitizens varies depending upon factors such as the date the person entered the U.S., the conditions under which eligible immigration status has been granted, age, and the date the family began receiving HUD-funded assistance. Exhibit 7-1 at the end of this chapter summarizes the documents family members must provide.

#### ***PHA Verification*** [HCV GB, pp. 5-3 and 5-7]

For family members age 62 or older who claim to be eligible immigrants, proof of age is required in the manner described in 7-II.C. of this plan. No further verification of eligible immigration status is required.

For family members under the age of 62 who claim to be eligible immigrants, the PHA must verify immigration status with the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

The PHA will follow all USCIS protocols for verification of eligible immigration status.

### **Q. VERIFICATION OF PREFERENCE STATUS**

The PHA must verify any preferences claimed by an applicant that determined placement on the waiting list.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will offer a preference to any family that has been terminated from its HCV program due to insufficient program funding. Jacksonville Housing will verify this preference using Jacksonville Housing's termination records.

Jacksonville Housing also offers a preference for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking, as described in this Administrative Plan. To verify



that applicants qualify for the preference, Jacksonville Housing will follow the documentation requirements outlined in this Administrative Plan.

## **R. VERIFYING INCOME AND ASSETS**

Chapter 6 of this plan describes in detail the types of income that are included and excluded and how assets and income from assets are handled. Any income reported by the family must be verified. This part provides PHA policies that supplement the general verification procedures specified in the first part of this chapter.

### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

The following policies do not apply when Jacksonville Housing uses a Safe Harbor income determination from a means-tested federal assistance program.

## **EARNED INCOME**

### **Tips**

#### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

Unless tip income is included in a family member's W-2 by the employer or in UIV verification sources, persons who work in industries where tips are standard will be required to sign a certified estimate of tips received for the prior year or tips anticipated to be received in the coming year.

### **Wages**

#### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

When Jacksonville Housing requires third-party verification of wages, for wages other than tips, the family must provide originals of the two most current, consecutive pay stubs.

## **S. BUSINESS AND SELF EMPLOYMENT INCOME**

When the income type is not available in EIV, the PHA must obtain written, third-party verification. This includes income from self-employment.

### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

Business owners and self-employed persons will be required to provide:

- Income tax returns with corresponding official tax forms and schedules attached and including third-party receipt of transmission for an income tax return filed (i.e., tax preparer's transmittal receipt, a summary of transmittal from an online source, etc.).
- If accelerated depreciation was used on the tax return or financial statement, an accountant's calculation of depreciation expense was computed using straight-line depreciation rules.

For self-employed individuals who claim they do not have to file tax returns, Jacksonville Housing will obtain a completed copy of IRS Form 4506-T to verify that no return has been filed.

For those employed in “gig employment” (i.e., those in formal agreements with on-demand companies such as Uber, Lyft, or DoorDash), the PHA will provide a format for the individual to declare their income and expenses. The PHA will also review the printed statement of monthly income from the applicable app for all hours worked and pay received, as well as the Schedule C of the individual’s tax return and the corresponding IRS Form 1099 or 1099k.

The PHA will provide a format for any person who is unable to provide such a statement to record income and expenses for the coming year. The business owner/self-employed person will be required to submit the information requested and to certify to its accuracy at all future reexaminations. At any reexamination the PHA may request documents that support submitted financial statements such as manifests, appointment books, cash books, or bank statements.

If a family member has been self-employed for less than three (3) months, the PHA will accept the family member's certified estimate of income and schedule an interim reexamination in three (3) months. If the family member has been self-employed for three (3) to twelve (12) months, the PHA will require the family to provide documentation of income and expenses for this period and use that information to project income.

#### **T. PERIODIC PAYMENTS AND PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF EARNINGS**

For policies governing streamlined income determinations for fixed sources of income, please see Chapter 11.

#### **Social Security/SSI Benefits [Notice PIH 2023-27]**

Verification requirements for Social Security (SS) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits differ for applicants and participants.

For applicants, since EIV does not contain SS or SSI benefit information, the PHA must ask applicants to provide a copy of their current SS and/or SSI benefit letter (dated within the last 120 calendar days) for each family member that receives SS and/or SSI benefits. If the family is unable to provide the document or documents, the PHA should help the applicant request a benefit verification letter from SSA’s website at [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov) or ask the family to request one by calling SSA at 1-800-772-1213. The PHA must obtain the original benefit letter from the applicant, make a photocopy of the document for the file, and return the original to the family.

For participants, the PHA must obtain information through the HUD EIV system and confirm with the participants that the current listed benefit amount is correct.

- If the participant agrees with the amount reported in EIV, the PHA must use the EIV-reported gross benefit amount to calculate annual income from Social Security. PHAs are required to use the EIV-reported SS and SSI benefit amounts when calculating income unless the tenant disputes the EIV-reported amount. For example, an SSA benefit letter

may list the monthly benefit amount as \$450.80 and EIV displays the amount as \$450.00. The PHA must use the EIV-reported amount unless the participant disputes the amount.

- If the participant disputes the EIV-reported benefit amount, or if benefit information is not available in EIV, the PHA must request a current SSA benefit verification letter (dated within the last 120 calendar days) from each family member that receives SS and/or SSI benefits. If the family is unable to provide the document or documents, the PHA should help the participant request a benefit verification letter from SSA's website at [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov) or ask the family to request one by calling SSA at 1-800-772-1213. The PHA must obtain the original benefit letter from the participant, make a photocopy of the document for the file, and return the original to the family.

Photocopies of social security checks or bank statements are not acceptable forms of verification for SS/SSI benefits.

#### **U. ALIMONY OR CHILD SUPPORT [Notice PIH 2023-27]**

Annual income includes "all amounts received," not the amount that a family may be legally entitled to receive but which they do not receive. For example, a family's child support or alimony income must be based on payments received, not the amounts to which the family is entitled by court or agency orders. A copy of a court order or other written payment agreement alone may not be sufficient verification of amounts received by a family.

##### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

- Verification will be obtained in the following order of priority:
- Copies of the receipts and/or payment stubs for the 12 months prior to the PHA request
- Third-party verification form from the state or local child support enforcement agency
- Third-party verification form from the person paying the support
- Family's self-certification of amount received

**Note:** Families are not required to undertake independent enforcement action.

#### **V. NONRECURRING INCOME [Notice PIH 2023-27]**

Income that will not be repeated beyond the coming year (i.e., the 12 months following the effective date of the certification), based on information provided by the family, is considered nonrecurring income and is excluded from annual income. PHAs may accept a self-certification from the family stating that the income will not be repeated in the coming year.

##### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

Jacksonville Housing will accept self-certification from the family, stating that income will not be repeated in the coming year. However, Jacksonville Housing may choose, on a case-by-case basis, to require third-party verification that income sources will not be repeated in the coming year.

## **W. ASSETS AND INCOME FROM ASSETS**

### **Net Family Assets [24 CFR 5.603]**

At admission and reexaminations for families with net assets totaling \$50,000 or less (adjusted annually), the PHA may but is not required to, accept the family's self-certification that the family's assets do not exceed \$50,000 without taking any additional steps to verify the accuracy of the declaration. The declaration must include the amount of income the family expects to receive from assets which must be included in the family's income. This includes declaring income from checking and savings accounts, which, although excluded from the calculation of net family assets (because the combined value of non-necessary personal property does not exceed \$50,000), may generate asset income. PHAs must clarify during the self-certification process which assets are included/excluded from net family assets.

For PHAs that choose to accept self-certification, the PHA is required to obtain third-party verification of all assets, regardless of the amount, at least once every three years.

PHAs who choose not to accept self-certifications of assets must verify all families' assets on an annual basis.

When net family assets have a total value over \$50,000, the PHA may not rely on the family's self-certification. Third-party verification of assets is required when net family assets exceed \$50,000, adjusted annually by HUD.

When assets must be verified, PHAs must obtain at least one statement reflecting the current balance of banking/financial accounts.

### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

For families with net assets totaling \$50,000 or less, Jacksonville Housing will accept the family's self-certification of the value of family assets and anticipated asset income. The family's declaration must show each asset and the amount of income expected from that asset. All family members 18 years of age and older must sign the family's declaration. Jacksonville Housing reserves the right to require additional verification in situations where the accuracy of the declaration is in question. Any income the family expects to receive from assets will be included in the family's annual income. The family will be required to provide third-party verification of net family assets every three years.

When verification is required, in determining the value of checking or savings accounts, Jacksonville Housing will use the current balance.

In determining the anticipated income from an interest-bearing checking or savings account when verification is required, and the rate of return is known, Jacksonville Housing will multiply the current balance of the account by the current rate of interest paid on the account. If a checking account does not bear interest, the anticipated income from the account is zero.

## **Self-Certification of Real Property Ownership [24 CFR 5.618(b)(2); Notice PIH 2023-27]**

The PHA must determine whether a family has present ownership in real property that is suitable for occupancy for purposes of determining whether the family is compliant with the asset limitation described in Chapters 3. The PHA may accept a self-certification from the family stating that the family does not have any present ownership in any real property. If the family certifies that they do not have any present ownership interest in real property, the PHA may take that as sufficient to determine the family is not out of compliance with the real property restriction. If the family declares they have present ownership in real property, the PHA must obtain third-party verification of the family's legal right to reside in the property, the effective legal authority to sell the property, and whether the property is suitable for occupancy by the family as a residence.

### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

Jacksonville Housing will accept self-certification from the family that the family does not have any present ownership in any real property. The certification will state that the family does not have any present ownership interest in any real property and must be signed by all family members 18 years of age and older. Jacksonville Housing reserves the right to require additional verification in situations where the accuracy of the declaration is in question.

If the family declares they have a present ownership in real property, Jacksonville Housing will obtain third-party verification of the following factors: whether the family has the legal right to reside in the property, whether the family has effective legal authority to sell the property; and whether the property is suitable for occupancy by the family as a residence. However, in cases where a family member is a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, Jacksonville Housing will comply with confidentiality requirements under 24 CFR 5.2007 and will accept a self-certification.

## **X. ASSETS DISPOSED OF FOR LESS THAN FAIR MARKET VALUE**

The family must certify whether any assets have been disposed of for less than fair market value in the preceding two years. HUD permits PHAs to accept a self-certification from a family as verification of assets disposed of for less than fair market value [HCV GB, p. 5-28]. The PHA needs to verify only those certifications that warrant documentation [HCV GB, p. 5-28].

### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

Jacksonville Housing will accept a family's self-certification as verification of assets disposed of for less than fair market value.

Jacksonville Housing will verify the value of assets disposed of only if:

- Jacksonville Housing does not already have a reasonable estimation of its value from previously collected information, or
- The amount reported by the family in the certification appears obviously in error.

Example 1: An elderly participant reported a \$10,000 certificate of deposit at the last annual reexamination and the PHA verified this amount. Now the person reports that they have given this \$10,000 to their son. The PHA has a reasonable estimate of the value of the asset; therefore, reverification of the value of the asset is not necessary.

Example 2: A family member has disposed of its 1/4 share of real property located in a desirable area and has valued their share at approximately \$5,000. Based upon market conditions, this declaration does not seem realistic. Therefore, the PHA will verify the value of this asset.

## **Y. NET INCOME FROM RENTAL PROPERTY**

### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

The family must provide:

- A current executed lease for the property that shows the rental amount or certification from the current tenant
- A self-certification from the family members engaged in the rental of property providing an estimate of expenses for the coming year and the most recent IRS Form 1040 with Schedule E (Rental Income).
- If schedule E was not prepared, the PHA will require the family members involved in renting the property to provide a self-certification of income and expenses for the previous year and may request documentation to support the statement, including tax statements, insurance invoices, bills for reasonable maintenance and utilities, and bank statements or amortization schedules showing monthly interest expense.

## **Z. FEDERAL TAX REFUNDS OR REFUNDABLE TAX CREDITS [Notice PIH 2023-27]**

PHAs are not required to verify the amount of the family's federal tax refund or refundable tax credit(s) if the family's net assets are equal to or below \$50,000 (adjusted annually for inflation), even in years when full verification of assets is required or if the PHA does not accept self-certification of assets. PHAs must verify the amount of the family's federal tax refund or refundable tax credits if the family's net assets are greater than \$50,000.

## **AA. RETIREMENT ACCOUNTS**

### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

Jacksonville Housing will accept an original document from the entity holding the account dated no earlier than 12 months before that reflects any distributions of the account balance, any lump sums taken, and any regular payments.

## **BB. INCOME FROM EXCLUDED SOURCES [Notice PIH 2023-27]**

A detailed discussion of excluded income is provided in Chapter 6, Section I.

HUD guidance on verifying excluded income distinguishes between income that is fully excluded and income that is only partially excluded.

For fully excluded income, the PHA is not required to follow the verification hierarchy, For fully excluded income, the PHA is not required to document why third-party verification is not available or report the income on the 50058. *Fully excluded income* is defined as income where the entire amount qualifies to be excluded from the annual income determination in accordance with 24 CFR 5.609(b) and any *Federal Register* notice on mandatory exclusions issued by HUD (for example, food stamps, earned income of a minor, or foster care funds).

PHAs may accept a family's signed application or reexamination form as self-certification of fully excluded income. They do not have to require additional documentation. However, if there is any doubt that a source of income qualifies for full exclusion, PHAs have the option of requiring additional verification.

For partially excluded income, the PHA is required to follow the verification hierarchy and all applicable regulations and to report the income on the 50058. Partially excluded income is defined as income where only a certain portion of what is reported by the family qualifies to be excluded and the remainder is included in annual income (for example, the income of an adult full-time student).

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will accept the family's self-certification as verification of fully excluded income. Jacksonville Housing may request additional documentation if necessary to document the income source.

Jacksonville Housing will verify the source and amount of partially excluded income as described in the first part of this chapter.

### **CC. ZERO INCOME FAMILIES [Notice PIH 2023-27]**

PHAs have the discretion to establish reasonable procedures to manage the risk of unreported income, such as asking families to complete a zero-income worksheet at admission or periodically after admission to determine if they have any sources of unreported income or searching any UIV sources for unreported income.

In calculating annual income, PHAs must not assign monetary value to nonmonetary in-kind donations from a food bank or similar organization received by the family [24 CFR § 5.609(b)(24)(vi)].

PHAs may accept a family's self-certification of zero income without taking any additional steps to verify zero reported income. HUD does not require such self-certifications to be notarized.

PHAs that perform zero-income reviews must update local discretionary policies, procedures, and forms. Families who begin receiving income that does not trigger an interim reexamination should no longer be considered zero income, even though the family's income is not reflected on Form HUD-50058.

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will check UIV sources and/or may request information from third-party sources to verify that certain forms of income, such as unemployment benefits, TANF, SS, SSI, earned income, child support, etc., are not being received by families claiming to have zero annual income.

Jacksonville Housing will also require that each family member who claims zero income status complete a zero-income form. If any sources of income are identified on the form, Jacksonville Housing will verify the income in accordance with the policies in this chapter prior to including the income in the family's annual income.

Jacksonville Housing will only conduct interims in accordance with PHA policy in Chapter 11.

### **DD. STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE [24 CFR 5.609(b)(9)]**

The regulations under HOTMA distinguish between two categories of student financial assistance paid to both full-time and part-time students. Any assistance to students under section 479B of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (Title IV of the HEA) must be excluded from the family's annual income [24 CFR 5.609(b)(9)(i)]. Any other grant-in-aid, scholarship, or other assistance amounts an individual receives for the actual covered costs charged by the institute of higher education not otherwise excluded by the federally mandated income exclusions are included [24 CFR 5.609(b)(9)(ii)].

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will request written third-party verification of both the source and the amount of student financial assistance. Family-provided documents from the educational institution attended by the student will be requested, as well as documents generated by any other person or entity providing such assistance, as reported by the student.

In addition, unless the student's only source of assistance is assistance under Title IV of the HEA, Jacksonville Housing will request written verification of the cost of the student's tuition, books, supplies, room and board, and other required fees and charges to the student from the educational institution.

If Jacksonville Housing is unable to obtain third-party written verification of the requested information, JH will pursue other forms of verification following the verification hierarchy in section B.

### **EE. PARENTAL INCOME OF STUDENTS SUBJECT TO ELIGIBILITY RESTRICTIONS**

If a student enrolled at an institution of higher education is under the age of 24, is not a veteran, is not married, does not have a dependent child, and is not a person with disabilities receiving HCV assistance as of November 30, 2005, the income of the student's parents must be considered when determining income eligibility, unless the student is determined independently



from their parents or a *vulnerable youth* in accordance with PHA policy [24 CFR 5.612, FR Notice 4/10/06, p. 18146, and FR Notice 9/21/16].

This provision does not apply to students residing with parents who are seeking or receiving HCV assistance. It is limited to students who are seeking or receiving assistance on their own, separately from their parents.

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

If Jacksonville Housing is required to determine the income eligibility of a student's parents, JH will request an income declaration and certification of income from the appropriate parent(s) (as determined in section E). Jacksonville Housing will send the request directly to the parents, who will be required to certify their income under penalty of perjury. The parents will be required to submit the information directly to Jacksonville Housing. The required information must be submitted (postmarked) within 10 business days of the date of Jacksonville Housing's request or within any extended timeframe approved by Jacksonville Housing.

Jacksonville Housing reserves the right to request and review supporting documentation at any time if it questions the declaration or certification. Supporting documentation may include, but is not limited to, Internal Revenue Service (IRS) tax returns, consecutive and original pay stubs, bank statements, pension benefit statements, benefit award letters, and other official and authentic documents from a federal, state, or local agency.

## **VERIFYING MANDATORY DEDUCTIONS**

### **FF. DEPENDENT AND ELDERLY/DISABLED HOUSEHOLD DEDUCTIONS**

The dependent and elderly/disabled family deductions require only that the PHA verify that the family members identified as dependents or elderly/disabled persons meet the statutory definitions. No further verifications are required.

#### **Dependent Deduction**

See Chapter 6 for a full discussion of this deduction. The PHA must verify that:

- Any person under the age of 18 for whom the dependent deduction is claimed is not the head, spouse, or cohead of the family and is not a foster child
- Any person age 18 or older for whom the dependent deduction is claimed is not a foster adult or live-in aide and is a person with a disability or a full-time student

#### **Elderly/Disabled Family Deduction**

See the Eligibility chapter for a definition of elderly and disabled families and Chapter 6 for a discussion of the deduction. The PHA must verify that the head, spouse, or cohead is 62 years of age or older or a person with disabilities.

## **GG. HEALTH AND MEDICAL CARE EXPENSE DEDUCTION**

Chapter 6 contains policies related to medical expenses. The amount of the deduction will be verified following the standard verification procedures described in Part I.

The PHA must comply with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) ([Pub. L. 104-191](#), 110 Stat. 1936) and the Privacy Act of 1974 (Pub. L. 93-579, 88 Stat. 1896) when requesting documentation to determine unreimbursed health and medical care expenses. The PHA may not request documentation beyond what is sufficient to determine anticipated health and medical care costs. Before placing bills and documentation in the tenant file, the PHA must redact all personally identifiable information [FR Notice 2/14/23].

### **Amount of Expense**

#### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

Medical expenses will be verified through:

- Written third-party documents provided by the family, such as pharmacy printouts or receipts.
- When income is projected at new admission or interim, the PHA will make the best effort to determine what expenses from the past are likely to continue to occur in the future. The PHA will also accept evidence of monthly payments or total payments that will be due for medical expenses during the upcoming 12 months.
- Written third-party verification forms if the family is unable to provide acceptable documentation.
- When income is projected at new admission or interim if third-party or document review is not possible, written family certification as to costs anticipated to be incurred during the upcoming 12 months.

Before placing bills and documentation in the tenant file, Jacksonville Housing will redact all personally identifiable information.

If Jacksonville Housing receives documentation from a verification source that contains the individual's specific diagnosis, information regarding the individual's treatment, and/or information regarding the nature or severity of the person's disability, Jacksonville Housing will immediately dispose of this confidential information; this information will never be maintained in the individual's file. If the information needs to be disposed of, Jacksonville Housing will note in the individual's file that verification was received, the date received, and the name and address of the person/organization that provided the verification. Under no circumstances will Jacksonville Housing include an applicant's or resident's medical records in the file [Notice PIH 2010-26].

In addition, the PHA must verify that:

- The household is eligible for the deduction.
- The costs to be deducted are qualified health and medical care expenses.

- The expenses are not paid for or reimbursed by any other source.
- Costs incurred in past years are counted only once.

### **Eligible Household**

The health and medical care expense deduction is permitted only for households in which the head, spouse, or cohead is at least 62, or a person with disabilities. The PHA must verify that the family meets the definition of an elderly or disabled family provided in the Eligibility chapter and as described in Chapter 7 of this plan.

### **Qualified Expenses**

To be eligible for the health and medical care expense deduction, the costs must qualify as medical expenses. See Chapter 6 for the PHA's policy on what counts as a medical expense.

### **Unreimbursed Expenses**

To be eligible for the health and medical care expense deduction, the costs must not be reimbursed by another source.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

The family will be required to certify that the medical expenses are not paid or reimbursed to the family from any source. If expenses are verified through a third party, the third party must certify that the expenses are not paid or reimbursed from any other source.

### **Expenses Incurred in Past Years**

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

At new admission, annual, and interim re-exam, when anticipated costs are related to ongoing payment of medical bills incurred in past years, Jacksonville Housing will verify:

- The anticipated repayment schedule
- The amounts paid in the past, and
- Whether the amounts to be repaid have been deducted from the family's annual income in past years

## **HH. DISABILITY ASSISTANCE EXPENSES**

Policies related to disability assistance expenses are found in section 6-E. The amount of the deduction will be verified following the standard verification procedures described in that chapter.

The PHA must comply with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) (Pub. L. 104-191, 110 Stat. 1936) and the Privacy Act of 1974 (Pub. L. 93-579, 88 Stat. 1896) when requesting documentation to determine unreimbursed auxiliary apparatus or attendance care costs. The PHA may not request documentation beyond what is sufficient to determine

anticipated reasonable attendant care and auxiliary apparatus costs. Before placing bills and documentation in the tenant file, the PHA must redact all personally identifiable information [FR Notice 2/14/23].

## **Amount of Expense**

### ***Attendant Care***

#### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

Expenses for attendant care will be verified through:

- Written third-party documents provided by the family, such as receipts or cancelled checks.
- Third-party verification form signed by the provider, if family-provided documents are not available.
- When income is projected at new admission or interim, if third-party verification is not possible, written family certification as to costs anticipated to be incurred for the upcoming 12 months.

Before placing bills and documentation in the tenant file, Jacksonville Housing will redact all personally identifiable information.

If Jacksonville Housing receives documentation from a verification source that contains the individual's specific diagnosis, information regarding the individual's treatment, and/or information regarding the nature or severity of the person's disability, JH will immediately dispose of this confidential information; this information will never be maintained in the individual's file. If the information needs to be disposed of, Jacksonville Housing will note in the individual's file that verification was received, the date received, and the name and address of the person/organization that provided the verification. Under no circumstances will JH include an applicant's or resident's medical records in the file [Notice PIH 2010-26].

### ***Auxiliary Apparatus***

#### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

Expenses for auxiliary apparatus will be verified through:

- Written third-party documents provided by the family, such as billing statements for purchase of auxiliary apparatus, or other evidence of monthly payments or total payments that will be due for the apparatus during the upcoming 12 months.
- Third-party verification form signed by the provider, if family-provided documents are not available.
- If third-party verification is not possible, written family certification of estimated apparatus costs for the upcoming 12 months.

In addition, Jacksonville Housing must verify that:

- The family member for whom the expense is incurred is a person with disabilities

- The expense permits a family member, or members, to work
- The expense is not reimbursed from another source

### **Family Member is a Person with Disabilities**

To be eligible for the disability assistance expense deduction, the costs must be incurred for attendant care or auxiliary apparatus expenses associated with a person with disabilities. The PHA will verify that the expense is incurred for a person with disabilities (See 7-II.F.).

### **Family Member(s) Permitted to Work**

The PHA must verify that the expenses claimed actually enable a family member or members (including the person with disabilities) to work.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will request third-party verification from a rehabilitation agency or knowledgeable medical professional indicating that the person with disabilities requires attendant care or an auxiliary apparatus to be employed or that the attendant care or auxiliary apparatus enables another family member or member to work. This documentation may be provided by the family.

If third-party verification has been attempted and is either unavailable or proves unsuccessful, the family must certify that the disability assistance expense frees a family member or members (possibly including the family member receiving the assistance) to work.

### **Unreimbursed Expenses**

To be eligible for the disability expenses deduction, the costs must not be reimbursed by another source.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

The family will be required to certify that attendant care or auxiliary apparatus expenses are not paid by or reimbursed to the family from any source.

## **II. CHILDCARE EXPENSES**

Policies related to childcare expenses are found in Chapter 6. The amount of the deduction will be verified following the standard verification procedures described in Part I of this chapter. In addition, the PHA must verify that:

- The child is eligible for care (12 or younger).
- The costs claimed are not reimbursed.
- The costs enable a family member to work, actively seek work, or further their education.
- The costs are for an allowable type of childcare.

- The costs are reasonable.

### **Eligible Childcare**

To be eligible for the childcare deduction, the costs must be incurred for the care of a child under the age of 13. The PHA will verify that the child being cared for (including foster children) is under the age of 13.

### **Unreimbursed Expense**

To be eligible for the childcare deduction, the costs must not be reimbursed by another source.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

The family (and the care provider) will be required to certify that the childcare expenses are not paid or reimbursed to the family from any source.

### **Pursuing an Eligible Activity**

The PHA must verify that the family member(s) that the family has identified as being enabled to seek work, pursue education, or be gainfully employed, are actually pursuing those activities.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

##### *Information to be Gathered*

Jacksonville Housing will verify information about how the schedule for the claimed activity relates to the hours of care provided, the time required for transportation, the time required for study (for students), the relationship of the family member(s) to the child, and any special needs of the child that might help determine which family member is enabled to pursue an eligible activity.

##### *Seeking Work*

Whenever possible, Jacksonville Housing will use documentation from a state or local agency that monitors work-related requirements (e.g., welfare or unemployment). In such cases, Jacksonville Housing will request family-provided verification from the agency of the member's job-seeking efforts to date and require the family to submit to Jacksonville Housing any reports provided to the other agency.

In the event third-party verification is not available, Jacksonville Housing will provide the family with a form on which the family member must record job search efforts. The PHA will review this information at each subsequent reexamination for which this deduction is claimed.

##### *Furthering Education*

Jacksonville Housing will request third-party documentation to verify that the person permitted to further their education by childcare is enrolled and provide information about the timing of classes for which the person is registered. The documentation may be provided by the family.

### *Gainful Employment*

Jacksonville Housing will seek third-party verification of the work schedule of the person who is permitted to work by childcare. In cases in which two or more family members could be permitted to work, the work schedules for all relevant family members may be verified. The documentation may be provided by the family.

### **Allowable Type of Childcare**

The type of care to be provided is determined by the family, but must fall within certain guidelines, as discussed in Chapter 6.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will verify that the type of childcare selected by the family is allowable, as described in Chapter 6.

Jacksonville Housing will verify that the fees paid to the childcare provider cover only childcare costs (e.g., no housekeeping services or personal services) and are paid only for the care of an eligible child (e.g., prorate costs if some of the care is provided for ineligible family members).

Jacksonville Housing will verify that the childcare provider is not an assisted family member. Verification will be made through the head of household's declaration of family members who are expected to reside in the unit.

### **Reasonableness of Expenses**

Only reasonable childcare costs can be deducted.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

The actual costs the family incurs will be compared with Jacksonville Housing's established standards of reasonableness for the type of care in the locality to ensure that the costs are reasonable.

If the family presents a justification for costs that exceed typical costs in the area, Jacksonville Housing will request additional documentation, as required, to support a determination that the higher cost is appropriate.

**EXHIBIT 7-1: SUMMARY OF DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS  
FOR NONCITIZENS [HCV GB, pp. 5-9 and 5-10]**

- All noncitizens claiming eligible status must sign a declaration of eligible immigrant status on a form acceptable to the PHA.
- Except for persons 62 or older, all noncitizens must sign a verification consent form
- Additional documents are required based on the person's status.

**Elderly Noncitizens**

- A person 62 years of age or older who claims eligible immigration status also must provide proof of age such as a birth certificate, passport, or documents showing receipt of SS old-age benefits.

**All other Noncitizens**

- Noncitizens who claim eligible immigration status also must present the applicable USCIS document. Acceptable USCIS documents are listed below.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Form I-551 Alien Registration Receipt Card (for permanent resident aliens)</li> <li>• Form I-94 Arrival-Departure Record annotated with one of the following:</li> <li>• “Admitted as a Refugee Pursuant to Section 207”</li> <li>• “Section 208” or “Asylum”</li> <li>• “Section 243(h)” or “Deportation stayed by Attorney General”</li> <li>• “Paroled Pursuant to Section 221 (d)(5) of the USCIS”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Form I-94 Arrival-Departure Record with no annotation accompanied by:</li> <li>• A final court decision granting asylum (but only if no appeal is taken);</li> <li>• A letter from a USCIS asylum officer granting asylum (if the application is filed on or after 10/1/90) or from a USCIS district director granting asylum (application filed before 10/1/90);</li> <li>• A court decision granting withholding of deportation; or</li> <li>• A letter from an asylum officer granting withholding or deportation (if application filed on or after 10/1/90).</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Form I-688 Temporary Resident Card annotated “Section 245A” or Section 210”.</li> </ul>	<p>Form I-688B Employment Authorization Card annotated “Provision of Law 274a.12(11)” or “Provision of Law 274a.12”.</p>



- A receipt issued by the USCIS indicating that an application for issuance of a replacement document in one of the above listed categories has been made and the applicant's entitlement to the document has been verified; or
- Other acceptable evidence. If other documents are determined by the USCIS to constitute acceptable evidence of eligible immigration status, they will be announced by notice published in the *Federal Register*

## **CHAPTER 8 NSPIRE AND RENT REASONABLENESS DETERMINATIONS**

### **INTRODUCTION** [24 CFR 5 Subpart G and Notice PIH 2023-28]

HUD requires that all units occupied by families receiving Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) and Project Based Voucher (PBV) assistance meet HUD's National Standards for the Physical Inspection of Real Estate (NSPIRE) regulations and standards no later than October 1, 2024. The inspection performance standards and procedures for conducting NSPIRE inspections must be included in the administrative plan [Notice PIH 2023-28].

All units must pass an NSPIRE inspection prior to the approval of a lease (with some exceptions) and at least once every 24 months (or 36 months for small rural PHAs) during the term of the HAP contract, and at other times as needed, to determine that the unit meets NSPIRE standards. HUD also requires PHAs to determine that rents for units under the program are reasonable when compared to comparable unassisted units in the market area.

Provided they meet certain requirements, HUD permits PHAs to establish some additional local requirements in their administrative plans. The term *NSPIRE* in this plan refers to the combination of HUD-established and PHA-established requirements. However, in state and local codes, compliance is not part of the determination of whether a unit passes the NSPIRE standards.

This chapter explains HUD and PHA requirements related to physical inspections and rent reasonableness as follows:

Physical Standards. This part discusses NSPIRE standards required of units occupied by HCV and PBV-assisted families. It also identifies affirmative habitability requirements for all units and life-threatening conditions that must be corrected in 24 hours.

The Inspection Process. This part describes the types of inspections the PHA will make and the steps that will be taken when units do not meet NSPIRE standards.

Rent Reasonableness Determinations. This part discusses the policies the PHA will use to make rent reasonableness determinations.

Chapter 15 discusses special NSPIRE requirements for homeownership, manufactured homes, and other special housing types to the extent that they apply in this jurisdiction. Special requirements for the PBV and RAD PBV programs (if applicable) are discussed in Chapters 17 and 18, respectively.

### **A. NSPIRE STANDARDS**

NSPIRE standards are published on HUD's NSPIRE website as well as in the NSPIRE Final Rule [FR Notice 5/1/2023].

### **INSPECTABLE AREAS** [24 CFR 5.703(a)(1) and 24 CFR 5.705(a)(2)]

NSPIRE defines the inspectable areas for inspection under the standards as inside, outside, and unit. However, the inspection requirement for the HCV and PBV programs only applies to units

occupied or to be occupied by HCV or PBV participants and common areas and exterior areas which either service or are associated with such units.

## **B. AFFIRMATIVE HABITABILITY REQUIREMENTS [24 CFR 5.703(b), (c), and (d)]**

NSPIRE provides for minimum, or affirmative, habitability requirements for each area (unit, inside, outside). These areas must meet these requirements for habitability, which are listed in Exhibit 8-1.

The inside, outside and unit must be free of health and safety hazards that pose a danger to residents. Types of health and safety concerns include, but are not limited to carbon monoxide, electrical hazards, extreme temperature, flammable materials or other fire hazards, garbage and debris, handrail hazards, infestation, lead-based paint, mold, and structural soundness [24 CFR 5.703(e)].

The NSPIRE Smoke Alarm Standard does not require smoke alarms to have sealed batteries; however, sealed batteries will be required upon the effective date of the Public and Federally Assisted Housing Fire Safety Act of 2022, which is December 29, 2024.

## **C. MODIFICATIONS TO PROVIDE ACCESSIBILITY [24 CFR 100.203; Notice 2003-31; and Notice PIH 2014-02]**

Under the Fair Housing Act of 1988, an owner must make reasonable accommodations in rules, policies, practices, or services if necessary for a person with disabilities to use the housing and must not refuse the request of a family that contains a person with a disability to make necessary and reasonable modifications to the unit if such modification is necessary to afford the person with a disability full enjoyment of the premises. Such modifications are at the family's expense. The owner may, where it is reasonable to do so, require restoration of the unit to its original condition (reasonable wear and tear excepted) if the modification would interfere with the owner or next occupant's full enjoyment of the premises. The owner may not increase a customarily required security deposit. However, the landlord may negotiate a restoration agreement that requires the family to restore the unit and, if necessary to ensure the likelihood of restoration, may require the tenant to pay a reasonable amount into an interest-bearing escrow account over a reasonable period of time. The interest in any such account accrues to the benefit of the tenant. The owner may also require reasonable assurances that the quality of the work will be acceptable and that any required building permits will be obtained. [24 CFR 100.203; Notice 2003-31].

Modifications to units to provide access for a person with a disability must meet all applicable NSPIRE requirements and conform to the design, construction, or alteration of facilities contained in the UFAS and the ADA Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) [28 CFR 35.151(c) and Notice 2003-31] See Chapter 4 of this plan for additional information on reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities.

### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

Any owner who intends to negotiate a restoration agreement or requires an escrow account must submit the agreement(s) to Jacksonville Housing for review.

**D. ADDITIONAL LOCAL REQUIREMENTS [24 CFR 5.705(a)(3) and Notice PIH 2023-28]**

The PHA may impose variations to the NSPIRE standards as long as the additional criteria are not likely to adversely affect the health or safety of participant families or severely restrict housing choices for families. HUD approval is required for variations to NSPIRE standards and approved variations must be added to the administrative plan.

HUD may approve inspection criteria variations if the variations apply standards in local housing codes or other codes adopted by the PHA or because of local climatic or geographic conditions. Acceptability criteria variations may only be approved by HUD if such variations either meet or exceed the performance requirements or significantly expand affordable housing opportunities for families assisted under the program.

**Jacksonville Housing Policy**

Jacksonville Housing has not requested any HUD-approved variations to NSPIRE standards.

**E. LIFE-THREATENING DEFICIENCIES [Notice PIH 2023-28]**

HUD previously required the PHA to define life-threatening conditions in the administrative plan. The NSPIRE standards now describe those conditions which are considered life-threatening and must be corrected within 24 hours.

The following are a list of life-threatening deficiencies under NSPIRE:

Inspectable Item	Deficiency
Call-for-Aid System	The system is blocked, or the pull cord is higher than 6 inches off the floor.
	The system does not function properly
Carbon Monoxide Alarm	The carbon monoxide alarm is missing, not installed, or not installed in a proper location.
	The carbon monoxide alarm is obstructed.
	The carbon monoxide alarm does not produce an audio or visual alarm when tested.
Chimney	A visually accessible chimney, flue, or firebox connected to a fireplace or wood-burning appliance is incomplete or damaged such that it may not safely contain fire and convey smoke and combustion gases to the exterior.

Inspectable Item	Deficiency
	Chimney exhibits signs of structural failure.
Clothes Dryer Exhaust Ventilation	Electric dryer transition duct is detached or missing.
	Gas dryer transition duct is detached or missing.
	Electric dryer exhaust ventilation system has restricted airflow.
	Dryer transition duct is constructed of unsuitable material.
	Gas dryer exhaust ventilation system has restricted airflow.
Door – Entry	Entry door is missing.
Door – Fire Labeled	Fire labeled door is missing.
Egress	Obstructed means of egress.
	Sleeping room is located on the third floor or below and has an obstructed rescue opening.
	Fire escape is obstructed.
Electrical – Conductor, Outlet, and Switch	Outlet or switch is damaged.
	Exposed electrical conductor.
	Water is currently in contact with an electrical conductor.
Electrical – Service Panel	The overcurrent protection device is damaged.
Exit Sign	Exit sign is damaged, missing, obstructed, or not adequately illuminated.
Fire Escape	Fire extinguisher is damaged or missing.
Fire Extinguisher	Fire extinguisher pressure gauge reads over or under-charged.
	Fire extinguisher service tag is missing, illegible, or expired.
	Fire extinguisher is damaged or missing.
Flammable and Combustible Items	Flammable or combustible item is on or within 3 feet of an appliance that provides heat for thermal comfort or a fuel-burning water heater; OR

Inspectable Item	Deficiency
	Improperly stored chemicals.
Guardrail	Guardrail is missing or not installed.
	Guardrail is not functionally adequate.
Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC)	The inspection date is on or between October 1 and March 31 and the permanently installed heating source is not working or the permanently installed heating source is working and the interior temperature is below 64 degrees Fahrenheit.
	Unvented space heaters that burns gas, oil, or kerosene is present.
	Combustion chamber cover or gas shutoff valve is missing from a fuel burning heating appliance.
	Fuel-burning heating system or device exhaust vent is misaligned, blocked, disconnected, improperly connected, damaged, or missing.
Leak – Gas or Oil	Natural gas, propane, or oil leak.
Mold-like Substance	Presence of mold-like substance at extremely high levels is observed visually.
Smoke Alarm	Smoke alarm is not installed where required.
	Smoke alarm is obstructed.
	Smoke alarm does not produce an audio or visual alarm when tested.
Sprinkler Assembly	Sprinkler head assembly is encased or obstructed by an item or object that is within 18 inches of the sprinkler head.
	Sprinkler assembly component is damaged, inoperable, or missing and it is detrimental to performance.
	Sprinkler assembly has evidence of corrosion.
	Sprinkler assembly has evidence of foreign material that is detrimental to performance.
Structural System	Structural system exhibits signs of serious failure.

Inspectable Item	Deficiency
Toilet	Only 1 toilet was installed, and it is missing.
Water Heater	Chimney or flue piping is blocked, misaligned, or missing.
	Gas shutoff valve is damaged, missing, or not installed.

However, PHAs may add additional deficiencies which the PHA considers life-threatening provided they are described in the administrative plan.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

In addition to those listed under the NSPIRE standards, the following are considered life-threatening conditions:

Utilities not in service, including no running hot water.

#### **F. OWNER AND FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES [24 CFR 982.404]**

##### **Family Responsibilities**

The family is responsible for correcting the following deficiencies:

- Tenant-paid utilities not in service
- Failure to provide or maintain appliances owned by the family
- Damage to the unit or premises caused by a household member or guest beyond normal wear and tear.

If a family fails to correct a family-caused life-threatening condition as required by the PHA, the PHA will enforce the family obligations.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Damages beyond ordinary wear and tear will be considered to be damages which could be assessed against the security deposit under state law or in court practice.

##### **Owner Responsibilities**

The owner must maintain the unit in accordance with NSPIRE regulations and standards. The owner is not responsible for a breach of the NSPIRE standards that is not caused by the owner, and for which the family is responsible (as provided in 24 CFR 982.404(b) and 982.551(c)).

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

The owner is responsible for all NSPIRE violations not listed as a family responsibility above, even if the violation is caused by the family's living habits (e.g., vermin infestation). However, if the family's actions constitute a serious or repeated lease violation, the owner may take legal action to evict the family.

The owner will be required to repair an inoperable smoke detector unless Jacksonville Housing determines that the family has intentionally disconnected it (by removing batteries or other means). In this case, the family will be required to repair the smoke detector within 24 hours.

If an owner fails to correct life-threatening conditions as required by Jacksonville Housing, the PHA will enforce the NSPIRE standards in accordance with HUD requirements.

### **G. LEAD-BASED PAINT**

PHAs and owners must comply with the requirements and timelines in 24 CFR Part 35 Subpart M—Tenant-Based Rental Assistance and Subpart H—Project-Based Assistance. They are reminded that any deteriorated paint in target housing or other lead-based paint hazard identified through a lead-based paint risk assessment or lead-based paint inspection is considered a violation of NSPIRE standards.

For the HCV program, Subpart M applies to units where a child under age six resides or is expected to reside, common areas that service that unit and exterior painted surfaces associated with that unit or common areas. For project-based programs, Subpart H applies to assisted units and common areas of the property regardless of whether a child under age six resides or is expected to reside in the unit. NSPIRE does not alter any of the lead-based paint requirements in Part 35 for these programs.

#### **Special Requirements for Children with Elevated Blood Lead Level [24 CFR 35.1225; FR Notice 1/13/17; Notice PIH 2017-13]**

If a PHA is notified by a public health department or other medical health care provider or verifies information from a source other than a public health department or medical health care provider, that a child of less than six years of age, living in an HCV-assisted unit has been identified as having an elevated blood lead level, the PHA must complete an environmental investigation of the dwelling unit within 15 calendar days after being notified by a public health department or other medical health care provider. The environmental investigation must be completed in accordance with program requirements, and the result of the environmental investigation must be immediately provided to the owner of the dwelling unit. In cases where the public health department has already completed an evaluation of the unit, this information must be provided to the owner.

Within 30 days after receiving the environmental investigation report from the PHA, or the evaluation from the public health department, the owner is required to complete the reduction of identified lead-based paint hazards in accordance with the lead-based paint regulations [24 CFR 35.1325 and 35.1330; 40 CFR 745.227]. If the owner does not complete the “hazard reduction” as required, the dwelling unit is in violation of NSPIRE and the PHA will take action in accordance with Section G.

Chapter 16 discusses PHA reporting requirements and data collection and record-keeping responsibilities related to children with elevated blood lead levels.

### **H. VIOLATION OF SPACE STANDARDS [24 CFR 5.703(d)(5)]**

Units assisted under the HCV or PBV programs must have at least one bedroom or living/sleeping room for each two person. A living room may be used as a sleeping (bedroom)



space, but no more than two persons may occupy the space [HCV GB p. 10-6]. Each habitable room must have two working outlets or one working outlet and a permanent light. HUD defines a *habitable room* as a room in a building for living, sleeping, eating, or cooking, but excluding bathrooms, toilet rooms, closets, hallways, storage or utility spaces, and similar areas [FR Notice 5/11/23].

A unit that does not meet these space standards is defined as *overcrowded*.

If the PHA determines that a unit is overcrowded because of an increase in family size or a change in family composition, the PHA must issue the family a new voucher, and the family and PHA must try to find an acceptable unit as soon as possible. If an acceptable unit is available for rental by the family, the PHA must terminate the HAP contract in accordance with its terms.

## **THE INSPECTION PROCESS**

### **I. OVERVIEW [24 CFR 982.405]**

#### **Types of Inspections**

The PHA conducts the following types of inspections as needed. The following paragraphs discuss each type of inspection.

*Initial Inspections.* The PHA conducts initial inspections in response to a family request to approve a unit for participation in the HCV program.

*Annual/Biennial Inspections.* HUD requires the PHA to inspect each unit under lease at least annually or biennially (or triennially for small rural PHAs as defined in 24 CFR 982.305(b)(2)), depending on PHA policy, to confirm that the unit still meets NSPIRE standards.

*Special Inspections.* A special inspection may be requested by the owner, the family, or a third party as a result of problems identified with a unit between annual inspections.

*Quality Control Inspections.* HUD requires that a supervisor or other qualified individual inspect a sample of units to evaluate the work of the inspector(s) and ensure that inspections are performed in compliance with the NSPIRE standards.

#### **Inspection of PHA-Owned Units [24 CFR 982.352(b)]**

The PHA must obtain the services of an independent entity to perform all NSPIRE inspections in cases where an HCV family is receiving assistance in a PHA-owned unit. A *PHA-owned unit* is defined as a unit that is owned by the PHA that administers the assistance under the consolidated ACC (including a unit owned by an entity substantially controlled by the PHA). The independent agency must communicate the results of each inspection to the family and the PHA. The independent agency must be approved by HUD and may be the unit of general local government for the PHA jurisdiction (unless the PHA is itself the unit of general local government or an agency of such government).

For information on the inspection of PHA-owned units in the PBV program, see Chapters 17 and 18.

#### **Inspection Costs [Notice PIH 2016-05; 24 CFR 5.705(d)]**

The PHA may not charge the family for unit inspections or reinspections [24 CFR 982.405(e)].

In the case of inspections of PHA-owned units, the PHA may compensate the independent agency for ongoing administrative fees for inspections performed. The PHA and the independent agency may not charge the family any fee or charge for the inspection [24 CFR.982.352(b)].

The PHA may not charge the owner for the inspection of the unit prior to the initial term of the lease or for a first inspection during assisted occupancy of the unit. However, the PHA may charge a reasonable fee to owners for reinspections in two situations: when the owner notifies the PHA that a repair has been made but the deficiency has not been corrected, and when the time for repairs has elapsed, and the deficiency has not been corrected. Fees may not be imposed for tenant-caused damages, for cases in which the inspector could not gain access to the unit, or for new deficiencies discovered during a re-inspection.

The owner may not pass the cost of a reinspection fee to the family. Reinspection fees must be added to the PHA's administrative fee reserves and may only be used for activities related to the provision of tenant-based assistance.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will charge a fee for failed third and fourth reinspection.

#### Fee Schedule:

\$50.00 for a third attempt reinspection

\$75.00 for a fourth attempt reinspection

#### **Remote Video Inspections (RVIs) [Notice PIH 2020-31]**

As an alternative to some or all on-site inspections, the PHA may, but is not required to, perform NSPIRE inspections from a remote location using video streaming technology and a proxy at the inspection site. Since there may be some circumstances in which the application of technology provides insufficient information or evidence to allow the PHA to make appropriate determinations about whether a condition violates NSPIRE standards, Notice PIH 2020-31 requires that if a PHA chooses to implement RVIs, the PHA should have policies and procedures in place to address such limitations.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will not conduct any inspection using RVI.

#### **Notice and Scheduling**

The family must allow the PHA to inspect the unit at reasonable times with reasonable notice [24 CFR 982.551(d)].

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Both the family and the owner will be given reasonable notice of all inspections. Except in the case of a life-threatening emergency, reasonable notice is considered to be not less than 48 hours. Inspections may be scheduled between 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Generally, inspections will be conducted on business days only. In the case of a life-threatening emergency, Jacksonville Housing will give as much notice as possible, given the nature of the emergency.

#### **Owner and Family Inspection Attendance**

HUD permits the PHA to set policy regarding family and owner presence at the time of inspection [HCV GB p. 10-27].

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

When a family occupies the unit at the time of inspection an authorized adult must be present for the inspection. The presence of the owner or the owner's representative is encouraged but is not required.

At initial inspection of a vacant unit, Jacksonville Housing will inspect the unit in the presence of the owner or owner's representative. The presence of a family representative is permitted but is not required.

#### **J. INITIAL INSPECTION**

Approving Units [FR Notice 1/18/17; Notice PIH 2017-20; and 24 CFR 982.406]

HUD regulations require that units assisted under the HCV program be inspected to determine that the units meet NSPIRE standards before the PHA approves assisted tenancy. However, while the PHA is required to conduct an inspection prior to approving assisted tenancy, PHAs have two options for bringing units under the HAP contract (or, in the case of PBV, approving occupancy and the execution of a lease) more quickly. The PHA may, but is not required to approve assisted tenancy and start HAP if the unit:

- Fails the initial inspection, but only if no life-threatening deficiencies are identified.
- Passed an alternative inspection in the last 24 months.

Otherwise, if neither of the above provisions is adopted, the PHA must determine that the unit the family selects meets NSPIRE standards prior to approving tenancy.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

The unit must pass the initial inspection on or before the effective date of the HAP contract.

Jacksonville Housing will not rely on alternative inspections and will conduct an initial inspection for each unit prior to executing a HAP contract with the owner.

Timing of Initial Inspections [24 CFR 982.395(b)(2)(i)]

HUD requires PHAs with fewer than 1,250 budgeted units to complete the initial inspection, determine whether the unit satisfies NSPIRE standards, and notify the owner and the family of the determination within 15 days of submission of the Request for Tenancy Approval (RTA). For PHAs with 1,250 or more budgeted units, to the extent practicable such inspection and determination must be completed within 15 days. The 15-day period is suspended for any period during which the unit is not available for inspection.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will complete the initial inspection, determine whether the unit satisfies NSPIRE standards, and notify the owner and the family of the determination within 15 days of submission of the Request for Tenancy Approval (RFTA).

#### **Inspection Results and Reinspection**

For new units proposed for the HCV program, life-threatening deficiencies must be resolved before the HAP contract is executed and the family moves into the unit.

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

If any deficiencies are identified, the owner will be notified of them and given a time frame to correct them. If the owner requests it, Jacksonville Housing may extend the time frame for correcting the deficiencies for good cause. Jacksonville Housing will reinspect the unit within five business days of the date the owner notified Jacksonville Housing that the required corrections have been made.

If the time period for correcting the deficiencies (or any PHA-approved extension) has elapsed, or the unit fails at the time of the reinspection, Jacksonville Housing will notify the owner and the family that the unit has been rejected and that the family must search for another unit. Jacksonville Housing may agree to conduct a second reinspection for good cause at the family and owner's request.

Following a failed reinspection, the family may submit a new Request for Tenancy Approval for the same unit after the owner has made repairs, if they are unable to locate another suitable unit.

### **Utilities**

Generally, at the initial lease-up, the owner is responsible for demonstrating that all utilities are in working order, including those utilities that the family will be responsible for paying.

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Utility service must be available for testing at the time of the initial inspection.

### **Appliances**

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

If the family is responsible for supplying the stove and/or refrigerator, Jacksonville Housing will allow them to be placed in the unit after the unit has met all other NSPIRE requirements. The required appliances must be in place before Jacksonville Housing executes the HAP contract. Jacksonville Housing will execute the HAP contract based on a certification from the family that the appliances have been installed and are working. A confirmatory inspection will be scheduled within 30 days of HAP contract approval.

## **K. ANNUAL/BIENNIAL INSPECTIONS [24 CFR 982.405 and 982.406; Notice PIH 2016-05]**

HUD requires the PHA to inspect each unit under the HAP contract at least biennially (or triennially for small rural PHAs) to confirm that the unit still meets NSPIRE standards. The inspection may be conducted in conjunction with the family's annual reexamination or separately.

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Each unit under the HAP contract must be inspected biennially within 24 months of the last full inspection. Jacksonville Housing reserves the right to require annual inspections of any unit or owner at any time.

Jacksonville Housing will not rely on alternative inspection standards.

### **Scheduling the Inspection**

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

If an adult cannot be present on the scheduled date, the family should request that Jacksonville Housing reschedule the inspection. Jacksonville Housing and family will agree on a new inspection date that generally should take place within five business days of the originally scheduled date. Jacksonville Housing may schedule an inspection more than five business days after the original date for good cause.

If the family misses the first scheduled appointment without requesting a new inspection date, Jacksonville Housing will automatically schedule a second inspection. If the family misses two scheduled inspections without PHA approval, Jacksonville Housing will consider the family to have violated its obligation to make the unit available for inspection. This may result in the termination of the family's assistance in accordance with Chapter 12.

### **L. SPECIAL INSPECTIONS [24 CFR 982.405(g)]**

If a participant's family or government official reports a life-threatening condition that the owner would be required to repair within 24 hours, the PHA must inspect the unit within 24 hours of notification. If the reported condition is not life-threatening, the PHA must inspect the unit within 15 days of notification.

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

During a special inspection, Jacksonville Housing generally will inspect only those deficiencies that were reported. However, the inspector will record any additional deficiencies that are observed and will require the responsible party to make the necessary repairs.

If the annual/biennial inspection has been scheduled or is due within 90 days of the special inspection's scheduled date, Jacksonville Housing may elect to conduct a full annual/biennial inspection.

### **M. QUALITY CONTROL INSPECTIONS [24 CFR 982.405(b); 24 CFR 985.3(e); HCV GB, p. 10-32]**

HUD requires a PHA supervisor or other qualified person to conduct quality control inspections of a sample of units to ensure that each inspector is conducting accurate and complete inspections and that the application of the NSPIRE standards is consistent.

The unit sample must include only units that have been inspected within the preceding three months. The selected sample should be drawn to represent a cross-section of neighborhoods and the work of a cross-section of inspectors.

### **N. INSPECTION RESULTS AND REINSPECTIONS FOR UNITS UNDER HAP CONTRACT**

#### **Correction Timeframes**

Each deficiency is identified in the NPSIRE standards as either life-threatening, severe, moderate, or low.

For units under the HAP contract, life-threatening deficiencies must be corrected within 24 hours after notice has been provided. All other non-life-threatening deficiencies (severe and moderate) must be corrected within 30 days (or a PHA-approved extension) after notice has been provided.

If low deficiencies are present in a unit, these deficiencies result in a pass and would only be noted by the inspector for informational purposes.

### **Notification of Corrective Actions**

The owner and the family will be notified in writing of the results of all inspections. When an inspection identifies deficiencies, the PHA will determine (1) whether or not the failure is a life-threatening condition and (2) whether the family or owner is responsible. Please see Section F. of this chapter.

#### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

When life-threatening deficiencies are identified, Jacksonville Housing will immediately notify both parties by telephone or email. The notice will specify who is responsible for correcting the violation. The corrective actions must be taken within 24 hours of Jacksonville Housing's notice.

When severe or moderate failures are identified, Jacksonville Housing will send the owner and the family a written notification of the inspection results within five business days of the inspection. The written notice will specify who is responsible for correcting the violation and the time frame within which the failure must be corrected. Generally, not more than 30 days will be allowed for the correction. If low deficiencies are identified, these deficiencies will only be noted for informational purposes.

The notice of inspection results will inform the owner that if life-threatening conditions are not corrected within 24 hours, and non-life-threatening conditions are not corrected within the specified time frame (or any PHA-approved extension), the owner's HAP will be abated in accordance with Jacksonville Housing policy.

Likewise, in the case of family-caused deficiencies, the notice will inform the family that if corrections are not made within the specified time frame (or any PHA-approved extension, if applicable), the family's assistance will be terminated in accordance with Jacksonville Housing policy (see Chapter 12).

### **Extensions**

For life-threatening deficiencies, the PHA cannot grant an extension to the 24-hour corrective action period. For conditions that are severe or moderate, the PHA may grant an exception to the required time frames for correcting the violation, if the PHA determines that an extension is appropriate.

#### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

Extensions will be granted in cases where Jacksonville Housing has determined that the owner has made a good faith effort to correct the deficiencies and is unable to for reasons beyond the owner's control. Reasons may include, but are not limited to:

- A repair cannot be completed because required parts or services are not available.
- A repair cannot be completed because of weather conditions.
- A reasonable accommodation is needed because the family includes a person with disabilities.

The length of the extension will be determined on a case-by-case basis but will not exceed 60 days, except in the case of delays caused by weather conditions. In the case of weather conditions, extensions may be continued until the weather has improved sufficiently to make

repairs possible. Once the weather conditions have subsided, the necessary repairs must be made within 15 calendar days.

## **Reinspections**

### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

Jacksonville Housing will conduct a reinspection immediately following the end of the corrective period, or any PHA approved extension.

The family and owner will be given reasonable notice of the reinspection appointment. If the deficiencies have not been corrected by the time of the reinspection, Jacksonville Housing will send a notice of abatement to the owner or, in the case of family-caused violations, a notice of termination to the family, in accordance with Jacksonville Housing policies. If Jacksonville Housing is unable to gain entry to the unit in order to conduct the scheduled reinspection, Jacksonville Housing will consider the family to have violated its obligation to make the unit available for inspection. This may result in the termination of the family's assistance in accordance with Chapter 12.

Jacksonville Housing will not accept self-certification of repairs. Photos or other documentation of repairs will not be accepted in lieu of a reinspection.

## **O. ENFORCING OWNER COMPLIANCE**

If the owner fails to maintain the dwelling unit in accordance with NSPIRE standards, the PHA must take prompt and vigorous action to enforce the owner's obligations.

### **HAP Abatement**

If an owner fails to correct deficiencies by the time specified by the PHA, HUD requires the PHA to abate housing assistance payments no later than the first of the month following the specified correction period (including any approved extension) [24 CFR 985.3(f)]. No retroactive payments will be made to the owner for the period of time the rent was abated. Owner rents are not abated as a result of deficiencies that are the family's responsibility.

### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

Jacksonville Housing will make all HAP abatements effective the first of the month following the expiration of Jacksonville Housing's specified correction period (including any extension).

Jacksonville Housing will inspect abated units within five business days of the owner's notification that the work has been completed. Payment will resume effective on the day the unit passes inspection.

During any abatement period, the family continues to be responsible for its share of the rent. The owner must not seek payment from the family for abated amounts and may not use the abatement as cause for eviction.

### **HAP Contract Termination**

The PHA must decide how long any abatement period will continue before the HAP contract will be terminated. The PHA should not terminate the contract until the family finds another unit, provided the family does so in a reasonable time [HCV GB p. 10-29] and must give the owner reasonable notice of the termination. The PHA will issue a voucher to permit the family to move to another unit as described in Chapter 10.

## Jacksonville Housing Policy

The maximum length of time that HAP may be abated is 90 days. However, if the owner completes corrections and notifies Jacksonville Housing before the termination date of the HAP contract, Jacksonville Housing may rescind the termination notice if (1) the family still resides in the unit and wishes to remain in the unit and (2) the unit passes inspection.

Reasonable notice of HAP contract termination by Jacksonville Housing is 30 days.

The family may exercise any rights under the State of Florida law relating to an owner's failure to timely make repairs.

### **P. ENFORCING FAMILY COMPLIANCE [24 CFR 982.404(b)]**

Families are responsible for correcting any deficiencies listed in paragraph D. If the family fails to correct a violation within the period allowed by the PHA (and any extensions), the PHA will terminate the family's assistance, according to the policies described in Chapter 12.

If the owner carries out a repair for which the family is responsible under the lease, the owner may bill the family for the cost of the repair.

## **RENT REASONABLENESS [24 CFR 982.507]**

### **OVERVIEW**

Except in the case of certain LIHTC- and HOME-assisted units, no HAP contract can be approved until the PHA has determined that the rent for the unit is reasonable. The purpose of the rent reasonableness test is to ensure that fair rent is paid for each unit rented under the HCV program.

HUD regulations define a reasonable rent as one that does not exceed the rent charged for comparable, unassisted units in the same market area. HUD also requires that owners not charge more for assisted units than for comparable units on the premises. This part explains the method used to determine whether a unit's rent is reasonable.

### **PHA-Owned Units [24 CFR 982.352(b)]**

In cases where an HCV family is receiving assistance in a PHA-owned unit, the PHA must obtain the services of an independent entity to determine rent reasonableness in accordance with program requirements and to assist the family in negotiating the contract rent when the family requests assistance. A PHA-owned unit is defined as a unit that is owned by the PHA that administers the assistance under the consolidated ACC (including a unit owned by an entity substantially controlled by the PHA). The independent agency must communicate the results of the rent reasonableness determination to the family and the PHA. The independent agency must be approved by HUD and may be the unit of general local government for the PHA jurisdiction (unless the PHA is itself the unit of general local government or an agency of such government).

## **Q. WHEN RENT REASONABLENESS DETERMINATIONS ARE REQUIRED**

### **Owner-Initiated Rent Determinations**

The PHA must make a rent reasonableness determination at initial occupancy and whenever the owner requests a rent adjustment.



The owner and family first negotiate the rent for a unit. The PHA (or independent agency in the case of PHA-owned units) will assist the family with the negotiations upon request. At initial occupancy, the PHA must determine whether the proposed rent is reasonable before a HAP Contract is signed. The owner must not change the rent during the initial lease term. Subsequent requests for rent adjustments must be consistent with the lease between the owner and the family. Rent increases will not be approved unless any failed items identified by the most recent inspection have been corrected.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

After the initial occupancy period, the owner may request a rent adjustment in accordance with the owner's lease. For rent increase requests after initial lease-up, Jacksonville Housing may request owners to provide information about the rents charged for other units on the premises, if the premises include more than 4 units. In evaluating the proposed rents in comparison to other units on the premises Jacksonville Housing will consider unit size and length of tenancy in the other units.

Jacksonville Housing will determine whether the requested increase is reasonable within 10 business days of receiving the request from the owner. The owner will be notified of the determination in writing.

All rent adjustments will be effective the first of the month following 60 days after Jacksonville Housing's receipt of the owner's request or on the date specified by the owner, whichever is later.

#### **PHA and HUD-Initiated Rent Reasonableness Determinations**

HUD requires the PHA to make a determination of rent reasonableness (even if the owner has not requested a change) if there is a 10 percent decrease in the fair market rent that goes into effect at least 60 days before the contract anniversary date. HUD also may direct the PHA to make a determination at any other time. The PHA may decide that a new determination of rent reasonableness is needed at any time.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

In addition to the instances described above, Jacksonville Housing will make a determination of rent reasonableness at any time after the initial occupancy period if: (1) Jacksonville Housing determines that the initial rent reasonableness determination was in error or (2) Jacksonville Housing determines that the information provided by the owner about the unit or other units on the same premises was incorrect.

#### **LIHTC and HOME-Assisted Units [24 CFR 982.507(c)]**

For units receiving low-income housing tax credits (LIHTCs) or units assisted under HUD's HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program, a rent comparison with unassisted units is not required if the voucher rent does not exceed the rent for other LIHTC- or HOME-assisted units in the project that are not occupied by families with tenant-based assistance.

For LIHTCs, if the rent requested by the owner exceeds the LIHTC rents for non-voucher families, the PHA must perform a rent comparability study in accordance with program regulations. In such cases, the rent shall not exceed the lesser of: (1) the reasonable rent as determined from the rent comparability study; or (2) the payment standard established by the PHA for the unit size involved.

## **R. HOW COMPARABILITY IS ESTABLISHED**

### **Factors to Consider**

HUD requires PHAs to take into consideration the factors listed below when determining rent comparability. The PHA may use these factors to make upward or downward adjustments to the rents of comparison units when the units are not identical to the HCV-assisted unit.

- Location and age
- Unit size including the number of rooms and square footage of rooms
- The type of unit including construction type (e.g., single family, duplex, garden, low-rise, high-rise)
- The quality of the units including the quality of the original construction, maintenance and improvements made
- Amenities, services, and utilities included in the rent

### **Units that Must Not Be Used as Comparable**

Comparable units must represent unrestricted market rents. Therefore, units that receive some form of federal, state, or local assistance that imposes rent restrictions cannot be considered comparable units. These include units assisted by HUD through any of the following programs: Section 8 project-based assistance, Section 236 and Section 221(d)(3) Below Market Interest Rate (BMIR) projects, HOME or Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program-assisted units in which the rents are subsidized; units subsidized through federal, state, or local tax credits; units subsidized by the Department of Agriculture rural housing programs, and units that are rent-controlled by local ordinance [Notice PIH 2002-22, Notice PIH 2005-20, and Notice PIH 2020-19].

**Note:** Notice PIH 2020-19, issued August 21, 2020, provides further guidance on the issue of what constitutes an assisted unit.

### **Rents Charged for Other Units on the Premises**

The Request for Tenancy Approval (HUD-52517) requires owners to provide information, on the form itself, about the rent charged for other unassisted comparable units on the premises if the premises include more than 4 units.

By accepting the PHA payment each month the owner certifies that the rent is not more than the rent charged for comparable unassisted units on the premises. If asked to do so, the owner must give the PHA information regarding rents charged for other units on the premises.

## **S. PHA RENT REASONABLENESS METHODOLOGY**

### **How Market Data Is Collected**

#### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

Jacksonville Housing will collect and maintain data on market rents in the PHA's jurisdiction. Information sources include newspapers, realtors, market surveys, inquiries of owners, and other available sources. The data will be maintained by bedroom size and market areas. Market areas may be defined by zip codes, census tracts, neighborhoods, and identifiable natural or man-made

boundaries. The data will be updated on an ongoing basis using a contracted platform and rent information that is more than 12 months old will be eliminated from the database.

## **How Rents Are Determined**

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

The rent for a unit proposed for HCV assistance will be compared to the rent charged for comparable units in the same market area. Jacksonville Housing will develop a range of prices for comparable units by bedroom size within defined market areas. Units proposed for HCV assistance will be compared to the units within this rent range. Because units may be similar, but not exactly like the unit proposed for HCV assistance, Jacksonville Housing may make adjustments to the range of prices to account for these differences.

The adjustment must reflect the local market. Not all differences in units require adjustments (e.g., the presence or absence of a garbage disposal may not affect the rent in some market areas).

Adjustments may vary by unit type (e.g., a second bathroom may be more valuable in a three-bedroom unit than in a two-bedroom).

The adjustment must reflect the rental value of the difference—not its construction costs (e.g., it might cost \$20,000 to put on a new roof, but the new roof might not make any difference in what a tenant would be willing to pay because rental units are presumed to have functioning roofs).

When a comparable project offers rent concessions (e.g., first month rent-free or reduced rent), reported monthly rents will be adjusted accordingly. For example, if a comparable project reports rents of \$500/month but new tenants receive the first month rent-free, the actual rent for the unit would be calculated as follows:  $\$500 \times 11 \text{ months} = 5500 / 12 \text{ months} = \text{actual monthly rent of } \$488$ .

Jacksonville Housing will notify the owner of the rent the PHA can approve based on its analysis of rents for comparable units. The owner may submit information about other comparable units in the market area. Jacksonville Housing will confirm the accuracy of the information provided and consider this additional information when making rent determinations. The owner must submit any additional information within five business days of Jacksonville Housing's request for information or the owner's request to submit information.

<b>EXHIBIT 8-1: AFFIRMATIVE HABITABILITY REQUIREMENTS</b>
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<b>Affirmative Habitability Requirements: Inside</b>
Must include at least 1 battery-operated or hard-wired smoke detector in proper working condition on each level of the property.
Must meet or exceed the carbon monoxide detection standards set by the Secretary through <i>Federal Register</i> notification.
Any outlet installed within 6 feet of a water source must be GFCI protected.
Must have a guardrail when there is an elevated walking surface with a drop off of 30 inches or greater measured vertically.
Must have permanently mounted light fixtures in any kitchens and each bathroom.
May not contain unvented space heaters that burn gas, oil or kerosene.

<b>Affirmative Habitability Requirements: Outside</b>
Any outlet installed within 6 feet of a water source must be GFCI-protected.
Must have a guardrail when there is an elevated walking surface with a drop off of 30 inches or greater measured vertically.
<b>Affirmative Habitability Requirements: Unit</b>
Must have hot and cold running water in the bathroom and kitchen, including an adequate source of safe drinking water in the bathroom and kitchen.
Must include its own bathroom or sanitary facility that is in proper operating condition and usable in privacy. It must contain a sink, a bathtub or shower, and an interior flushable toilet.
Must have at least one battery-operated or hard-wired smoke detector, in proper working condition, in the following locations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On each level of the unit AND</li> <li>• Inside each bedroom or sleeping area AND</li> <li>• With 21 feet of any door to a bedroom measured along a path of travel AND</li> <li>• Where a smoke detector is installed outside a bedroom is separated from an adjacent living area by a door, a smoke detector must also be installed in the living area side of the door.</li> </ul>
If the unit is occupied by a hearing-impaired person, the smoke detectors must have an alarm system designed for hearing-impaired persons.
Must have a living room and a kitchen area with a sink, cooking appliance, refrigerator, food preparation area and food storage area.
Must have two working outlets or one working outlet and one permanent light fixture within all habitable rooms.

Must have a permanently mounted light fixture in each bathroom and in the kitchen.
Outlets within 6 feet of water source must be GFCI-protected.
Must have permanently installed heating source.
No units may contain unvented space heaters that burn gas, oil or kerosene.
Must have a guard rail when there is an elevated walking surface with a drop off of 30 inches or greater measured vertically.
Must have at least one bedroom or living/sleeping room for each two persons.

## **CHAPTER 9 GENERAL LEASING POLICIES**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Chapter 9 covers the lease-up process from the family's submission of a Request for Tenancy Approval (RFTA) to execution of the HAP contract.

In order for the PHA to assist a family in a particular dwelling unit, or execute a Housing Assistance Payments (HAP) contract with the owner of a dwelling unit, the PHA must determine that all the following program requirements are met:

- The unit itself must qualify as an eligible unit [24 CFR 982.305(a)]
- The unit must be inspected by the PHA and meet the NSPIRE standards [24 CFR 982.305(a)]
- The lease offered by the owner must be approvable and must include the required Tenancy Addendum [24 CFR 982.305(a)]
- The rent to be charged by the owner for the unit must be reasonable [24 CFR 982.305(a)]
- The owner must be an eligible owner, approvable by the PHA, with no conflicts of interest [24 CFR 982.306]
- For families initially leasing a unit only: Where the gross rent of the unit exceeds the applicable payment standard for the family, the share of rent to be paid by the family cannot exceed 40 percent of the family's monthly adjusted income [24 CFR 982.305(a)]

### **A. TENANT SCREENING**

The PHA has no liability or responsibility to the owner or other persons for the family's behavior or suitability for tenancy [24 CFR 982.307(a)(1)].

The PHA may elect to screen applicants for family behavior or suitability for tenancy. See Chapter 3 for a discussion of the PHA's policies with regard to screening applicant families for program eligibility [24 CFR 982.307(a)(1)].

The owner is responsible for screening and selecting the family to occupy the owner's unit. At or before PHA approval of the tenancy, the PHA must inform the owner that screening and selection for tenancy is the responsibility of the owner [24 CFR 982.307(a)(2)]. The PHA must also inform the owner or manager of his/her rights and obligations under the Violence Against Women Act of 2013 (VAWA) [24 CFR 5.2005(a)(2)].

The PHA must provide the owner with the family's current and prior address (as shown in the PHA records) and the name and address (if known to the PHA) of the landlord at the family's current and prior address [24 CFR 982.307(b)(1)].

The PHA is permitted, but not required, to offer the owner other information in the PHA's possession about the tenancy history or drug trafficking of family members [24 CFR 982.307(b)(2)].

The PHA's policy on providing information to the owner must be included in the family's briefing packet [24 CFR 982.307(b)(3)].

The PHA may not disclose to the owner any confidential information provided by the family in response to a PHA request for documentation of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking except at the written request or with the written consent of the individual providing the documentation [24 CFR 5.2007(b)(4)].

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will not screen applicants for family behavior or suitability for tenancy.

Jacksonville Housing will not provide additional screening information to the owner.

### **B. REQUESTING TENANCY APPROVAL [Form HUD-52517]**

After the family is issued a voucher, the family must locate an eligible unit, with an owner or landlord willing to participate in the voucher program. Once a family finds a suitable unit and the owner is willing to lease the unit under the program, the owner and the family must request the PHA to approve the assisted tenancy in the selected unit.

The owner and the family must submit two documents to Jacksonville Housing:

- Completed Request for Tenancy Approval (RFTA) – Form HUD-52517
- Copy of the proposed lease, including the HUD-prescribed Tenancy Addendum – Form HUD-52641-A

The RFTA contains important information about the rental unit selected by the family, including the unit address, number of bedrooms, structure type, year constructed, utilities included in the rent, and the requested beginning date of the lease, necessary for the Jacksonville Housing to determine whether to approve the assisted tenancy in this unit.

Owners must certify the most recent rent charged for the unit and explain any difference between the prior rent and the proposed rent.

Owners must certify that they are not the parent, child, grandparent, grandchild, sister, or brother of any member of the family unless Jacksonville Housing has granted a request for reasonable accommodation for a person with disabilities who is a member of the tenant household.

For units constructed prior to 1978, owners must either 1) certify that the unit, common areas, and exterior have been found to be free of lead-based paint by a certified inspector; or 2) attach a lead-based paint disclosure statement.

Both the RFTA and the proposed lease must be submitted no later than the expiration date stated on the voucher. [HCV GB p.8-15].

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

- The RFTA must be signed by both the family and the owner.
- The owner may submit the RFTA on behalf of the family.
- Completed RFTA (including the proposed dwelling lease) must be submitted as hard copies or electronically, in-person, by mail, by email, or by fax.
- The family may not submit, and Jacksonville Housing will not process more than one (1) RFTA at a time.
- When the family submits the RFTA Jacksonville Housing will review the RFTA for completeness.

If the RFTA is incomplete (including lack of signature by family, owner, or both), or if the dwelling lease is not submitted with the RFTA, Jacksonville Housing will notify the family and the owner of the deficiencies.

Missing information and/or missing documents will only be accepted as hard or electronic copies, in-person, by mail, by email, or by fax. Jacksonville Housing will not accept missing information over the phone.

When the family submits the RFTA and proposed lease, Jacksonville Housing will also review the terms of the RFTA for consistency with the terms of the proposed lease.

If the terms of the RFTA are not consistent with the terms of the proposed lease, Jacksonville Housing will notify the family and the owner of the discrepancies.

Corrections to the terms of the RFTA and/or the proposed lease will only be accepted as hard or electronic copies, in-person, by mail, by email, or by fax. Jacksonville Housing will not accept corrections by phone.

Because of the time-sensitive nature of the tenancy approval process, Jacksonville Housing will attempt to communicate with the owner and family by phone, fax, or email. When the parties cannot be reached by phone, fax, or email, Jacksonville Housing will use mail.

### **C. OWNER PARTICIPATION**

Jacksonville Housing does not formally approve an owner to participate in the HCV program. However, there are a number of criteria where Jacksonville Housing may deny approval of an assisted tenancy based on past owner behavior, conflict of interest, or other owner-related issues. There are also criteria for which the Jacksonville Housing must disapprove of an owner. No owner has a right to participate in the HCV program [24 CFR 982.306(e)]

See Chapter 13 - Owners for a full discussion of owner qualification to participate in the HCV program.

### **D. ELIGIBLE UNITS**

There are a number of criteria that a dwelling unit must meet in order to be eligible for assistance under the voucher program. Generally, a voucher-holder family may choose any available rental dwelling unit on the market in Jacksonville Housing's jurisdiction. This includes the dwelling unit they are currently occupying.

#### **Ineligible Units [24 CFR 982.352(a)]**

Jacksonville Housing may not assist a unit under the voucher program if the unit is a public housing or Indian housing unit; a unit receiving project-based assistance under section 8 of the 1937 Act (42 U.S.C. 1437f); nursing homes, board and care homes, or facilities providing continual psychiatric, medical, or nursing services; college or other school dormitories; units on the grounds of penal, reformatory, medical, mental, and similar public or private institutions; a unit occupied by its owner or by a person with any interest in the unit.

#### **PHA-Owned Units [24 CFR 982.352(b)]**

Otherwise, eligible units that are owned or substantially controlled by the PHA issuing the voucher may also be leased in the voucher program. In order for a PHA-owned unit to be leased under the voucher program, the unit must not be ineligible for housing and the PHA must inform



the family, both orally and in writing, that the family has the right to select any eligible unit available for lease and that the family is free to select a PHA-owned unit without any pressure or steering by the PHA.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing has eligible PHA-owned units available for leasing under the voucher program with Jax Urban Initiative and Brentwood.

#### **Special Housing Types [24 CFR 982 Subpart M]**

HUD regulations permit but do not generally require Jacksonville Housing to permit families to use voucher assistance in a number of special housing types in accordance with the specific requirements applicable to those programs. These special housing types include single-room occupancy (SRO) housing, congregate housing, group homes, shared housing, manufactured home space (where the family owns the manufactured home and leases only the space), cooperative housing, and homeownership options. See Chapter 15 for specific information and policies on any of these housing types that Jacksonville Housing has chosen to allow.

The regulations do require Jacksonville Housing to permit the use of any special housing type if needed as reasonable accommodation so that the program is readily accessible to and usable by persons with disabilities.

#### **Duplicative Assistance [24 CFR 982.352(c)]**

A family may not receive the benefit of HCV tenant-based assistance while receiving the benefit of any of the following forms of other housing subsidy, for the same unit or for a different unit:

- Public or Indian housing assistance;
- Other Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) assistance (including other tenant-based assistance);
- Assistance under former Section 23 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (before amendment by the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974);
- Section 101 rent supplements;
- Section 236 rental assistance payments;
- Tenant-based assistance under the HOME Program;
- Rental assistance payments under Section 521 of the Housing Act of 1949 (a program of the Rural Development Administration);
- Any local or State rent subsidy;
- Section 202 supportive housing for the elderly;
- Section 811 supportive housing for persons with disabilities; (11) Section 202 projects for non-elderly persons with disabilities (Section 162 assistance); or
- Any other duplicative federal, State, or local housing subsidy, as determined by HUD. For this purpose, 'housing subsidy' does not include the housing component of a welfare payment, a social security payment received by the family, or a rent reduction because of a tax credit.

## **NSPIRE Standards [Notice PIH 2023-28]**

In order to be eligible, the dwelling unit must be in safe and habitable condition. This determination is made using HUD's National Standards for the Physical Inspection of Real Estate (NSPIRE) and/or equivalent state or local standards approved by HUD. See Chapter 8 for a full discussion of the NSPIRE standards, as well as the process for inspection at initial lease-up.

### **Unit Size**

In order to be eligible, the dwelling unit must be appropriate for the number of people in the household. A family must be allowed to lease an otherwise acceptable dwelling unit with fewer bedrooms than the number of bedrooms stated on the voucher issued to the family, provided the unit meets the applicable NSPIRE space requirements [24 CFR 982.402(d)]. The family must be allowed to lease an otherwise acceptable dwelling unit with more bedrooms than the number of bedrooms stated on the voucher issued to the family. See Chapter 5 for a full discussion of subsidy standards.

### **Rent Reasonableness [24 CFR 982.305 and 24 CFR 982.507]**

In order to be eligible, the dwelling unit must have a reasonable rent. The rent must be reasonable in relation to comparable unassisted units in the area and must not be in excess of the rent charged by the owner for comparable, unassisted units on the premises. See Chapter 8 for a full discussion of rent reasonableness and the rent reasonableness determination process.

### **Rent Burden [24 CFR 982.508]**

Where a family is initially leasing a unit and the gross rent of the unit exceeds the applicable payment standard for the family, the family share cannot exceed 40 percent of the family's adjusted monthly income. The term "family share" refers to the amount the family pays toward rent and utilities. The gross rent for the unit minus the total housing assistance payment (HAP) for the unit equals the family share. See Chapter 6 for a discussion of the calculation of gross rent, the use of payment standards, and the calculation of family income, family share of rent and HAP.

## **E. LEASE AND TENANCY ADDENDUM**

The family and the owner must execute a written dwelling lease agreement for the assisted unit. This written lease is a contract between the tenant family and the owner; Jacksonville Housing is not a party to this contract.

The tenant must have the legal capacity to enter into a lease under State and local law. "Legal capacity" means that the tenant is bound by the terms of the lease and may enforce the terms of the lease against the owner [24 CFR 982.308(a)]

### **Lease Form and Tenancy Addendum [24 CFR 982.308]**

If the owner uses a standard lease form for rental to unassisted tenants in the locality or the premises, the lease must be in such standard form. If the owner does not use a standard lease form for rental to unassisted tenants, the owner may use another form of lease. The HAP contract

prescribed by HUD contains the owner's certification that if the owner uses a standard lease form for rental to unassisted tenants, the lease for the assisted tenants is in such a standard form.

All provisions in the HUD-required Tenancy Addendum must be added word-for-word to the owner's standard lease form. The Tenancy Addendum includes the HUD requirements for the tenancy. Because it is a part of the lease, the tenant shall have the right to enforce the Tenancy Addendum against the owner. If there is a conflict between the owner's lease and the Tenancy Addendum, the terms of the Tenancy Addendum shall prevail over any other provisions of the lease.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing does not provide a model or standard dwelling lease for owners to use in the HCV program.

#### **Lease Information [24 CFR 982.308(d)]**

The assisted dwelling lease must contain all of the required information as listed below:

- The names of the owner and the tenant:
- The unit rented (address, apartment number, and any other information needed to identify the contract unit)
- The term of the lease (initial term and any provisions for renewal)
- The amount of the monthly rent to the owner
- A specification of what utilities and appliances are to be supplied by the owner, and what utilities and appliances are to be supplied by the family

#### **Term of Assisted Tenancy**

The initial term of the assisted dwelling lease must be for at least one year [24 CFR 982.309]. The initial lease term is also stated in the HAP contract.

The HUD program regulations permit the PHA to approve a shorter initial lease term if certain conditions are met.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will not approve an initial lease term of less than one (1) year. The lease term may be twelve to fifteen months. During the initial term of the lease, the owner may not raise the rent to the owner [24 CFR 982.309].

Any provisions for renewal of the dwelling lease will be stated in the dwelling lease [HCV Guidebook, pg. 8-22]. There are no HUD requirements regarding any renewal extension terms, except that they must be stated in the dwelling lease if they exist.

Jacksonville Housing may execute the HAP contract even if there is less than one year remaining from the beginning of the initial lease term to the end of the last expiring funding increment under the consolidated ACC. [24 CFR 982.309(b)].

#### **Security Deposit [24 CFR 982.313 (a) and (b)]**

The owner may collect a security deposit from the tenant. Jacksonville Housing may prohibit security deposits in excess of private market practice, or in excess of amounts charged by the

owner to unassisted tenants. However, if Jacksonville Housing chooses to do so, language to this effect must be added to Part A of the HAP contract [Form HUD-52641].

Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will allow the owner to collect any security deposit amount the owner determines is appropriate. Therefore, no modifications to the HAP contract will be necessary.

**Separate Non-Lease Agreements between Owner and Tenant**

Owners may not demand or accept any rent payment from the family in excess of the rent to the owner as approved by Jacksonville Housing minus Jacksonville Housing's housing assistance payments to the owner [24 CFR 982.451(b)(4)].

The owner may not charge the tenant extra amounts for items customarily included in rent in the locality or provided at no additional cost to unsubsidized tenants in the premises [24 CFR 982.510(c)].

Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing permits owners and families to execute separate, non-lease agreements for services, appliances (other than range and refrigerator), and other items that are not included in the lease.

Any items, appliances, or other services that are customarily provided to unassisted families as part of the dwelling lease with those families or are permanently installed in the dwelling unit must be included in the dwelling lease for the assisted family. These items, appliances or services cannot be placed under a separate non-lease agreement between the owner and family. Side payments for additional rent, or for items, appliances, or services customarily provided to unassisted families as part of the dwelling lease for those families, are prohibited.

Any items, appliances, or other services that are not customarily provided to unassisted families as part of the dwelling lease with those families, are not permanently installed in the dwelling unit and where the family has the sole option of not utilizing the item, appliance, or service, may be included in a separate non-lease agreement between the owner and the family.

The family is not liable and cannot be held responsible under the terms of the assisted dwelling lease for any charges pursuant to a separate non-lease agreement between the owner and the family. Non-payment of any charges pursuant to a separate non-lease agreement between the owner and the family cannot be a cause for eviction or termination of tenancy under the terms of the assisted dwelling lease.

Separate non-lease agreements that involve additional items, appliances or other services may be considered amenities offered by the owner and may be taken into consideration when determining the reasonableness of the rent for the property.

**Jacksonville Housing Review of Lease**

Jacksonville Housing will review the dwelling lease for compliance with all applicable requirements.

Jacksonville Housing Policy

If the dwelling lease is incomplete or incorrect, Jacksonville Housing will notify the family and the owner of the deficiencies. Missing and corrected lease information will

only be accepted as hard or electronic copies, in-person, by mail, by email, or by fax. Jacksonville Housing will not accept missing and corrected information over the phone.

Because the initial leasing process is time-sensitive, Jacksonville Housing will attempt to communicate with the owner and family by phone, fax, or email. Jacksonville Housing will use mail when the parties can't be reached by phone, fax, or email.

Jacksonville Housing is permitted but is not required, to review the lease to determine if the lease complies with State and local law and is permitted to decline to approve the tenancy if Jacksonville Housing determines that the lease does not comply with State or local law [24 CFR 982.308(c)]

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will not review the owner's lease for compliance with state/local law.

### **F. TENANCY APPROVAL [24 CFR 982.305]**

After receiving the family's Request for Tenancy Approval, with the proposed dwelling lease, the PHA must promptly notify the family and owner whether the assisted tenancy is approved. Prior to approving the assisted tenancy and execution of a HAP contract, the PHA must ensure that all required actions and determinations discussed in this chapter have been completed.

These actions include ensuring that the unit is eligible; the unit has been inspected by the PHA and meets the NSPIRE standards; the lease offered by the owner is approvable and includes the required Tenancy Addendum; the rent to be charged by the owner for the unit must be reasonable; where the family is initially leasing a unit and the gross rent of the unit exceeds the applicable payment standard for the family, the share of rent to be paid by the family does not exceed 40 percent of the family's monthly adjusted income [24 CFR 982.305(a)]; the owner is an eligible owner, not disapproved by the PHA, with no conflicts of interest [24 CFR 982.306]; the family and the owner have executed the lease, including the Tenancy Addendum, and the lead-based paint disclosure information [24 CFR 982.305(b)].

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will complete its determination within ten (10) business days of receiving all required information.

If the terms of the RFTA/proposed lease are changed for any reason, including but not limited to negotiation with Jacksonville Housing, Jacksonville Housing will obtain corrected copies of the RFTA and proposed lease, signed by the family and the owner.

Corrections to the RFTA/proposed lease will only be accepted as hard or electronic copies, in-person, by mail, by email, or by fax. Jacksonville Housing will not accept corrections over the phone.

If Jacksonville Housing determines that the tenancy cannot be approved for any reason, the owner and the family will be notified in writing and given the opportunity to address any reasons for disapproval. Jacksonville Housing will instruct the owner and family of the steps that are necessary to obtain approval of the tenancy.

Where the tenancy is not approvable because the unit is not approvable, the family must continue to search for eligible housing within the timeframe of the issued voucher.

If the tenancy is not approvable due to rent affordability or rent reasonableness, Jacksonville Housing will attempt to negotiate the rent with the owner. If a new, approvable rent is negotiated, the tenancy will be approved. If the owner is not willing to negotiate an approvable rent, the family must continue to search for eligible housing within the timeframe of the issued voucher.

#### **G. HAP CONTRACT EXECUTION [24 CFR 982.305]**

The Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) contract is a written agreement between the PHA and the owner of the dwelling unit. Under the HAP contract, the PHA agrees to make housing assistance payments to the owner on behalf of the family, and the owner agrees to comply with all program requirements as stated in the HAP contract.

The HAP contract form is prescribed by HUD.

If the PHA has approved the family of the assisted tenancy, the owner and the PHA must execute the HAP contract.

The term of the HAP contract must be the same as the term of the lease [24 CFR 982.451(a)(2)].

The PHA is permitted to execute a HAP contract even if the funding currently available does not extend for the full term of the HAP contract.

The PHA must make every effort to ensure that the HAP contract is executed before the beginning of the lease term. Regardless, it must be executed no later than 60 calendar days from the beginning of the lease term.

The PHA may not pay the owner any housing assistance payment until the HAP contract has been executed. If the HAP contract is executed within 60 calendar days from the beginning of the lease term, the PHA will pay housing assistance payments after execution of the HAP contract (in accordance with the terms of the HAP contract) to cover the portion of the lease term before execution of the HAP contract (a maximum of 60 days).

Any HAP contract executed after the 60-day period is void, and the PHA may not pay the owner any housing assistance.

#### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

Owners who have not previously participated in the HCV program must attend a meeting with Jacksonville Housing in which the terms of the Tenancy Addendum and the HAP contract will be explained. Jacksonville Housing may waive this requirement on a case-by-case basis if it determines that the owner is sufficiently familiar with the requirements and responsibilities under the HCV program.

The owner and the assisted family will execute the dwelling lease, and the owner must provide a copy to the Jacksonville Housing. Jacksonville Housing will ensure that both the owner and the assisted family receive copies of the dwelling lease and Tenancy Addendum.

The owner and Jacksonville Housing will execute the HAP contract. Jacksonville Housing will not execute the HAP contract until the owner has submitted the IRS form W-9 and owner-required forms. Jacksonville Housing will ensure that the owner receives a copy of the executed HAP contract.

As required under VAWA 2013, once the HAP contract and lease have been executed and the family has been admitted to the program, Jacksonville Housing will notify families of their rights under VAWA by providing all families with a copy of the domestic violence certification form (HUD-5382) and the VAWA notice of occupancy rights (form HUD-5380).

See Chapter 13 for a discussion of the HAP contract and contract provisions.

## **H. CHANGES IN LEASE OR RENT [24 CFR 982.308]**

If the tenant and the owner agree to any changes in the lease, they must be in writing, and the owner must immediately give the PHA a copy. The lease, including any changes, must remain in accordance with the requirements of this chapter.

Generally, PHA approval of tenancy and execution of a new HAP contract is not required for changes in the lease. However, under certain circumstances, the execution of a new lease and HAP contract is required. These circumstances include:

- Changes in lease requirements governing tenant or owner responsibilities for utilities or appliances
- Changes in lease provisions governing the term of the lease
- The family moves to a new unit, even if the unit is in the same building or complex

In these cases, if the HCV assistance is to continue, the family must submit a new Request for Tenancy Approval (RFTA) along with a new dwelling lease containing the proposed changes. A new tenancy must then be approved in accordance with this chapter.

Where the owner is changing the amount of the rent to the owner, the owner must notify the PHA at least sixty (60) days before any such changes go into effect [24 CFR 982.308(g)(4)]. The PHA will agree to such an increase only if the amount of the rent to the owner is considered reasonable according to the rent reasonableness standards discussed in Chapter 8. If the requested rent is not found to be reasonable, the owner must either reduce the requested rent increase or terminate the tenancy in accordance with the terms of the lease.

No rent increase is permitted during the initial term of the lease [24 CFR 982.309(a)(3)].

### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

Where the owner requests a rent increase, Jacksonville Housing will determine whether the increase is reasonable within ten (10) business days of receiving the request. Before performing the rent reasonableness study, rent increases are subject to a five percent cap. The owner will be notified of the determination in writing.

Rent increases will go into effect on the first of the month following the 60-day period after the owner notifies Jacksonville Housing of the rent change or on the date specified by the owner, whichever is later.

## **CHAPTER 10 MOVING WITH CONTINUED ASSISTANCE AND PORTABILITY**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Freedom of housing choice is a hallmark of the housing choice voucher (HCV) program. In general, HUD regulations impose few restrictions on where families may live or move with HCV assistance. This chapter sets forth HUD regulations and PHA policies governing moves within or outside the PHA's jurisdiction in two parts:

Moving with Continued Assistance. This part covers the general rules that apply to all moves by a family assisted under the PHA's HCV program, whether the family moves to another unit within the PHA's jurisdiction or to a unit outside the PHA's jurisdiction under portability.

Portability. This part covers the special rules that apply to a family's moves under portability, whether the family moves out of or into the PHA's jurisdiction. It also covers the special responsibilities that the PHA has under portability regulations and procedures.

### **A. MOVING WITH CONTINUED ASSISTANCE**

#### **ALLOWABLE MOVES**

HUD lists six regulatory conditions under which an assisted family is allowed to move to a new unit with continued assistance. Permission to move is subject to the restrictions set forth in this section.

- The family has a right to terminate the lease on notice to the owner (for the owner's breach or otherwise) and has given a notice of termination to the owner in accordance with the lease [24 CFR 982.354(b)(3)]. If the family terminates the lease on notice to the owner, the family must give the PHA a copy of the notice at the same time [24 CFR 982.354(d)(1)].
- The lease for the family's unit has been terminated by mutual agreement of the owner and the family [24 CFR 982.354(b)(1)(ii)].

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

If the family and the owner mutually agree to terminate the lease for the family's unit, the family must give Jacksonville Housing a copy of the termination agreement.

The owner has given the family notice to vacate, has commenced an action to evict the family, or has obtained a court judgment or other process allowing the owner to evict the family [24 CFR 982.354(b)(2)]. The family must give the PHA a copy of any owner eviction notice [24 CFR 982.551(g)].

- The family or a member of the family is or has been the victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking and the move is needed to protect the health or safety of the family or family member [24 CFR 982.354(b)(4)]. This condition applies even when the family has moved out of its unit in violation of the lease, with or without prior notification to the PHA, if the family or family member who is the victim reasonably believed that they were imminently threatened by harm from further violence if they remained in the unit [24



CFR 982.354(b)(4), 24 CFR 982.353(b)]. The PHA must adopt an emergency transfer plan as required by regulations at 24 CFR 5.2007(e).

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

If a family requests permission to move with continued assistance or for an external transfer to another covered housing program operated by Jacksonville Housing based on a claim that the move is necessary to protect the health or safety of a family member who is or has been the victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, Jacksonville Housing will request that the resident request the emergency transfer using form HUD-5383, and the PHA will request documentation in accordance with Chapter 16 of this plan.

Jacksonville Housing reserves the right to waive the documentation requirement if it determines that a statement or other corroborating evidence from the family or family member will suffice. In such cases Jacksonville Housing will document the waiver in the family's file.

Jacksonville Housing may choose to provide a voucher to facilitate an emergency transfer of the victim without first terminating the assistance of the perpetrator.

Before granting an emergency transfer, Jacksonville Housing will ensure the victim is eligible to receive continued assistance based on the citizenship or immigration status of the victim.

Jacksonville Housing has adopted an emergency transfer plan, which is included as Exhibit 16-3 to this plan and discusses external transfers to other covered housing programs.

- The PHA has terminated the HAP contract for the family's unit for the owner's breach [24 CFR 982.354(b)(1)(i)].
- The PHA determines that the family's current unit does not meet the NSPIRE space standards because of an increase in family size or a change in family composition. In such cases, the PHA must issue the family a new voucher, and the family and PHA must try to find an acceptable unit as soon as possible. If an acceptable unit is available for the family, the PHA must terminate the HAP contract for the family's old unit in accordance with the HAP contract terms and must notify both the family and the owner of the termination. The HAP contract terminates at the end of the calendar month that follows the calendar month in which the PHA gives notice to the owner. [24 CFR 982.403(a) and (c)]

#### **B. RESTRICTIONS ON MOVES**

A family's right to move is generally contingent upon the family's compliance with program requirements [24 CFR 982.1(b)(2)]. HUD specifies two conditions under which a PHA may deny a family permission to move and two ways in which a PHA may restrict moves by a family.

##### **Denial of Moves**

HUD regulations permit the PHA to deny a family permission to move under the following conditions:

##### ***Insufficient Funding***

The PHA may deny a family permission to move either within or outside the PHA's jurisdiction if the PHA does not have sufficient funding for continued assistance [24 CFR 982.354(e)(1)]. However, Notice PIH 2016-09 significantly restricts the ability of PHAs to deny permission to move due to insufficient funding and places further requirements on PHAs regarding moves denied due to lack of funding. The requirements found in this notice are mandatory.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will deny a family permission to move on grounds that Jacksonville Housing does not have sufficient funding for continued assistance if (a) the move is initiated by the family, not the owner or Jacksonville Housing; (b) Jacksonville Housing can demonstrate that the move will, in fact, result in higher subsidy costs (c) Jacksonville Housing can demonstrate, in accordance with the policies in Chapter 16, that it does not have sufficient funding in its annual budget to accommodate the higher subsidy costs; and (d) for portability moves, the receiving PHA is not absorbing the voucher.

If Jacksonville Housing does not have sufficient funding for continued assistance, but the family must move from their unit (e.g., the unit failed NSPIRE standard), the family may move to a higher-cost unit if the move is within the PHA's jurisdiction. Jacksonville Housing, however, will not allow the family to move under portability in this situation if the family wishes to move to a higher-cost area.

For both moves within Jacksonville Housing's jurisdiction and under portability, Jacksonville Housing will not deny a move due to insufficient funding if Jacksonville Housing previously approved the move and subsequently experienced a funding shortfall if the family cannot remain in their current unit. Jacksonville Housing will rescind the voucher in this situation if the family will be allowed to remain in their current unit.

Jacksonville Housing will create a list of families whose moves have been denied due to insufficient funding. Jacksonville Housing will keep the family's request open indefinitely, and when funds become available, the families on this list will take precedence over families on the waiting list. Jacksonville Housing will use the same procedures for notifying families with open requests to move when funds become available as it uses for notifying families on the waiting list.

Jacksonville Housing will inform the family of its policy regarding moves denied due to insufficient funding in a letter to the family at the time the move is denied.

#### ***Grounds for Denial or Termination of Assistance***

The PHA may deny a family permission to move if it has grounds for denying or terminating the family's assistance [24 CFR 982.354(e)(2)].

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

If Jacksonville Housing has grounds for denying or terminating a family's assistance, Jacksonville Housing will act on those grounds in accordance with the regulations and policies set forth in Chapters 3 and 12, respectively. In general, it will not deny a family permission to move for this reason; however, it retains the discretion to do so under special circumstances.

## **Restrictions on Elective Moves [24 CFR 982.354(c)]**

HUD regulations permit the PHA to prohibit any elective move by a participant family during the family's initial lease term. They also permit the PHA to prohibit more than one elective move by a participant family during any 12-month period. However, such prohibitions, if adopted, do not apply when the family or a member of the family is or has been the victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking and the move is needed to protect the health or safety of the family or family member. (For the policy on documentation of abuse, see section 10-I.A.) In addition, the PHA may not establish a policy permitting moves only at reexamination [Notice PIH 2016-09].

### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

Jacksonville Housing will deny a family permission to make an elective move during the family's initial lease term. This policy applies to moves within the PHA's jurisdiction or outside it under portability.

Jacksonville Housing will also deny a family permission to make more than one elective move during any 12-month period. This policy applies to all assisted families residing in the PHA's jurisdiction.

Jacksonville Housing will consider exceptions to these policies for the following reasons: to protect the health or safety of a family member (e.g., lead-based paint hazards, domestic violence, witness protection programs), to accommodate a change in family circumstances (e.g., new employment, school attendance in a distant area), or to address an emergency situation over which a family has no control.

In addition, Jacksonville Housing will allow exceptions to these policies for purposes of reasonable accommodation of a family member who is a person with disabilities (see Chapter 4).

## **C. MOVING PROCESS**

### **Notification**

If a family wishes to move to a new unit, the family must notify the PHA and the owner before moving out of the old unit or terminating the lease on notice to the owner [24 CFR 982.354(d)(2)]. If the family wishes to move to a unit outside the PHA's jurisdiction under portability, the notice to the PHA must specify the area where the family wishes to move [24 CFR 982.354(d)(2)]. The notices must be in writing [24 CFR 982.5].

### **Approval**

#### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

Upon receipt of a family's notification that it wishes to move, the PHA will determine whether the move is approvable in accordance with the regulations and policies set forth in this section. Jacksonville Housing will notify the family in writing of its determination within TEN (10) business days following receipt of the family's notification.

## **Reexamination of Family Income and Composition**

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

For families approved to move to a new unit within the PHA's jurisdiction, Jacksonville Housing will perform a new annual reexamination in accordance with the policies set forth in Chapter 11 of this plan.

For families moving into or families approved to move out of the PHA's jurisdiction under portability, Jacksonville Housing will follow the policies set forth in this chapter.

## **Voucher Issuance and Briefing**

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

For families approved to move to a new unit within the PHA's jurisdiction, Jacksonville Housing will issue a new voucher within ten (10) business days of Jacksonville Housing's written approval to move. No briefing is required for these families. Jacksonville Housing will follow the policies set forth in Chapter 5 on voucher terms, extensions, and expiration. If a family does not locate a new unit within the term of the voucher and any extensions, the family may remain in its current unit with continued voucher assistance if the owner agrees and Jacksonville Housing approves. Otherwise, the family will lose its assistance.

For families moving into or families approved to move out of the PHA's jurisdiction under portability, the PHA will follow the policies set forth in Part II of this chapter.

## **Housing Assistance Payments [24 CFR 982.311(d)]**

When a family moves out of an assisted unit, the PHA may not make any housing assistance payment to the owner for any month **after** the month the family moves out. The owner may keep the housing assistance payment for the month when the family moves out of the unit.

If a participant's family moves from an assisted unit with continued tenant-based assistance, the term of the assisted lease for the new assisted unit may begin during the month the family moves out of the first assisted unit. Overlap of the last housing assistance payment (for the month when the family moves out of the old unit) and the first assistance payment for the new unit, is not considered to constitute a duplicative housing subsidy.

## **Zero HAP Families Who Wish to Move [24 CFR 982.455]**

A participant who is not receiving any subsidy but whose HAP contract is still in force may request a voucher to move to a different unit. The PHA must issue a voucher to move unless it has grounds to deny assistance under the program regulations. However, if the PHA determines no subsidy would be paid at the new unit, the PHA may refuse to enter into a HAP contract on behalf of the family.

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

If a zero HAP family requests to move to a new unit, the family may request a voucher to move. However, if no subsidy will be paid at the unit to which the family requests to move, Jacksonville Housing will not enter into a HAP contract on behalf of the family for the new unit.

## **D. PORTABILITY**

### **OVERVIEW**

Within the limitations of the regulations and this plan, a participant family or an applicant family that has been issued a voucher has the right to use tenant-based voucher assistance to lease a unit anywhere in the United States, providing that the unit is located within the jurisdiction of a PHA administering a tenant-based voucher program [24 CFR 982.353(b)]. The process by which a family obtains a voucher from one PHA and uses it to lease a unit in the jurisdiction of another PHA is known as portability. The PHA that issues the voucher is called the **initial PHA**. The PHA that has jurisdiction in the area to which the family wants to move is called the **receiving PHA**.

The receiving PHA has the option of administering the family's voucher for the initial PHA or absorbing the family into its own program. Under the first option, the receiving PHA provides all housing services for the family and bills the initial PHA for the family's housing assistance payments and the fees for administering the family's voucher. Under the second option, the receiving PHA pays for the family's assistance with its own program funds, and the initial PHA has no further relationship with the family. The initial PHA must contact the receiving PHA via email or other confirmed delivery method to determine whether the receiving PHA will administer or absorb the initial PHA's voucher. Based on the receiving PHA's response, the initial PHA must determine whether they will approve or deny the portability request [Notice PIH 2016-09].

PHAs commonly act as both the initial and receiving PHA because families may move into or out of their jurisdiction under portability. Each role involves different responsibilities. The PHA will follow the rules and policies in this section when it is acting as the initial PHA for a family. It will follow the rules and policies when it is acting as the receiving PHA for a family.

In administering portability, the initial PHA and the receiving PHA must comply with HUD-required financial procedures, including using HUD-required forms [24 CFR 982.355(e)(5)].

PHAs must also comply with billing and payment deadlines. HUD may reduce an administrative fee to an initial or receiving PHA if the PHA does not comply with HUD portability requirements [24 CFR 982.355(e)(7)].

### **E. INITIAL PHA ROLE**

#### **Allowable Moves under Portability**

A family may move with voucher assistance only to an area where there is at least one PHA administering a voucher program [24 CFR 982.353(b)]. If there is more than one PHA in the area, the initial PHA provides the family with the contact information for the receiving PHAs that serve the area, and the family selects the receiving PHA. The family must inform the initial PHA of which PHA it has selected. If the family prefers not to select the receiving PHA, the initial PHA will select the receiving PHA on behalf of the family [24 CFR 982.255(b)].

Applicant families that have been issued vouchers, as well as participant families, may qualify to lease a unit outside the PHA's jurisdiction under portability. HUD regulations and PHA policy determine whether a family qualifies.

### ***Applicant Families***

Under HUD regulations, most applicant families qualify to lease a unit outside the PHA's jurisdiction under portability. However, HUD gives the PHA discretion to deny a portability move by an applicant family for the same two reasons that it may deny any move by a participant family: insufficient funding and grounds for denial or termination of assistance. If a PHA intends to deny a family permission to move under portability due to insufficient funding, the PHA must notify HUD within 10 business days of the determination to deny the move [24 CFR 982.355(e)].

#### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

In determining whether or not to deny an applicant's family permission to move under portability because Jacksonville Housing lacks sufficient funding or has grounds for denying assistance to the family, the initial PHA will follow the policies established in this chapter. If Jacksonville Housing does deny the move due to insufficient funding, Jacksonville Housing will notify HUD in writing within ten (10) business days of the PHA's determination to deny the move.

In addition, the initial PHA may establish a policy denying the right to portability to nonresident applicants during the first 12 months after they are admitted to the program [24 CFR 982.353(c)].

#### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

If neither the head of household nor the spouse/cohead of an applicant family had a domicile (legal residence) in the initial PHA's jurisdiction at the time that the family's initial application for assistance was submitted, the family must lease a unit within the initial PHA's jurisdiction for at least 12 months before requesting portability.

Jacksonville Housing will consider exceptions to this policy for purposes of reasonable accommodation (see Chapter 4) or reasons related to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

### ***Participant Families***

The initial PHA must not provide portable assistance for a participant if a family has moved out of its assisted unit in violation of the lease [24 CFR 982.353(b)]. The Violence Against Women Act of 2013 (VAWA) creates an exception to this prohibition for families who are otherwise in compliance with program obligations but have moved to protect the health or safety of a family member who is or has been a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking and who reasonably believed they were imminently threatened by harm from further violence if they remained in the unit [24 CFR 982.353(b)].

#### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

Jacksonville Housing will determine whether a participant's family may move out of the PHA's jurisdiction with continued assistance in accordance with the regulations and policies set forth here and in sections 10. A. and 10. B of this chapter. Jacksonville Housing will notify the family of its determination in accordance with the approval policy set forth in section 10. C. of this chapter.

## **Determining Income Eligibility**

### ***Applicant Families***

An applicant family may lease a unit in a particular area under portability only if the family is income eligible for admission to the voucher program in that area [24 CFR 982.353(d)(1)]. The family must specify the area to which the family wishes to move [24 CFR 982.355(c)(1)].

The initial PHA is responsible for determining whether the family is income eligible in the area to which the family wishes to move [24 CFR 982.353(d)(1), 24 CFR 982.355(9)]. If the applicant's family is not income eligible in that area, the PHA must inform the family that it may not move there and receive voucher assistance [Notice PIH 2016-09].

### ***Participant Families***

Under portability, a participant family's income eligibility is not redetermined if the family moves to a new jurisdiction [24 CFR 982.353(d)(2)].

## **Reexamination of Family Income and Composition**

No new reexamination of family income and composition is required for an applicant's family.

### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

For a participant family approved to move out of its jurisdiction under portability, Jacksonville Housing generally will conduct a reexamination of family income and composition only if the family's annual reexamination must be completed on or before the initial billing deadline specified on form HUD-52665, Family Portability Information.

Jacksonville Housing will make any exceptions to this policy necessary to remain in compliance with HUD regulations.

## **Briefing**

The regulations and policies on briefings set forth in Chapter 5 of this plan require the PHA to provide information on portability to all applicant families that qualify to lease a unit outside the PHA's jurisdiction under the portability procedures. Therefore, no special briefing is required for these families.

### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

No formal briefing will be required for a participant's family wishing to move outside the PHA's jurisdiction under portability. However, the PHA will provide the family with the same oral and written explanation of portability that it provides to applicant families selected for admission to the program (see Chapter 5).

Jacksonville Housing will provide the name, address, and phone of the contact for the PHAs in the jurisdiction to which they wish to move. If there is more than one PHA with jurisdiction over the area to which the family wishes to move, Jacksonville Housing will advise the family that the family selects the receiving PHA and notify the initial PHA of which receiving PHA was selected. Jacksonville Housing will provide the family with contact information for all of the receiving PHAs that serve the area. Jacksonville Housing will not provide any additional information about receiving PHAs in the area. Jacksonville Housing will further inform the family that if the family prefers not to select the receiving PHA, the initial PHA will select the receiving PHA on behalf of the family.

In this case, Jacksonville Housing will not provide the family with information for all receiving PHAs in the area.

Jacksonville Housing will advise the family that they will be under the receiving PHA's policies and procedures, including screening, subsidy standards, voucher extension policies, and payment standards.

### **Voucher Issuance and Term**

An applicant's family has no right to portability until after the family has been issued a voucher [24 CFR 982.353(b)]. The PHA will follow the regulations and procedures set forth in Chapter 5 in issuing vouchers to applicant families.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

For participating families approved to move under portability, Jacksonville Housing will issue a new voucher within ten (10) business days of Jacksonville Housing's written approval to move.

The initial term of the voucher for outgoing portability will be 120 days.

### **Voucher Extensions and Expiration**

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

The initial PHA will approve **no** extensions to a voucher issued to an applicant or participant family porting out of Jacksonville Housing's jurisdiction except under the following circumstances: (a) the initial term of the voucher will expire before the portable family will be issued a voucher by the receiving PHA, (b) the family decides to return to the initial PHA's jurisdiction and search for a unit there, or (c) the family decides to search for a unit in a third PHA's jurisdiction. In such cases, the policies on voucher extensions set forth in Chapter 5 of this plan will apply, including the requirement that the family apply for an extension in writing prior to the expiration of the initial voucher term.

To receive or continue receiving assistance under the initial PHA's voucher program, a family that moves to another PHA's jurisdiction under portability must be under a HAP contract in the receiving PHA's jurisdiction within 90 days following the expiration date of the initial PHA's voucher term (including any extensions). (See below under "Initial Billing Deadline" for one exception to this policy.)

### **Preapproval Contact with the Receiving PHA**

Prior to approving a family's request to move under portability, the initial PHA must contact the receiving PHA via email or other confirmed delivery method to determine whether the receiving PHA will administer or absorb the family's voucher. Based on the receiving PHA's response, the initial PHA must determine whether it will approve or deny the move [24 CFR 982.355(c)(3)].

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will use email, when possible, to contact the receiving PHA regarding whether the receiving PHA will administer or absorb the family's voucher.



## **Initial Notification to the Receiving PHA**

After approving a family's request to move under portability, the initial PHA must promptly notify the receiving PHA via email or other confirmed delivery method to expect the family [24 CFR 982.355(c)(3); 24 CFR 982.355(c)(7)]. The initial PHA must also advise the family on how to contact and request assistance from the receiving PHA [24 CFR 982.355(c)(6)].

### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

Because the portability process is time-sensitive, Jacksonville Housing will notify the receiving PHA by phone, fax, or email to expect the family. The initial PHA will also ask the receiving PHA to provide any information the family may need upon arrival, including the name, fax, email address, and telephone number of the staff person responsible for business with incoming portable families and procedures related to appointments for voucher issuance. Jacksonville Housing will pass this information along to the family. Jacksonville Housing will also ask for the name, address, telephone number, fax, and email of the person responsible for processing the billing information.

## **Sending Documentation to the Receiving PHA**

The initial PHA is required to send the receiving PHA the following documents:

- Form HUD-52665, Family Portability Information, with Part I filled out [Notice PIH 2016-09]
- A copy of the family's voucher [Notice PIH 2016-09]
- A copy of the family's most recent form HUD-50058, Family Report, or, if necessary, in the case of an applicant family, family and income information in a format similar to that of form HUD-50058 [24 CFR 982.355(c)(7), Notice PIH 2016-09]
- Copies of the income verifications backing up the form HUD-50058, including a copy of the family's current EIV data [24 CFR 982.355(c)(7), Notice PIH 2016-09]

### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

In addition to these documents, Jacksonville Housing will provide the following information, if available, to the receiving PHA:

Social Security numbers (SSNs)

Documentation of SSNs for all nonexempt household members whose SSNs have not been verified through the EIV system

Documentation of legal identity

Documentation of citizenship or eligible immigration status

Documentation of participation in the earned income disallowance (EID) benefit

Documentation of participation in a family self-sufficiency (FSS) program

Jacksonville Housing will notify the family in writing regarding any information provided to the receiving PHA [HCV GB, p. 13-3].

### **Initial Billing Deadline [Notice PIH 2016-09]**

The deadline for submitting initial billing is 90 days following the expiration date of the voucher issued to the family by the initial PHA. In cases where the voucher suspension delays the initial billing submission, the receiving PHA must notify the initial PHA of delayed billing before the billing deadline and document that the delay is due to the suspension. In this case, the initial PHA must extend the billing deadline by 30 days.

If the initial PHA does not receive a billing notice by the deadline and does not intend to honor a late billing submission, it must notify the receiving PHA in writing. The initial PHA may report to HUD the receiving PHA's failure to comply with the deadline.

If the initial PHA will honor the late billing, no action is required.

#### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

The initial PHA's decision as to whether to accept late billing will be based on internal PHA factors, including the initial PHA's leasing or funding status. If Jacksonville Housing has not received an initial billing notice from the receiving PHA within the billing deadline and does not intend to honor the late billing, it will contact the receiving PHA to inform them that it will not honor a late billing submission and will return any subsequent billings that it receives on behalf of the family. In this case, Jacksonville Housing will send the receiving PHA a written confirmation of its decision by mail.

Among other considerations as to whether to accept late billing will be if the family includes a person with disabilities and the late billing is a result of a reasonable accommodation granted to the family by the receiving PHA.

### **Monthly Billing Payments [24 CFR 982.355(e), Notice PIH 2016-09]**

If the receiving PHA is administering the family's voucher, the receiving PHA bills the initial PHA for housing assistance payments and administrative fees. When reimbursing for administrative fees, the initial PHA must promptly reimburse the receiving PHA for the lesser of 80 percent of the initial PHA's ongoing administrative fee or 100 percent of the receiving PHA's ongoing administrative fee for each program unit under contract on the first day of the month for which the receiving PHA is billing the initial PHA under portability. If the administrative fees are prorated for the HCV program, the proration will apply to the amount of the administrative fee for which the receiving PHA may bill [24 CFR 982.355(e)(2)].

The initial PHA is responsible for making billing payments in a timely manner. The first billing amount is due within 30 calendar days after the initial PHA receives Part II of form HUD-52665 from the receiving PHA. Subsequent payments must be **received** by the receiving PHA no later than the fifth business day of each month. The payments must be provided in a form and manner that the receiving PHA is able and willing to accept.

The initial PHA may not terminate or delay making payments under existing portability billing arrangements due to over-leasing or funding shortfalls. The PHA must manage its tenant-based program to ensure that it has the financial ability to provide assistance for families that move out of its jurisdiction under portability and are not absorbed by receiving PHAs, as well as for families that remain within its jurisdiction.

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

The initial PHA will utilize direct deposit to ensure that the payment is received by the deadline unless the receiving PHA notifies the initial PHA that direct deposit is not acceptable to them. If the initial PHA extends the term of the voucher, the receiving PHA's voucher will expire 30 calendar days from the new expiration date of the initial PHA's voucher.

### **Annual Updates of Form HUD-50058**

If the initial PHA is being billed on behalf of a portable family, it should receive an updated form HUD-50058 each year from the receiving PHA. If the initial PHA fails to receive an updated 50058 by the family's annual reexamination date, the initial PHA should contact the receiving PHA to verify the status of the family. The initial PHA must continue paying the receiving PHA based on the last form, HUD-50058, received unless instructed otherwise by HUD. The initial PHA may seek absorption of the vouchers by following the steps outlined in Notice PIH 2016-09.

### **Denial or Termination of Assistance [24 CFR 982.355(c)(17)]**

At any time, either the initial PHA or the receiving PHA may make a determination to deny or terminate assistance with the family in accordance with 24 CFR 982.552 and 24 CFR 982.553. (For PHA policies on denial and termination, see Chapters 3 and 12, respectively.)

### **F. RECEIVING PHA ROLE**

If a family has a right to lease a unit in the receiving PHA's jurisdiction under portability, the receiving PHA must provide assistance for the family [24 CFR 982.355(10)]. HUD may determine in certain instances that a PHA is not required to accept incoming portable families, such as a PHA in a declared disaster area. However, the PHA must have approval in writing from HUD before refusing any incoming portable families [24 CFR 982.355(b)].

Administration of the voucher must be in accordance with the receiving PHA's policies. This requirement also applies to the policies of Moving to Work agencies. The receiving PHA procedures and preferences for selection among eligible applicants do not apply to the family, and the receiving PHA waiting list is not used [24 CFR 982.355(c)(10)]. The family's unit, or voucher, size is determined in accordance with the subsidy standards of the receiving PHA [24 CFR 982.355(c)(12)], and the receiving PHA's policies on extensions of the voucher term apply [24 CFR 982.355(c)(14)].

### **Responding to Initial PHA's Request [24 CFR 982.355(c)]**

The receiving PHA must respond via email or other confirmed delivery method to the initial PHA's inquiry to determine whether the family's voucher will be billed or absorbed [24 CFR 982.355(c)(3)]. If the receiving PHA informs the initial PHA that it will be absorbing the voucher, the receiving PHA cannot reverse its decision at a later date without the consent of the initial PHA (24 CFR 982.355(c)(4)).

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will use email, when possible, to notify the initial PHA whether it will administer or absorb the family's voucher.

## **Initial Contact with Family**

When a family moves into the PHA's jurisdiction under portability, the family is responsible for promptly contacting the PHA and complying with the PHA's procedures for incoming portable families. The family's failure to comply may result in denial or termination of the receiving PHA's voucher [24 CFR 982.355(c)(8)].

If the voucher issued to the family by the initial PHA has expired, the receiving PHA must contact the initial PHA to determine if it will extend the voucher [24 CFR 982.355(c)(13)]. An informal hearing is not required when a voucher has expired without the family leasing a unit.

If, for any reason, the receiving PHA refuses to process or provide assistance to a family under the portability procedures, the family must be given the opportunity for an informal review or hearing [Notice PIH 2016-09]. (For more on this topic, see later under "Denial or Termination of Assistance.")

## **Briefing**

HUD allows the receiving PHA to require a briefing for an incoming portable family as long as the requirement does not unduly delay the family's search [Notice PIH 2016-09].

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will not require the family to attend a briefing. Jacksonville Housing will provide the family with a briefing packet (as described in Chapter 5) and, in an individual briefing, will orally inform the family about the PHA's payment and subsidy standards, procedures for requesting approval of a unit, the unit inspection process, and the leasing process. Jacksonville Housing will suggest that the family attend a full briefing at a later date.

## **Income Eligibility and Reexamination**

The receiving PHA does not redetermine eligibility for a portable family that was already receiving assistance in the initial PHA's voucher program [24 CFR 982.355(c)(9)]. If the receiving PHA opts to conduct a new reexamination for a current participant family, it may not delay issuing the family a voucher or otherwise delay approval of a unit [24 CFR 982.355(c)(11)].

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

For any family moving into its jurisdiction under portability, Jacksonville Housing will conduct a new reexamination of family income and composition. However, Jacksonville Housing will not delay issuing the family a voucher for this reason. Nor will Jacksonville Housing delay approving a unit for the family until the reexamination process is complete unless the family is an applicant and Jacksonville Housing cannot otherwise confirm that the family is income eligible for admission to the program in the area where the unit is located.

In conducting its own reexamination, Jacksonville Housing will rely upon any verifications provided by the initial PHA to the extent that they (a) accurately reflect the family's current circumstances and (b) were obtained within the last 120 days. Any new information may be verified by documents provided by the family and adjusted, if necessary when third-party verification is received.

## **Voucher Issuance**

When a family moves into its jurisdiction under portability, the receiving PHA is required to issue the family a voucher [24 CFR 982.355(c)(13)]. During the term of the voucher, the family must submit a request for tenancy approval to the receiving PHA [24 CFR 982.355(c)(15)].

### ***Timing of Voucher Issuance***

HUD expects the receiving PHA to issue the voucher within two weeks after receiving the family's paperwork from the initial PHA if the information is in order, the family has contacted the receiving PHA, and the family complies with the receiving PHA's procedures [Notice PIH 2016-09].

#### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

When a family ports into its jurisdiction, Jacksonville Housing will issue the family a voucher based on the paperwork provided by the initial PHA unless the family's paperwork from the initial PHA is incomplete, the family's voucher from the initial PHA has expired or the family does not comply with the PHA's procedures. Jacksonville Housing will update the family's information when verification has been completed.

### ***Voucher Term***

The term of the receiving PHA's voucher may not expire before 30 calendar days from the expiration of the initial PHA's voucher [24 CFR 982.355(c)(13)]. If the initial PHA extends the term of the voucher, the receiving PHA's voucher may not expire before 30 days from the new expiration date of the initial PHA's voucher [Notice PIH 2016-09].

#### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

The receiving PHA's voucher will expire 30 calendar days from the expiration date of the initial PHA's voucher. If the initial PHA extends the term of the voucher, the receiving PHA's voucher will expire 30 calendar days from the new expiration date of the initial PHA's voucher.

### ***Voucher Extensions [24 CFR 982.355(c)(14), Notice 2016-09]***

Once the receiving PHA issues the portable family a voucher, the receiving PHA's policies on extensions of the voucher term apply. The receiving PHA must inform the initial PHA of any extension granted to the term of the voucher. It must also bear in mind the billing deadline provided by the initial PHA. Unless willing and able to absorb the family, the receiving PHA should ensure that any voucher expiration date would leave sufficient time to process a request for tenancy approval, execute a HAP contract, and deliver the initial billing to the initial PHA.

#### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

Jacksonville Housing generally will not extend the term of the voucher that it issues to an incoming portable family unless Jacksonville Housing plans to absorb the family into its own program, in which case it will follow the policies on voucher extension set forth in this section.

Jacksonville Housing will consider an exception to this policy as a reasonable accommodation for a person with disabilities (see Chapter 4).

### ***Voucher Suspensions [24 CFR 982.303, 24 CFR 982.355(c)(15)]***

If the family submits a request for tenancy approval during the term of receiving PHA's voucher, the PHA must suspend the term of that voucher. The term of the voucher stops from the date that the family submits a request for PHA approval of the tenancy until the date the PHA notifies the family in writing whether the request has been approved or denied [24 CFR 982.4(b)].

### **Notifying the Initial PHA**

The receiving PHA must promptly notify the initial PHA if the family has leased an eligible unit under the program or if the family fails to submit a request for tenancy approval for an eligible unit within the term of the receiving PHA's voucher [24 CFR 982.355(c)(16)]. The receiving PHA is required to use Part II of form HUD-52665, Family Portability Information, for this purpose [Notice PIH 2016-09]. (For more on this topic and the deadline for notification, see below under "Administering a Portable Family's Voucher.")

If an incoming portable family ultimately decides not to lease in the jurisdiction of the receiving PHA but instead wishes to return to the initial PHA's jurisdiction or to search in another jurisdiction, the receiving PHA must refer the family back to the initial PHA. In such a case the voucher of record for the family is once again the voucher originally issued by the initial PHA. Any extension of search time provided by the receiving PHA's voucher is only valid for the family's search in the receiving PHA's jurisdiction [Notice PIH 2016-09].

### **Administering a Portable Family's Voucher**

#### ***Portability Billing [24 CFR 982.355(e)]***

To cover assistance for a portable family that was not absorbed, the receiving PHA bills the initial PHA for housing assistance payments and administrative fees. The amount of the housing assistance payment for a portable family in the receiving PHA's program is determined in the same manner as for other families in the receiving PHA's program.

The receiving PHA may bill the initial PHA for the lesser of 80 percent of the initial PHA's ongoing administrative fee or 100 percent of the receiving PHA's ongoing administrative fee for each program unit under contract on the first day of the month for which the receiving PHA is billing the initial PHA under portability. If the administrative fees are prorated for the HCV program, the proration will apply to the amount of the administrative fee for which the receiving PHA may bill (i.e., the receiving PHA may bill for the lesser of 80 percent of the initial PHA's prorated ongoing administrative fee or 100 percent of the receiving PHA's ongoing administrative fee).

If both PHAs agree, the PHAs may negotiate a different amount of reimbursement.

#### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

Unless Jacksonville Housing negotiates a different reimbursement amount with the initial PHA, Jacksonville Housing will bill the initial PHA the maximum administrative fee allowed, ensuring any administrative fee proration has been properly applied.

### ***Initial Billing Deadline***

If a portable family's search for a unit is successful and the receiving PHA intends to administer the family's voucher, the receiving PHA must submit its initial billing notice (Part II of form HUD-52665) in time that the notice will be **received** no later than 90 days following the

expiration date of the family's voucher issued by the initial PHA [Notice PIH 2016-09]. This deadline may be extended for 30 additional days if the delay is due to the suspension of the voucher's term (see Initial Billing Section). A copy of the family's form HUD-50058, Family Report, completed by the receiving PHA must be attached to the initial billing notice. The receiving PHA may send these documents by mail, fax, or email.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will send its initial billing notice by fax or email, if necessary, to meet the billing deadline but will also send the notice by regular mail.

If the receiving PHA fails to send the initial billing by the deadline, it is required to absorb the family into its own program unless (a) the initial PHA is willing to accept the late submission or (b) HUD requires the initial PHA to honor the late submission (e.g., because the receiving PHA is over leased) [Notice PIH 2016-09].

#### ***Ongoing Notification Responsibilities [Notice PIH 2016-09, HUD-52665]***

**Annual Reexamination.** The receiving PHA must send the initial PHA a copy of a portable family's updated form HUD-50058 after each annual reexamination for the duration of time the receiving PHA is billing the initial PHA on behalf of the family, regardless of whether there is a change in the billing amount.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will send a copy of the updated HUD-50058 by regular mail no later than ten (10) business days after the effective date of the reexamination.

**Change in Billing Amount.** The receiving PHA is required to notify the initial PHA, using form HUD-52665, of any change in the billing amount for the family as a result of:

- A change in the HAP amount (because of a reexamination, a change in the applicable payment standard, a move to another unit, etc.)
- An abatement or subsequent resumption of the HAP payments
- Termination of the HAP contract
- Payment of a damage/vacancy loss claim for the family
- Termination of the family from the program

The timing of the notice of the change in the billing amount should correspond with the notification to the owner and the family in order to provide the initial PHA with advance notice of the change. Under no circumstances should the notification be later than ten (10) business days following the effective date of the change in the billing amount. If the receiving PHA fails to send Form HUD-52665 within ten ( ) days of effective date of billing changes, the initial PHA is not responsible for any increase prior to notification. If the change resulted in a decrease in the monthly billing amount, the initial PHA will offset future monthly payments until the difference is reconciled.

#### ***Late Payments [Notice PIH 2016-09]***

If the initial PHA fails to make a monthly payment for a portable family by the fifth business day of the month, the receiving PHA must promptly notify the initial PHA in writing of the

deficiency. The notice must identify the family, the amount of the billing payment, the date the billing payment was due, and the date the billing payment was received (if it arrived late). The receiving PHA must send a copy of the notification to the Office of Public Housing (OPH) in the HUD area office with jurisdiction over the receiving PHA. If the initial PHA fails to correct the problem by the second month following the notification, the receiving PHA may request by memorandum to the director of the OPH with jurisdiction over the receiving PHA that HUD transfer the unit in question. A copy of the initial notification and any subsequent correspondence between the PHAs on the matter must be attached. The receiving PHA must send a copy of the memorandum to the initial PHA. If the OPH decides to grant the transfer, the billing arrangement on behalf of the family ceases with the transfer, but the initial PHA is still responsible for any outstanding payments due to the receiving PHA.

### ***Overpayments [Notice PIH 2016-09]***

In all cases where the receiving PHA has received billing payments for billing arrangements no longer in effect, the receiving PHA is responsible for returning the full amount of the overpayment (including the portion provided for administrative fees) to the initial PHA.

In the event that HUD determines billing payments have continued for at least three months because the receiving PHA failed to notify the initial PHA that the billing arrangement was terminated, the receiving PHA must take the following steps:

- Return the full amount of the overpayment, including the portion provided for administrative fees, to the initial PHA.
- Once full payment has been returned, notify the Office of Public Housing in the HUD area office with jurisdiction over the receiving PHA of the date and the amount of reimbursement to the initial PHA.

At HUD's discretion, the receiving PHA will be subject to the sanctions spelled out in Notice PIH 2016-09.

### ***Denial or Termination of Assistance***

At any time, the receiving PHA may make a determination to deny or terminate assistance to a portable family for family action or inaction [24 CFR 982.355(c)(17)].

In the case of a termination, the PHA should provide adequate notice of the effective date to the initial PHA to avoid having to return payment. In no event should the receiving PHA fail to notify the initial PHA later than ten (10) business days following the effective date of the termination of the billing arrangement [HUD-52665; Notice PIH 2016-09].

#### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

If Jacksonville Housing elects to deny or terminate assistance for a portable family, the PHA will notify the initial PHA within ten (10) business days after the informal review or hearing if the denial or termination is upheld. Jacksonville Housing will base its denial or termination decision on the policies set forth in Chapter 3 or Chapter 12, respectively. The informal review or hearing will be held in accordance with the policies set forth in this Administrative Plan. The receiving PHA will furnish the initial PHA with a copy of the review or hearing decision.



### **Absorbing Portable Family**

The receiving PHA may absorb an incoming portable family into its own program when the PHA executes a HAP contract on behalf of the family or at any time thereafter providing that the PHA has funding available under its annual contributions contract (ACC) [24 CFR 982.355(d)(1), Notice PIH 2016-09].

If the receiving PHA absorbs a family from the point of admission, the admission will be counted against the receiving PHA's income-targeting obligation [24 CFR 982.201(b)(2)(vii)].

If the receiving PHA absorbs a family after providing assistance for the family under a billing arrangement with the initial PHA, the receiving PHA must send an updated form HUD-52665 to the initial PHA no later than 10 business days following the effective date of the termination of the billing arrangement [Notice PIH 2016-09].

#### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

If Jacksonville Housing decides to absorb a portable family upon the execution of a HAP contract on behalf of the family, Jacksonville Housing will notify the initial PHA by the initial billing deadline specified on form HUD-52665. The effective date of the HAP contract will be the effective date of the absorption.

If Jacksonville Housing decides to absorb a family after that, it will provide the initial PHA with 30 days' advance notice, but no later than 10 business days following the effective date of the termination of the billing arrangement.

Following the absorption of an incoming portable family, the family is assisted with funds available under the consolidated ACC for the receiving PHA's voucher program [24 CFR 982.355(d)], and the receiving PHA becomes the initial PHA in any subsequent moves by the family under portability [24 CFR 982.355(e)(4)]

## **CHAPTER 11 REEXAMINATIONS**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The PHA is required to reexamine each family's income and composition at least annually and to adjust the family's level of assistance accordingly. Interim reexaminations are also needed in certain situations. This chapter discusses both annual and interim reexaminations and the recalculation of family share and subsidy that occurs as a result. HUD regulations and PHA policies concerning reexaminations are presented in three parts:

Annual Reexaminations. This part discusses the process for conducting annual reexaminations.

Interim Reexaminations. This part details the requirements for families to report changes in family income and composition between annual reexaminations.

Recalculating Family Share and Subsidy Amount. This section discusses recalculating family share and subsidy amounts based on the results of annual and interim reexaminations.

Policies governing reasonable accommodation, family privacy, required family cooperation, and program abuse, as described elsewhere in this plan, apply to both annual and interim reexaminations.

### **A. ANNUAL REEXAMINATIONS [24 CFR 982.516]** **OVERVIEW**

Jacksonville Housing must conduct a reexamination of family income and composition at least annually. This includes gathering and verifying current information about family composition, income, and expenses. Based on this updated information, the family's income and rent must be recalculated. This part discusses the schedule for annual reexaminations, the information to be collected and verified, and the effective dates of annual reexaminations.

Unlike when performing an interim reexamination or at intake, at annual reexamination, the PHA must determine the income of the family for the previous 12-month period, except where the PHA uses a streamlined income determination. Income from assets, however, is always anticipated, irrespective of the income examination type [Notice PIH 2023-27]. PHAs also have the option of using a Safe Harbor income verification from another federal means-tested program to verify gross annual income. Chapter 7 contains the PHA's policies related to streamlined income determinations and the use of Safe Harbor income verifications.

### **B. SCHEDULING ANNUAL REEXAMINATIONS**

The PHA must establish a policy to ensure that the annual reexamination for each family is completed *within* a 12-month period and may require reexaminations more frequently [HCV GB p. 12-1].

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will begin the annual reexamination process 120 days in advance of its scheduled effective date. Generally, Jacksonville Housing will initiate annual reexamination effective dates to coincide with the family's anniversary date.

*The anniversary date* is defined as 12 months from the effective date of the family's last annual reexamination or, during a family's first year in the program, from the effective date of the family's initial examination (admission).

If the family moves to a new unit, Jacksonville Housing will perform a new annual reexamination.

Jacksonville Housing also may initiate an annual reexamination for completion prior to the anniversary date for administrative purposes.

### **Notification of and Participation in the Annual Reexamination Process**

The PHA is required to obtain the information needed to conduct annual reexaminations. How that information will be collected is left to the discretion of the PHA. However, PHAs should give tenants who were not provided the opportunity the option to complete Form HUD-92006 at this time [Notice PIH 2009-36].

#### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

Families are generally required to participate in an annual reexamination process initiated by the head of household, spouse, or cohead. If participation in the electronic process poses a hardship because of a family member's disability, the family should contact Jacksonville Housing to request a reasonable accommodation (see Chapter 4).

Notification of the annual reexamination process will be sent by US postal mail and electronically via email. The notification will include an electronic initiation to access the RentCafe Resident Portal. In addition, it will inform the family of the information and documentation that must be scanned to complete the process.

If the family is unable to access the Resident Portal, the family should contact Jacksonville Housing in advance of the deadline date for technical assistance. If a family does not complete the annual recertification via the Resident Portal, Jacksonville Housing will send a second notification requesting them to complete the process.

If a family fails to complete the annual recertifications after two attempts, or if the notice is returned by the post office with no forwarding address, a notice of termination (see Chapter 12) will be sent to the family's address of record, and to any alternate address provided in the family's file.

An advocate, interpreter, or other assistant may assist the family in the interview process. The family and Jacksonville Housing must execute a certification attesting to the role and the assistance provided by any such third party.

### **C. CONDUCTING ANNUAL REEXAMINATIONS**

As part of the annual reexamination process, families are required to provide updated information to the PHA regarding the family's income, expenses, and composition [24 CFR 982.551(b)].

#### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

Families will be asked to electronically submit all required information (as described in the reexamination notice). The required information will include a Jacksonville Housing - designated reexamination form, an Authorization for the Release of Information/Privacy

Act Notice, as well as supporting documents or forms related to the family's income, expenses, and family composition.

Any required documents or information that the family is unable to provide at the time of the electronic process must be provided within ten (10) business days of the interview. If the family is unable to obtain the information or materials within the required time frame, the family may request an extension.

If the family does not provide the required documents or information within the required time period (plus any extensions), it will receive a notice of termination (See Chapter 12).

Additionally, HUD recommends that at annual reexaminations PHAs ask whether the participant, or any member of the tenant's household, is subject to a lifetime sex offender registration requirement in any state [Notice PIH 2012-28].

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

At the annual reexamination, Jacksonville Housing will ask whether the participant or any member of the tenant's household is subject to a lifetime sex offender registration requirement in any state. Jacksonville Housing will use the Dru Sjodin National Sex Offender database to verify the information provided by the tenant.

If the PHA proposes to terminate assistance based on lifetime sex offender registration information, the PHA must notify the household of the proposed action and must provide the subject of the record and the tenant a copy of the record and an opportunity to dispute the accuracy and relevance of the information prior to termination. [24 CFR 5.903(f) and 5.905(d)]. (See Chapter 12.)

The information provided by the family generally must be verified in accordance with the policies in Chapter 7. Unless the family reports a change, or the PHA has reason to believe a change has occurred in information previously reported by the family, certain types of information that are verified at admission typically do not need to be re-verified on an annual basis. These include:

- Legal identity
- Age
- Social Security numbers
- A person's disability status
- Citizenship or immigration status

If adding a new family member to the unit causes overcrowding according to the NSPIRE standards (see Chapter 8), Jacksonville Housing must issue the family a new voucher, and the family and PHA must try to find an acceptable unit as soon as possible. If an acceptable unit is available for rental by the family, the PHA must terminate the HAP contract in accordance with its terms [24 CFR 982.403].

#### **D. DETERMINING ONGOING ELIGIBILITY OF CERTAIN STUDENTS** **[24 CFR 982.552(b)(5)]**

Section 327 of Public Law 109-115 established new restrictions on the ongoing eligibility of certain students (both part—and full-time) enrolled in institutions of higher education.

If a student enrolled in an institution of higher education is under the age of 24, is not a veteran, is not married, does not have a dependent child, and is not a person with disabilities receiving HCV assistance as of November 30, 2005, the student's eligibility must be reexamined along with the income eligibility of the student's parents on an annual basis. In these cases, both the student and the student's parents must be income eligible for the student to continue to receive HCV assistance. If, however, a student in these circumstances is determined independent from their parents or is considered a *vulnerable youth* in accordance with PHA policy, the income of the student's parents will not be considered in determining the student's ongoing eligibility.

Students who reside with parents in an HCV-assisted unit are not subject to this provision. It is limited to students who are receiving assistance on their own, separately from their parents.

##### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

During the annual reexamination process, Jacksonville Housing will determine the ongoing eligibility of each student who is subject to the eligibility restrictions in 24 CFR 5.612 by reviewing the student's individual income as well as the income of the student's parents. If the student has been determined "independent" from their parents or is considered a *vulnerable youth* based on the policies in Chapters 3 and 7, the parent's income will not be reviewed.

If the student is no longer income-eligible based on their own income or the income of their parents, the student's assistance will be terminated in accordance with the policies in Chapter 12.

If the student continues to be income eligible based on their own income and the income of their parents (if applicable), Jacksonville Housing will process a reexamination in accordance with the policies in this chapter.

#### **E. CALCULATING ANNUAL INCOME AT ANNUAL REEXAMINATION** [24 CFR 5.609(c)(2) and Notice PIH 2023-27]

The PHA must determine the income of the family for the previous 12-month period and use this amount as the family income for annual reexaminations, except where the PHA uses a streamlined income determination as indicated in Chapter 7 of this policy. The PHA may also use Safe Harbor income determinations dated within the last 12 months from a means-tested federal public assistance program at annual reexamination as outlined in Chapter 7 of this policy.

Except when using streamlined or Safe Harbor income determinations, in determining the income of the family for the previous 12-month period, any change of income since the family's last annual reexamination, including those that did not meet the threshold to process an interim reexamination in accordance with PHA policies and 24 CFR 5.657(c) or 960.257(b) must be considered.

Income from assets is always anticipated, irrespective of the income examination type.

A change in income may be a loss of income or the addition of a new source of income. Changing to a different employer in the prior year does not necessarily constitute a change if the income earned from either employer is substantially the same. The PHA should look at the entirety of the family's unearned income and earned income from the prior year in which earned income may have been one constant job or many different jobs that start and stop.

Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA) to Social Security income and Social Security disability income are always considered changes to income because the COLA is an adjustment that automatically occurs annually by law. See Chapter 6 for PHA policies on when the COLA is applied and Chapter 7 on streamlined determination of income for inflationary adjustments.

Notice PIH 2023-27 lists the following steps to calculate both earned and unearned income at annual reexamination.

**Step 1:** The PHA determines annual income for the previous 12-month period by reviewing the following information:

- The EIV Income Report pulled within 120 days of the effective date of the annual reexamination;
- The income reported on the most recent HUD-50058; and
- The amount of prior-year income reported by the family on the PHA's annual reexamination paperwork.

**Step 2:** The PHA takes into consideration any interim reexamination of family income completed since the last annual reexamination.

- If there was an interim reexamination performed within the last reexamination cycle and there are no additional changes, the PHA must use the annual income from the interim to determine the family's total annual income. The PHA may use verification obtained from the interim for this step.
- If the PHA did not perform an interim or there have been changes since the last reexamination, the PHA moves to Step 3.

**Step 3:** If the PHA has not processed changes in annual income since the last reexamination, it must use current income. The family will be required to report their income for the prior year and whether there have been permanent changes.

If there are no reported changes to an income source, the PHA may use documentation of prior-year income to calculate the annual income. For example, the PHA may use the following documentation:

- EIV + self-certification (wages, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Social Security, and unemployment)
- Current written third-party verification from the source verifying prior-year income that is dated within 120 days of receipt by the PHA, for example:
  - Year-end statements
  - Paycheck with year-to-date amounts
  - Tax forms (Form 1040, W2, 1099, etc.)

If the family reports changes or the PHA notes discrepancies between EIV and what the family reports, the PHA must follow the verification hierarchy (described in Chapter 7) to document and verify income. Exhibit 11-1 provides detailed examples of how the PHA calculates income from different sources at annual reexamination using the above method.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

When income is calculated using a streamlined income determination or Safe Harbor determination from a means-tested federal public assistance program in accordance with the PHA policies in Chapter 7, the above is not applicable. However, where the family disagrees with Jacksonville Housing or another agency's determination of income or Jacksonville Housing has other reasons to use third-party verification in these circumstances, then the above will apply.

### **F. EFFECTIVE DATES**

The PHA must establish policies concerning the effective date of changes that result from an annual reexamination [24 CFR 982.516].

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

In general, an *increase* in the family share of the rent that results from an annual reexamination will take effect on the family's anniversary date, and the family will be notified at least 30 days in advance.

If less than 30 days remain before the scheduled effective date, the increase will take effect on the first of the month following the end of the 30-day notice period.

If a family moves to a new unit, the increase will take effect on the effective date of the new lease and HAP contract, and no 30-day notice is required.

If Jacksonville Housing chooses to schedule an annual reexamination for completion prior to the family's anniversary date for administrative purposes, the effective date will be determined by Jacksonville Housing, but will always allow for the 30-day notice period.

If the family causes a delay in processing the annual reexamination, *increases* in the family share of the rent will be applied retroactively to the scheduled effective date of the annual reexamination. The family will be responsible for any overpaid subsidy and may be offered a repayment agreement in accordance with the policies in Chapter 16.

In general, a *decrease* in the family share of the rent that results from an annual reexamination will take effect on the family's anniversary date.

If a family moves to a new unit, the decrease will take effect on the effective date of the new lease and HAP contract.

If the PHA chooses to schedule an annual reexamination for completion prior to the family's anniversary date for administrative purposes, the effective date will be determined by the PHA.

If the family causes a delay in processing the annual reexamination, *decreases* in the family share of the rent will be applied prospectively, from the first day of the month following completion of the reexamination processing.

Delays in reexamination processing are considered to be caused by the family if the family fails to provide the information requested by the PHA by the specified date and prevents the PHA from completing the reexamination as scheduled.

## **G. INTERIM REEXAMINATIONS [24 CFR 982.516]**

### **OVERVIEW**

Family circumstances may change between annual reexaminations. HUD and PHA policies dictate what kinds of information about changes in family circumstances must be reported, and under what circumstances the PHA must process interim reexaminations to reflect those changes. HUD regulations also permit the PHA to conduct interim reexaminations of income or family composition at any time. When an interim reexamination is conducted, only those factors that have changed are verified and adjusted [HCV GB, p. 12-10].

In addition to specifying what information the family must report, HUD regulations permit the family to request an interim determination if other aspects of the family's income or composition change. The PHA must complete the interim reexamination within a reasonable time after the family's request.

This part includes HUD and PHA policies describing what changes families are required to report, what changes families may choose to report, and how the PHA will process both PHA- and family-initiated interim reexaminations.

## **H. CHANGES IN FAMILY AND HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION**

### **Reporting**

PHAs must require families to report household composition changes; however, PHAs determine the timeframe in which reporting happens [Notice PIH 2023-27]. The PHA must adopt policies prescribing when and under what conditions the family must report changes in income and family composition [24 CFR 960.257(b)(5)].

#### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

All families must report all changes in family and household composition that occur between annual reexaminations within 10 business days of the change.

### **New Family Members Not Requiring PHA Approval**

The addition of a family member as a result of birth, adoption, or court-awarded custody does not require PHA approval. However, the family is required to promptly notify the PHA of the addition [24 CFR 982.551(h)(2)].

#### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

The family must inform Jacksonville Housing of the birth, adoption, or court-awarded custody of a child within ten (10) business days.



## **New Family and Household Members Requiring Approval**

With the exception of children who join the family as a result of birth, adoption, or court-awarded custody, a family must request PHA approval to add a new family member [24 CFR 982.551(h)(2)] or other household members (live-in aide or foster child) [24 CFR 982.551(h)(4)].

Although the PHA must verify aspects of program eligibility when a new family member is added, the Streamlining Final Rule removed the requirement that PHAs conduct an income reexamination whenever a new family member is added. The PHA may state in policy that an income reexamination will be conducted.

If a change in family size causes a violation of NSPIRE space standards (see Chapter 8), the PHA must issue the family a new voucher, and the family and PHA must try to find an acceptable unit as soon as possible. If an acceptable unit is available for rental by the family, the PHA must terminate the family's HAP contract in accordance with its terms [24 CFR 982.403].

### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

Families must request Jacksonville Housing approval to add a new family member, live-in aide, foster child, or foster adult. This includes any person not on the lease who is expected to stay in the unit for more than thirty (30) consecutive days or ninety (90) cumulative days within a 12-month period and, therefore, no longer qualifies as a "guest." Requests must be made in writing and approved by Jacksonville Housing prior to the individual moving into the unit.

Jacksonville Housing will not approve the addition of a new family or household member unless the individual meets Jacksonville Housing's eligibility criteria (see Chapter 3) and documentation requirements (see Chapter 7).

Jacksonville Housing will not approve the addition of a foster child or foster adult if it will cause a violation of NSPIRE requirements space standards.

If Jacksonville Housing determines an individual meets its eligibility criteria and documentation requirements, it will provide written approval to the family. If the approval of a new family member or live-in aide will cause overcrowding according to NSPIRE standards, the approval letter will explain that the family will be issued a voucher and will be required to move.

If Jacksonville Housing determines that an individual does not meet Jacksonville Housing's eligibility criteria or documentation requirements, Jacksonville Housing will notify the family in writing of its decision to deny approval of the new family or household member and the reasons for the denial.

Jacksonville Housing will make its determination within ten (10) business days of receiving all information required to verify the individual's eligibility.

## **Departure of a Family or Household Member**

Families must promptly notify the PHA if any family member no longer lives in the unit [24 CFR 982.551(h)(3)]. Because household members are considered when determining the family unit (voucher) size [24 CFR 982.402], the PHA also needs to know when any live-in aide, foster child, or foster adult ceases to reside in the unit.

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

If a household member ceases to reside in the unit, the family must inform Jacksonville Housing within ten (10) business days. This requirement also applies to a family member who has been considered temporarily absent to the point that the family concludes the individual is permanently absent.

## **I. CHANGES AFFECTING INCOME OR EXPENSES**

### **Overview**

Interim reexaminations for changes in income or expenses may be scheduled either because the PHA has reason to believe that changes in income or expenses may have occurred, or because the family reports a change.

The PHA must estimate the income of the family for the upcoming 12-month period to determine family income for an interim reexamination [24 CFR 5.609(c)(1)]. Policies for projecting income are found in Chapter 6.

### **Interim Decreases [24 CFR 982.516(c)(2) and Notice PIH 2023-27]**

A family may request an interim determination of family income for any change since the last determination. However, the PHA may decline to conduct an interim reexamination if the PHA estimates the family's adjusted income will decrease by an amount that is less than 10 percent of the family's adjusted income. The PHA may set a lower threshold in PHA policy such as performing an interim for any decreases in adjusted income, although HUD prohibits the PHA from setting a dollar-figure threshold.

However, while the PHA has some discretion, HUD requires that the PHA perform an interim reexamination for a decrease in adjusted income of any amount in two circumstances:

- When there is a decrease in family size attributed to the death of a family member; or
- When a family member permanently moves out of the assisted unit during the period since the family's last reexamination.

In the above circumstances, the PHA must perform an interim reexamination for any decrease in adjusted income.

If the net effect of the changes in adjusted income due to a decrease in family size results in no change or an increase in annual adjusted income, then PHA must process the removal of the household member(s) as a non-interim reexamination transaction without making changes to the family's annual adjusted income.

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will conduct an interim reexamination any time the family's adjusted income has decreased by any amount.

### **Interim Increases [24 CFR 982.516(c)(3) and Notice PIH 2023-27]**

#### ***Increases Less than 10 Percent***

PHAs must not process interim reexaminations for income increases that result in less than a 10 percent increase in annual adjusted income.

### ***Increases 10 Percent or Greater***

PHAs must conduct an interim reexamination of family income when the PHA becomes aware that the family's adjusted income has changed by an amount that the PHA estimates will result in an increase of 10 percent or more in adjusted income, with the following exceptions:

- PHAs may not consider any increases in earned income when estimating or calculating whether the family's adjusted income has increased, unless the family has previously received an interim reduction during the same reexamination cycle; and
- PHAs may choose not to conduct an interim reexamination during the last three months of a certification period if a family reports an increase in income within three months of the next annual reexamination effective date.

When the family previously received an interim reexamination for a decrease to adjusted income during the same annual reexamination cycle, a PHA has the discretion whether to consider a subsequent increase in earned income.

#### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

When a family reports an increase in their earned income between annual reexaminations, Jacksonville Housing will not conduct an interim reexamination, regardless of the amount of the increase, and regardless of whether there was a previous decrease since the family's last annual reexamination.

Jacksonville Housing will process an interim reexamination for any increases in unearned income of 10 percent or more in adjusted income.

Jacksonville Housing will not perform an interim reexamination when a family reports an increase in income (whether earned or unearned income) within three months of their annual reexamination effective date. However, families who delay reporting income increases until the last three months of their certification period may be subject to retroactive rent increases in accordance with the PHA policies in Chapter 14.

### ***Concurrent Increases in Earned and Unearned Income [Notice PIH 2023-27]***

When the family reports an increase in both earned and unearned income at the same time, the PHA must look at the earned and unearned income changes independently of each other to determine if an interim reexamination is performed. The PHA will only conduct an interim reexamination when the increase independently meets the 10 percent threshold and all other requirements for performing interim reexaminations. For example, if a family reported increases in both earned and unearned income that overall resulted in a 12 percent increase in their adjusted income, but the change in earned income represented a 7 percent increase and the change in unearned income represented a 5 percent increase, the PHA may not perform an interim for either change since neither change meets the 10 percent threshold amount independently. If the change in unearned income met the 10 percent threshold in this case, the PHA would be required to perform an interim. If the change in earned income met the 10 percent threshold in this case, the PHA would refer to PHA policy to determine whether an interim was required.

### ***Cumulative Increases [Notice PIH 2023-27]***

A series of smaller reported increases in adjusted income may cumulatively meet or exceed the 10-percent increase threshold, at which point the PHA must conduct an interim reexamination in accordance with PHA policy.

### ***Family Reporting***

The PHA must adopt policies consistent with HUD regulations prescribing when and under what conditions the family must report a change in family income or composition [24 CFR 982.516(d)].

PHA policy may require families to report only changes that the family estimates meet the threshold for an interim reexamination or the PHA may establish policies requiring that families report all changes in income and household composition, and the PHA will subsequently determine if the change requires an interim reexamination [Notice PIH 2023-27].

When the PHA determines that an interim reexamination of income is necessary, they must ask the family to report changes in all aspects of adjusted income. For example, if the family is reporting a decrease in adjusted income that is more than 10 percent, but the family also had a change in assets that would result in a change in income, the change in assets must also be reviewed [Notice PIH 2023-27].

#### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

The family will be required to report all changes in income regardless of the amount of the change, whether the change is to earned or unearned income, or if the change occurred during the last three months of the certification period. Families must report changes in income within 10 business days of the date the change takes effect. The family may notify Jacksonville Housing of changes either orally or in writing, including by email. If the family provides oral notice, Jacksonville Housing may also require the family to submit the changes in writing, including email.

Within 10 business days of the family reporting the change, Jacksonville Housing will determine whether the change will require an interim reexamination.

If the change does not result in an interim reexamination, Jacksonville Housing will note the information in the tenant file but will not conduct an interim reexamination.

Jacksonville Housing will send the family written notification (which may be emailed) within 10 business days of making this determination informing the family that Jacksonville Housing will not conduct an interim reexamination.

If the change will result in an interim reexamination, Jacksonville Housing will determine the documentation the family will be required to submit based on the type of change reported and PHA policies in Chapter 7. Jacksonville Housing will ask the family to report changes in all aspects of adjusted income at this time. The family must submit any required information or documents within 10 business days of receiving a request from Jacksonville Housing. This time frame may be extended for good cause with PHA approval. Jacksonville Housing will accept required documentation by mail, email, fax, or in person. Jacksonville Housing will conduct the interim within a reasonable time period based on the amount of time it takes to verify the information.

Generally, the family will not be required to attend an interview for an interim reexamination. However, if Jacksonville Housing determines that an interview is warranted, the family may be required to attend.

#### **J. EFFECTIVE DATES [24 CFR 982.516(e) and Notice 2023-27]**

##### **Changes Reported Timely [Notice PIH 2023-27]**

If the family reports a change in family income or composition timely in accordance with PHA policies:

- For rent increases, the PHA must provide the family with 30 days advance written notice. The rent increase is effective the first of the month after the end of that 30-day notice period.
- Rent decreases are effective on the first of the month after the date of the actual change leading to the interim reexamination of family income. This means the decrease will be applied retroactively.

##### **Changes Not Reported Timely [Notice PIH 2023-27]**

If the family failed to report a change in family income or composition timely in accordance with PHA policies:

- For rent increases, the PHA must implement any resulting rent increases retroactively to the first of the month following the date of the change leading to the interim reexamination of family income.
- For rent decreases, the PHA must implement the change no later than the first rent period following completion of the interim reexamination.

However, the PHA may choose to adopt a policy that would make the effective date of the rent decrease retroactive to the first of the month following the completion of the reexamination. PHAs may choose to establish conditions or requirements for when such a retroactive application would apply. PHAs that choose to adopt such policies must ensure the earliest date that the retroactive decrease is applied is the later of:

- The first of the month following the date of the change that led to the interim reexamination; or
- The first of the month following the most recent previous income examination.

In applying a retroactive change in rent as the result of an interim reexamination, the PHA must clearly communicate the effect of the retroactive adjustment to the family so that there is no confusion over the amount of the rent that is the family's responsibility.

#### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

In general, when the family fails to report a change in income or family composition timely, and the change would lead to a rent decrease, Jacksonville Housing will apply the decrease the first of the month following completion of the interim reexamination.

However, Jacksonville Housing will apply the results of the interim reexamination retroactively where a family's ability to report a change in income promptly may have been hampered due to extenuating circumstances such as a natural disaster or disruptions to Jacksonville Housing

management operations. Jacksonville Housing will decide to apply decreases retroactively on a case-by-case basis.

When Jacksonville Housing applies the results of interim decreases retroactively, Jacksonville Housing will clearly communicate the effect of the retroactive adjustment to the family and may enter into a repayment agreement in accordance with PHA policies.

Jacksonville Housing will also clearly communicate the effect of the retroactive adjustment to the owner.

## **K. RECALCULATING FAMILY SHARE AND SUBSIDY AMOUNT**

### **OVERVIEW**

After gathering and verifying required information for an annual or interim reexamination, the PHA must recalculate the family share of the rent and the subsidy amount and notify the family and owner of the changes [24 CFR 982.516(d)(2), HCV 12-6 and 12-10]. While the basic policies that govern these calculations are provided in Chapter 6, this part lays out policies that affect these calculations during a reexamination.

## **L. CHANGES IN PAYMENT STANDARDS AND UTILITY ALLOWANCES**

Changes in payment standards, subsidy standards, or utility allowances may need to be updated and included in the PHA's calculations to calculate the family share of the rent and HAP amount correctly.

Specific policies governing how subsidy standards, payment standards, and utility allowances are applied are discussed below.

### **Payment Standards [24 CFR 982.505]**

The family share of the rent and HAP calculations must use the correct payment standard for the family, taking into consideration the family unit size, the size of unit, and the area in which the unit is located [HCV GB, p. 12-5]. See Chapter 6 for information on how to select the appropriate payment standard.

When the PHA changes its payment standards or the family's situation changes, new payment standards are applied at the following times:

- If the PHA's payment standard amount changes during the term of the HAP contract, the date on which the new standard is applied depends on whether the standard has increased or decreased:
  - If the payment standard amount has *increased*, the increased payment standard will be applied at the *first annual* reexamination following the effective date of the increase in the payment standard.
  - If the payment standard amount has *decreased*, during the term of a HAP contract, the PHA is not required to reduce the payment standard as the HAP contract remains in effect. At the family's *second annual* reexamination, the PHA may, but is not required to, apply the decreased payment standard or may gradually implement the reduced payment standard (See Chapter 6 for the PHA's policy on decreases in the payment standard).

- If the family moves to a new unit, or a new HAP contract is executed due to changes in the lease (even if the family remains in place) the current payment standard applicable to the family will be used when the new HAP contract is processed.

#### **Subsidy Standards [24 CFR 982.505(c)(4)]**

If there is a change in the family unit size that would apply to a family during the HAP contract term, either due to a change in family composition, or a change in the PHA's subsidy standards (see Chapter 5), the new family unit size must be used to determine the payment standard amount for the family at the family's *first annual* reexamination following the change in family unit size.

#### **Utility Allowances [24 CFR 982.517(d)]**

The family share of the rent and HAP calculations must reflect any changes in the family's utility arrangement with the owner, or in the PHA's utility allowance schedule [HCV GB, p. 12-5]. Chapter 16 discusses how utility allowance schedules are established.

When there are changes in the utility arrangement with the owner, the PHA must use the utility allowances in effect at the time the new lease and HAP contract are executed.

At reexamination, the PHA must use the PHA current utility allowance schedule [HCV GB, p. 18-8].

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Revised utility allowances will be applied to a family's rent and subsidy calculations at the first annual reexamination after the allowance is adopted.

### **M. NOTIFICATION OF NEW FAMILY SHARE AND HAP AMOUNT**

The PHA must notify the owner and family of any changes in the amount of the HAP payment [HUD-52641, HAP Contract]. The notice must include the following information [HCV GB, p. 12-6]:

- The amount and effective date of the new HAP payment
- The amount and effective date of the new family share of the rent
- The amount and effective date of the new tenant rent to owner
- The family must be given an opportunity for an informal hearing regarding the PHA's determination of their annual or adjusted income, and the use of such income to compute the housing assistance payment [24 CFR 982.555(a)(1)(i)] (see Chapter 16).

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

The notice to the family will include the annual and adjusted income amounts that were used to calculate the family share of the rent and the housing assistance payment.

The notice will state the family has the right to request an explanation of how the assistance was calculated and if the family disagrees, they have the right to informal hearing. The notice will include the procedures for requesting an informal hearing.

## **N. DISCREPANCIES**

During an annual or interim reexamination, the PHA may discover that information previously reported by the family was in error, or that the family intentionally misrepresented information. In addition, the PHA may discover errors made by the PHA. When errors resulting in the overpayment or underpayment of subsidy are discovered, corrections will be made in accordance with the policies in Chapter 13.

## **O. NON-INTERIM REEXAMINATION TRANSACTIONS** [Notice PIH 2023-27]

Families may experience changes within the household that do not trigger an interim reexamination under PHA policy and HUD regulations but which HUD still requires the PHA to report to HUD via Form HUD-50058. These are known as *non-interim reexamination transactions*. In these cases, PHAs will submit a separate, new action code on Form HUD-50058. The following is a list of non-interim reexamination transactions:

- Adding or removing a hardship exemption for the childcare expense deduction;
- Updating or removing the phased-in hardship relief for the health and medical care expense deduction and/or reasonable attendant care and auxiliary apparatus expense deduction (families will begin receiving a 24-month phased-in relief at their next annual or interim reexamination, whichever occurs first);
- Adding or removing general hardship relief for the health and medical care expense deduction and/or reasonable attendant care and auxiliary apparatus expense deduction;
- Adding or removing a minimum rent hardship;
- Adding or removing a non-family member (i.e., live-in aide, foster child, foster adult);
- Ending a family's EID or excluding 50 percent (decreased from 100 percent) of a family member's increase in employment income at the start of the second 12-month EID period.
- Adding a family member and the increase in adjusted income does not trigger an interim reexamination under the final rule;
- Removing a family member and the increase in adjusted income does not trigger an interim reexamination under the final rule;
- Adding/updating a family or household member's Social Security number; and
- Updating a family member's citizenship status from eligible to ineligible or vice versa, resulting in a change to the family's rent and/or utility reimbursement, if applicable (i.e., family begins receiving prorated assistance or previously prorated assistance becomes full assistance), or updating the prorated rent calculation due to the addition or removal of family members in household with an ineligible noncitizen(s).

PHAs must make all other changes to assets, income, and deductions at the next annual or interim reexamination of income, whichever is sooner.



## Exhibit 11-1: CALCULATING Income at Annual Reexamination

### Example 1: Calculating Annual Income at Annual Reexamination Using EIV

Staff are processing the 3/1/2024 annual reexamination for Ruby Myers and her minor daughter, Georgia. No interim reexaminations have been processed, and Ruby has not reported any changes to annual income to the PHA since the 3/1/2023 annual reexamination. The SSA published 2024 COLA is 7 percent.

#### Last reexamination – 3/1/2023 Annual Reexamination

Ruby:

Wages: \$30,000

Georgia:

SSI: \$10,980 (\$915 monthly)

The EIV report pulled on 12/15/2023

Ruby:

Wages Total: \$33,651

Quarter 3 of 2023: \$8,859 (City Public School)

Quarter 2 of 2023: \$8,616 (City Public School)

Quarter 1 of 2023: \$8,823 (City Public School)

Quarter 4 of 2022: \$7,353 (City Public School)

Georgia:

SSI Total: \$10,980

2023 benefit \$915 monthly

#### Income Reported on Reexamination Application

Ruby:

Wages at City Public School: \$32,000

(switched jobs but no permanent change to amount)

Georgia:

SSI benefits: \$10,980 (no changes)

#### Calculating Ruby's wages:

Step 1: Determine prior annual income from EIV (i.e., Q4 2022 through Q3 of 2023: \$33,651).

Step 2: Take into consideration any interim reexamination of family income completed since the last annual reexamination (in this case, there have been no interim reexaminations processed since the last annual reexamination).

Step 3: Ruby certifies that the \$33,651 of wages in EIV is accurate and reflects her

#### Calculating Georgia's SSI benefit:

Step 1: Determine the prior annual income from EIV (i.e., \$915 x 12 months: \$10,980).

Step 2: Take into consideration any interim reexamination of family income completed since the last annual reexamination (in this case, there have been no interim reexaminations processed since the last annual reexamination).

Step 3: Ruby certifies the SSI income in EIV is accurate and reflects Georgia's current annual income. The PHA must adjust the prior-year

current annual income, so the PHA will use \$33,651 for annual wages for the 3/1/2024 annual reexamination given there have been no additional changes to annual income.	income (2023 SSI benefit) by the 7- percent COLA and will use this amount to calculate annual SSI income for the 3/1/2024 annual reexamination:  COLA: \$64.05 (\$915 x 0.07)  New gross SSI benefit: \$11,748.60 (\$979.05 x 12 months)
If Ruby did not agree with the annual wages reported in EIV, the PHA/MFH Owner would be required to verify her current income in accordance with HUD's verification hierarchy.	
<u>Summary of Annual Income (as reported on the HUD-50058)</u>	
Ruby (Head of Household): Other Wage: \$33,651 Myers Family Total Annual Income: \$45,399	Georgia (Other Youth Under 18): SSI: \$11,748

**Example 2: Calculating Annual Income at Annual Reexamination Using EIV:**  
**Family Disagrees with EIV**

Staff are processing Paul Hewson's 5/1/2024 annual reexamination. Since the last annual reexamination, Paul reported a decrease in annual income that exceeded 10 percent. Last year, Paul reported a decrease in earned income because he transferred from a full-time job at Sasha's Sweets to a part-time job at Viking Bakery. Following HUD's EIV verification hierarchy, staff confirmed Paul was no longer employed at Sasha's Sweets and decreased his anticipated annual income from \$28,000 to \$7,500 resulting from his new part-time employment at Viking Bakery; an interim reexamination was processed effective 7/1/2023. After the 7/1/2023 interim, Paul worked briefly at two different jobs, but he says he is no longer working and is not planning to work.
<u>5/1/2023 Annual Reexamination</u>
<u>Wages: \$28,000</u>

The EIV report pulled on 1/15/2024

Wages Total: \$18,271  
Quarter 3 of 2023: \$2,500 (Viking Bakery)  
Quarter 3 of 2023: \$796 (Sweet Tooth Candy Bar)  
Quarter 2 of 2023: \$1,300 (Sasha's Sweets)  
Quarter 2 of 2023: \$584 (Larry's Concessions)  
Quarter 2 of 2023: \$2,401 (Viking Bakery)

Quarter 1 of 2023: \$6,500 (Sasha's Sweets)

Quarter 4 of 2022: \$600 (Sasha's Sweets)

SS/SSI: No history of benefits

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Income Reported on Reexamination Application</u></p> <p><u>Wages: \$0 (permanent change; no longer receiving)</u></p> <p><u>Social Security: \$14,400 (\$1,200 monthly)</u></p> <p>Paul certified on the PHA's annual reexamination paperwork that he does not agree with the annual wages of \$18,271 reported in EIV and it is not reflective of his current anticipated annual income. He reported he is currently unemployed, and provided a copy of an award letter from the Social Security Administration to document that he will begin receiving a monthly disability benefit of \$1,200 effective 3/1/2024.</p>
<p><u>Calculating Wages and SS Benefit</u></p> <p>Step 1: Determine prior annual income taking into consideration the 7/1/2023 interim reexamination (i.e., EIV wages reflected Q4 2022 through Q3 2023: \$18,271)</p> <p>Step 2: Take into consideration any interim reexamination of family income completed since the last annual reexamination. In this case, there was a 7/1/2023 interim that reduced wages to \$7,500.</p> <p>Step 3: Obtain documentation to verify current income and confirm Paul is no longer employed at Viking Bakery or The Sweet Tooth Candy Bar (the employers reported in the most recent quarter of EIV). This step is necessary, because Paul did not agree with the EIV income report or income reported on the last interim reexamination. Paul reported that he is no longer working at all.</p> <p>Process the annual reexamination effective 5/1/2024 using annual SS income of \$14,400 and \$0 wages.</p>
<p><u>Summary of Annual Income (as reported on the HUD-50058)</u></p> <p>Paul (Head of Household): \$14,400 (SS)</p> <p>Hewson Family Total Annual Income: \$14,400</p>

### Example 3: Calculating Annual Income at Annual Reexamination

Staff are processing the 11/1/2024 annual reexamination for Samantha and Fergus Pool, head of household and spouse. On 2/14/2024 Samantha reported her monthly child support payment was reduced from \$200 to \$100 per month, but an interim reexamination was not processed because the reduction in child support income for Samantha's daughter, Hailey, did not result in a decrease of 10 percent or more in annual adjusted income, and the PHA did not establish a lower threshold. Samantha did not report any additional changes to the PHA.

#### Last reexamination – 11/1/2023 Annual Reexamination

##### Samantha:

Business income: \$28,000

VA disability pension: \$12,000

Child support: \$2,400

##### Fergus:

Wages: \$8,250

Other non-wage income: \$3,000 (Go Fund Me online fundraiser)

#### The EIV report pulled on 9/16/2024

##### Samantha:

Wages Total: \$0 (no wage data reported since Q1 2023)

##### Fergus:

Wages Total: \$8,600

Quarter 1 of 2024: \$2,100 (Ian's Fish 'n' Chips)

Quarter 1 of 2024: \$500 (Claire's Healthcare Supplies)

Quarter 4 of 2023: \$1,000 (Claire's Healthcare Supplies)

Quarter 3 of 2023: \$1,800 (The Onion Garden Shop)

Quarter 2 of 2023: \$3,200 (Ivar's Fish Haus)

#### Current Family Circumstances: Income Reported on Reexamination Application

Samantha and Fergus reported how much income was earned/received in the previous 12-month period and noted permanent changes, where applicable, for each source of their income on PHA's annual reexamination form. However, no information was reported by the family concerning other non-wage income. Fergus reported only wages and his current employment at Ian's Fish 'n' Chips for the annual reexamination. The family supplied the supporting documentation noted below to the PHA for the 11/1/2024 annual reexamination.

##### Samantha:

Business income: \$28,750 (last year); has decreased to \$18,000 (permanent change)

##### Fergus:

Wages: \$6,000

VA disability benefit: \$12,000 (last year); has increased to \$12,300 (permanent change)

Child support: \$2,400 (last year); has decreased to \$1,200 (permanent change)

#### Calculating Samantha's Net Business Income

Step 1: Determine prior annual net business income (i.e., \$28,000 on last HUD-50058).

Step 2: Take into consideration any interim reexamination of family income completed since the last annual reexamination. In this case, there have been no interim reexaminations processed since the last annual reexamination.

Step 3: Adjust to reflect current net business income. Samantha reported on the annual reexamination application that business income permanently decreased to \$18,000. The PHA must obtain supporting documentation from Samantha that demonstrates current net business income. Samantha provided documentation that supported the current annual net business income is \$18,000. Process the annual reexamination effective 11/1/2024 using annual net business income determined in Step 3.

#### Calculating Samantha's VA Pension Income

Step 1: Determine prior annual VA pension income (i.e., \$12,000 supported by a VA award letter Samantha supplied that documents the prior year monthly VA pension was \$1,000).

Step 2: Take into consideration any interim reexamination of family income completed since the last annual reexamination. In this case, there have been no interim reexaminations processed since the last annual reexamination.

Step 3: The PHA needs to adjust to reflect current VA pension income. Samantha supplies a VA award letter showing a monthly pension of \$1,025, or \$12,300 annually. Process the annual reexamination effective 11/1/2024 using annual VA pension income determined in Step 3 (\$12,300 in this example).

#### Calculating Samantha's Child Support Income

Step 1: Determine prior annual child support income (i.e., \$2,400 on the last HUD-50058).

Step 2: Take into consideration any interim reexamination of family income completed since the last annual reexamination. In this case, there have been no interim reexaminations processed since the last annual reexamination. The family reported a decrease from \$200 to \$100 monthly, but the change was not processed because it did not meet the threshold.

Step 3: The family reported changes, so the PHA must adjust to reflect current child support income. In this example, the family submitted a child support history report from the local child support office that documents regular \$100 monthly child supports payments beginning 3/1/2024 through the current month. Process the annual reexamination effective 11/1/2024 using current annual child support income determined in Step 3 (\$1,200 in this example).

### Calculating Fergus' Wages

Step 1: Determine prior annual income from wages in EIV (i.e., Q2 2023 through Q1 of 2024: \$8,600).

Step 2: Take into consideration any interim reexamination of family income completed since the last annual reexamination. In this case, there have been no interim reexaminations processed since the last annual reexamination.

Step 3: There is a discrepancy between what the family reported and EIV, so the PHA must verify and adjust to reflect current annual income from wages. Fergus reported \$6,000 in annual income from wages on the annual reexamination from a single employer, Ian's Fish 'n' Chips. The PHA projected annual income of \$7,800 based on the two paystubs for this employer, and EIV shows \$8,600 earned in the most recent four quarters in EIV. To complete Step 3, the PHA must do the following:

- Resolve the discrepancy between EIV wages, the \$6,000 annual income Fergus reported, and the \$7,800 projected based on the paystubs he provided, and
- Verify he is no longer employed at Claire's Healthcare Supplies in accordance with HUD's verification hierarchy and local policies.

The PHA determined that Fergus reported his net vs. gross annual income from wages, which he corrected on the annual reexamination form to reflect his current gross annual income of \$9,000. The PHA verified Fergus was no longer employed at Claire's Healthcare Supplies and obtained two additional paystubs. Based on four current and consecutive paystubs, Fergus is now projected to earn \$9,360 annually. Process the annual reexamination effective 11/1/2024 using income from wages determined in Step 3 (\$9,360 in this example).

### Calculating Fergus' Other Non-Wage Income

Step 1: Determine prior annual income from other non-wage income (i.e., \$3,000 on the last HUD- 50058).

Step 2: Take into consideration any interim reexamination of family income completed since the last annual reexamination. In this case, there have been no interim reexaminations processed since the last annual reexamination.

Step 3: The family did not report any non-wage income on the annual reexamination form, but it was included on the last HUD-50058. The PHA must verify and adjust to reflect current non-wage income. The PHA must verify no income was received through a "Go Fund Me" online fundraiser so that it may be excluded. Fergus provided a self-certification that he hasn't solicited funds online and doesn't plan to in the following year; he also provided records from the account that documented no fundraising activity in the prior 12-month period. Process the annual reexamination effective 11/1/2024 using annual non-wage income of \$0 determined in Step 3.

Summary of Annual Income (as reported on the HUD-50058)

Samantha (Head of Household): Own business: \$18,000 Pension: \$12,300 Child support: \$1,200	Fergus (Co-head): Wages: \$9,360
Poole Family Total Annual Income: \$40,860	

## **CHAPTER 12 TERMINATION OF ASSISTANCE AND TENANCY**

### **INTRODUCTION**

HUD regulations specify mandatory and optional grounds for which a PHA can terminate a family's assistance. They also specify the circumstances under which an owner may terminate the tenancy of an assisted family. This chapter describes the policies that govern mandatory and optional terminations of assistance and termination of tenancy by the owner. It is presented in three parts:

Grounds for Termination of Assistance. This section describes the various circumstances under which the family or the PHA can terminate the program's assistance.

Approach to Termination of Assistance. This part describes the policies and process that the PHA will use in evaluating decisions on whether to terminate assistance due to the family's actions or inactions where termination is an option. It specifies the alternatives that the PHA may consider in lieu of termination, the criteria the PHA will use when deciding what action to take, and the steps the PHA must take when terminating a family's assistance.

Termination of Tenancy by the Owner. This part describes the HUD policies that govern the owner's right to terminate an assisted tenancy.

### **A. GROUNDS FOR TERMINATION OF ASSISTANCE**

#### **OVERVIEW**

HUD requires the PHA to terminate assistance for certain family actions and inactions and when the family no longer requires assistance due to increases in family income. HUD permits the PHA to terminate assistance for certain other family actions or inactions. In addition, a family may decide to withdraw from the program and terminate their HCV assistance at any time by notifying the PHA.

#### **B. FAMILY NO LONGER REQUIRES ASSISTANCE [24 CFR 982.455]**

As a family's income increases, the amount of the housing assistance payment decreases. If the amount of assistance provided by the PHA is reduced to zero, the family's assistance terminates automatically 180 days after the last HAP payment.

##### Jacksonville Housing Policy

If a participating family receiving zero assistance experiences a change in circumstances that would result in a HAP payment to the owner, the family must notify Jacksonville Housing of the change and request an interim reexamination before the 180-day period expires.

#### **C. THE FAMILY CHOOSES TO TERMINATE THE ASSISTANCE**

The family may request that the PHA terminate housing assistance payments on behalf of the family at any time.



### Jacksonville Housing Policy

The request to terminate assistance should be made in writing and signed by the head of household, and spouse or cohead if applicable. Before terminating the family's assistance, Jacksonville Housing will follow the notice requirements in this chapter.

## **D. MANDATORY TERMINATION OF ASSISTANCE**

HUD requires the PHA to terminate assistance in the following circumstances.

### **Eviction [24 CFR 982.552(b)(2), 24 CFR 5.2005(c)(1)]**

The PHA must terminate assistance whenever a family is evicted from a unit assisted under the HCV program for a serious or repeated violation of the lease. As discussed further in this chapter, incidents of actual or threatened domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking may not be construed as serious or repeated violations of the lease by the victim or threatened victim of such violence or stalking.

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

A family will be considered *evicted* if the family moves after a legal eviction order has been issued, whether or not physical enforcement of the order was necessary.

If a family moves after the owner has given the family an eviction notice for serious or repeated lease violations but before a legal eviction order has been issued, termination of assistance is not mandatory. In such cases, Jacksonville Housing will determine whether the family has committed serious or repeated violations of the lease based on available evidence and may terminate assistance or take any of the alternative measures described in Chapter 12. C. In making its decision, Jacksonville Housing will consider the factors described in this chapter. Upon consideration of such factors, Jacksonville Housing may, on a case-by-case basis, choose not to terminate assistance.

*Serious and repeated lease violations* will include, but not be limited to, nonpayment of rent, disturbance of neighbors, destruction of property, or living or housekeeping habits that cause damage to the unit or premises and criminal activity. Generally, the criterion to be used will be whether or not the reason for the eviction was the fault of the tenant or guests.

### **Failure to Provide Consent [24 CFR 982.552(b)(3)]**

The PHA must terminate assistance if any family member fails to sign and submit any consent form they are required to sign for a regular or interim reexamination. For a complete discussion of consent requirements, see Chapter 7—Verifications.

### **Failure to Document Citizenship [24 CFR 982.552(b)(4) and [24 CFR 5.514(c)]**

The PHA must terminate assistance if (1) a family fails to submit required documentation within the required timeframe concerning any family member's citizenship or immigration status; (2) a family submits evidence of citizenship and eligible immigration status in a timely manner, but United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) primary and secondary verification does not verify eligible immigration status of the family; or (3) a family member, as determined by the PHA, has knowingly permitted another individual who is not eligible for assistance to reside (on a permanent basis) in the unit.

For (3) above, such termination must be for a period of at least 24 months. This does not apply to ineligible noncitizens already in the household where the family's assistance has been prorated. See Chapter 7 for a complete discussion of documentation requirements.

**Failure to Disclose and Document Social Security Numbers [24 CFR 5.218(c), Notice PIH 2018-24]**

The PHA must terminate assistance if a participant's family fails to disclose the complete and accurate social security numbers of each household member and the documentation necessary to verify each social security number.

However, if the family is otherwise eligible for continued program assistance, and the PHA determines that the family's failure to meet the SSN disclosure and documentation requirements was due to circumstances that could not have been foreseen and were outside of the family's control, the PHA may defer the family's termination and provide the opportunity to comply with the requirement within a period not to exceed 90 calendar days from the date the PHA determined the family to be non-compliant.

Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will defer the family's termination and provide the family with the opportunity to comply with the requirement for a period of 90 calendar days for circumstances beyond the participant's control, such as delayed processing of the SSN application by the SSA, natural disaster, fire, death in the family, or other emergency, if there is a reasonable likelihood that the participant will be able to disclose an SSN by the deadline.

**Methamphetamine Manufacture or Production [24 CFR 982.553(b)(1)(ii)]**

The PHA must terminate assistance if any household member has ever been convicted of the manufacture or production of methamphetamine on the premises of federally assisted housing.

**Lifetime Registered Sex Offenders [Notice PIH 2012-28]**

Should a PHA discover that a member of an assisted household was subject to a lifetime registration requirement at admission and was erroneously admitted after June 25, 2001, the PHA must immediately terminate the household member's assistance.

In this situation, the PHA must offer the family the opportunity to remove the ineligible family member from the household. If the family is unwilling to remove that individual from the household, the PHA must terminate assistance for the household.

**Failure of Students to Meet Ongoing Eligibility Requirements [24 CFR 982.552(b)(5) and FR 4/10/06]**

If a student enrolled at an institution of higher education is under the age of 24, is not a veteran, is not married, does not have dependent children, is not residing with their parents in an HCV-assisted household, and is not a person with disabilities receiving HCV assistance as of November 30, 2005, the PHA must terminate the student's assistance if, at the time of reexamination, either the student's income or the income of the student's parents (if applicable) exceeds the applicable income limit.

If a participant household consists of both eligible and ineligible students, the eligible students shall not be terminated, but must be issued a voucher to move with continued assistance in

accordance with program regulations and PHA policies or must be given the opportunity to lease in place if the terminated ineligible student members elect to move out of the assisted unit.

#### **Death of the Sole Family Member [24 CFR 982.311(d) and Notice PIH 2010-9]**

The PHA must immediately terminate program assistance for deceased single member households.

### **E. MANDATORY POLICIES AND OTHER AUTHORIZED TERMINATIONS**

#### **Mandatory Policies [24 CFR 982.553(b) and 982.551(l)]**

HUD requires the PHA to establish policies that permit the PHA to terminate assistance if the PHA determines that:

- Any household member is currently engaged in any illegal use of a drug, or has a pattern of illegal drug use that interferes with the health, safety, or right to peaceful enjoyment of the premises by other residents
- Any household member's abuse or pattern of abuse of alcohol may threaten the health, safety, or right to peaceful enjoyment of the premises by other residents
- Any household member has violated the family's obligation not to engage in any drug-related criminal activity
- Any household member has violated the family's obligation not to engage in violent criminal activity

#### ***Use of Illegal Drugs and Alcohol Abuse***

##### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

Jacksonville Housing will terminate a family's assistance if any household member is currently engaged in any illegal use of a drug or has a pattern of illegal drug use that interferes with the health, safety, or right to peaceful enjoyment of the premises by other residents.

Jacksonville Housing will terminate assistance if any household member's abuse or pattern of abuse of alcohol threatens the health, safety, or right to peaceful enjoyment of the premises by other residents.

*Currently engaged in* is defined as any use of illegal drugs during the previous three months.

Jacksonville Housing will consider all credible evidence, including but not limited to, any record of arrests, convictions, or eviction of household members related to the use of illegal drugs or abuse of alcohol.

A record or records of arrest will not be used as the sole basis for the termination or proof that the participant engaged in disqualifying criminal activity.

In making its decision to terminate assistance, Jacksonville Housing will consider alternatives as described in this chapter. Upon consideration of such alternatives and factors, Jacksonville Housing may, on a case-by-case basis, choose not to terminate assistance.

### ***Drug-Related and Violent Criminal Activity [24 CFR 5.100]***

*Drug* means a controlled substance as defined in section 102 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 802).

*Drug-related criminal activity* is defined by HUD as the illegal manufacture, sale, distribution, or use of a drug or the possession of a drug with intent to manufacture, sell, distribute, or use the drug.

*Violent criminal activity* means any criminal activity that has as one of its elements the use, attempted use, or threatened use of physical force substantial enough to cause, or be reasonably likely to cause, serious bodily injury or property damage.

#### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

Jacksonville Housing will terminate a family's assistance if any household member has violated the family's obligation not to engage in any drug-related or violent criminal activity during participation in the HCV program.

Jacksonville Housing will consider all credible evidence, including but not limited to any record of arrests and/or convictions of household members related to drug-related or violent criminal activity and any eviction or notice to evict based on drug-related or violent criminal activity.

A record or records of arrest will not be used as the sole basis for the termination or proof that the participant engaged in disqualifying criminal activity.

In making its decision to terminate assistance, Jacksonville Housing will consider alternatives as described in this chapter. Upon consideration of such alternatives and factors, Jacksonville Housing may, on a case-by-case basis, choose not to terminate assistance.

### **Other Authorized Reasons for Termination of Assistance [24 CFR 982.552(c), 24 CFR 5.2005(c), 24 CFR 984.101(d)]**

HUD permits the PHA to terminate assistance under a number of other circumstances. It is left to the discretion of the PHA whether such circumstances in general warrant consideration for the termination of assistance. As discussed further in this chapter, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) of 2013 explicitly prohibits PHAs from considering incidents of, or criminal activity directly related to, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking as reasons for terminating the assistance of a victim of such abuse.

Additionally, per 24 CFR 984.101(d), PHAs are no longer permitted to terminate assistance to a family due to the family's failure to meet its obligations under the Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) contract of participation.

#### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

Jacksonville Housing **will** terminate a family's assistance if:

- The family has failed to comply with any family obligations under the program. See Exhibit 12-1 for a listing of family obligations and related Jacksonville Housing policies.

- Any family member has been evicted from federally assisted housing in the last five years.
- Any family member has committed fraud, bribery, or any other corrupt or criminal act in connection with any federal housing program.
- The family currently owes rent or other amounts to any PHA in connection with Section 8 or public housing assistance under the 1937 Act.
- The family has not reimbursed any PHA for amounts the PHA paid to an owner under a HAP contract for rent, damages to the unit, or other amounts owed by the family under the lease.
- The family has breached the terms of a repayment agreement entered into with Jacksonville Housing.

A family member has engaged in or threatened violent or abusive behavior toward Jacksonville Housing personnel.

- *Abusive or violent behavior towards Jacksonville Housing personnel* includes verbal as well as physical abuse or violence. Use of racial epithets, or other language, written or oral, that is customarily used to intimidate may be considered abusive or violent behavior.
- *Threatening* refers to oral or written threats or physical gestures that communicate intent to abuse or commit violence.

In making its decision to terminate assistance, Jacksonville Housing will consider alternatives as described in this chapter. Upon consideration of such alternatives and factors, Jacksonville Housing may, on a case-by-case basis, choose not to terminate assistance.

#### ***Family Absence from the Unit [24 CFR 982.312]***

The family may be absent from the unit for brief periods. The PHA must establish a policy on how long the family may be absent from the assisted unit. However, the family may not be absent from the unit for a period of more than 180 consecutive calendar days for any reason. Absence in this context means that no member of the family is residing in the unit.

##### Jacksonville Housing Policy

If the family is absent from the unit for more than 180 consecutive calendar days, the family's assistance will be terminated. Notice of termination will be sent in accordance with this chapter.

#### ***Asset Limitation [24 CFR 5.618; Notice PIH 2023-27]***

The PHA has discretion with respect to the application of the asset limitation at annual and interim reexamination. The PHA may adopt a written policy of total non-enforcement, enforcement, or limited enforcement as well as adopting exception policies.

##### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing has adopted a policy of total nonenforcement of the asset limitation for all program participants. The asset limitation only applies to initial eligibility determinations for new admissions to Jacksonville Housing's HCV program.

### ***Insufficient Funding [24 CFR 982.454]***

The PHA may terminate HAP contracts if the PHA determines, in accordance with HUD requirements, that funding under the consolidated ACC is insufficient to support continued assistance for families in the program.

#### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

Jacksonville Housing will determine whether there is sufficient funding to pay for currently assisted families according to the policies in Chapter 16. If Jacksonville Housing determines there is a shortage of funding, prior to terminating any HAP contracts, Jacksonville Housing will determine if any other actions can be taken to reduce program costs.

In the event that Jacksonville Housing decides to stop issuing vouchers as a result of a funding shortfall, and Jacksonville Housing is not assisting the required number of special purpose vouchers (NED families, HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) families, and family unification program (FUP) families), when Jacksonville Housing resumes issuing vouchers, Jacksonville Housing will issue vouchers first to the special purpose voucher families on its waiting list until it has reached the required number of special purpose vouchers, when applicable.

If, after implementing all reasonable cost-cutting measures, there is not enough funding available to continue providing assistance for current participants, Jacksonville Housing will terminate HAP contracts as a last resort.

Jacksonville Housing will inform the local HUD field office prior to terminating any HAP contracts. Jacksonville Housing will terminate the minimum number needed to reduce HAP costs to a level within the PHA's annual budget authority.

If Jacksonville Housing must terminate HAP contracts due to insufficient funding, Jacksonville Housing will do so in accordance with the following criteria and instructions:

- Families who have been assisted in the HCV program the longest will be the first to be terminated, excluding families that include elderly or disabled family members.
- Families comprising the required number of special purpose vouchers, including nonelderly disabled (NED), HUD-Veteran's Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH), and family unification program (FUP) will be the last to be terminated.

## **F. APPROACH TO TERMINATION OF ASSISTANCE**

### **OVERVIEW**

The PHA is required by regulation to terminate a family's assistance for certain actions or inactions of the family. For other types of actions or inactions of the family, the regulations give the PHA the authority to either terminate the family's assistance or to take another action. This part discusses the various actions the PHA may choose to take when it has discretion and outlines the criteria the PHA will use to make its decision about whether or not to terminate

assistance. It also specifies the requirements for the notification to the family of the PHA's intent to terminate assistance.

#### **G. METHOD OF TERMINATION [24 CFR 982.552(a)(3)]**

Termination of assistance for a participant may include any or all of the following:

- Terminating housing assistance payments under a current HAP contract,
- Refusing to enter into a new HAP contract or approve a lease, or
- Refusing to process a request for or to provide assistance under portability procedures.

#### **H. ALTERNATIVES TO TERMINATION OF ASSISTANCE**

##### **Change in Household Composition**

As a condition of continued assistance, the PHA may require that any household member who participated in or was responsible for an offense no longer resides in the unit [24 CFR 982.552(c)(2)(ii)].

##### Jacksonville Housing Policy

As a condition of continued assistance, the head of household must certify that the culpable family member has vacated the unit and will not be permitted to visit or to stay as a guest in the assisted unit. The family must present evidence of the former family member's current address upon Jacksonville Housing's request.

##### **Repayment of Family Debts**

##### Jacksonville Housing Policy

If a family owes amounts to Jacksonville Housing, as a condition of continued assistance, Jacksonville Housing will require the family to repay the full amount or enter into a repayment agreement within 30 days of receiving notice of the amount owed. See Chapter 16 for policies on repayment agreements.

#### **I. CRITERIA FOR DECIDING TO TERMINATE ASSISTANCE**

##### **Evidence**

For criminal activity, HUD permits the PHA to terminate assistance if a *preponderance of the evidence* indicates that a household member has engaged in the activity, regardless of whether the household member has been arrested or convicted [24 CFR 982.553(c)].

##### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will use the concept of the preponderance of the evidence as the standard for making all termination decisions.

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

### **Use of Criminal Conviction Records after Admission [24 CFR 5.903]**

The regulation at 24 CFR 5.903 governs a PHA's access to and use of criminal conviction records obtained from a "law enforcement agency" such as the National Crime Information Center (NCIC), police departments, and other law enforcement agencies that hold criminal conviction records. While the regulatory listing of permitted uses for these records includes PHA screening of applicants for admission to the HCV program, it specifically excludes the use of records for lease enforcement and eviction of HCV participants and excludes by omission a PHA's use of records to terminate assistance for participants. While a PHA has regulatory authority to use criminal conviction records for the purpose of applicant screening for admission, there is no corresponding authority to use these records to check for criminal and illegal drug activity by participants, and therefore, PHAs may not use records for this purpose. The limitations, however, do not apply to criminal conviction information searches from non-federal sources (i.e., sources other than the "law enforcement agencies" defined in 24 CFR 5.902(b)). There is no prohibition that bars a PHA from using non-federal sources to conduct criminal background checks of program participants.

### **Consideration of Circumstances [24 CFR 982.552(c)(2)(i)]**

The PHA is permitted, but not required, to consider all relevant circumstances when determining whether a family's assistance should be terminated.

#### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

Jacksonville Housing will consider the following facts and circumstances when making its decision to terminate assistance:

- The seriousness of the case, especially with respect to how it would affect other residents' safety or property
- The effects that termination of assistance may have on other members of the family who were not involved in the action or failure to act
- The extent of participation or culpability of individual family members, including whether the culpable family member is a minor or a person with disabilities or a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking
- The length of time since the violation occurred, including the age of the individual at the time of the conduct, as well as the family's recent history and the likelihood of favorable conduct in the future
- While a record or records of arrest will not be used as the sole basis for termination, an arrest may, however, trigger an investigation to determine whether the participant actually engaged in disqualifying criminal activity. As part of its investigation, the PHA may obtain the police report associated with the arrest and consider the reported circumstances of the arrest. Jacksonville Housing may also consider:
  - Any statements made by witnesses or the participant not included in the police report
  - Whether criminal charges were filed
  - Whether, if filed, criminal charges were abandoned, dismissed, not prosecuted, or ultimately resulted in an acquittal
  - Any other evidence relevant to determining whether or not the participant engaged in disqualifying activity



- Evidence of criminal conduct will be considered if it indicates a demonstrable risk to safety and/or property
- In the case of drug or alcohol abuse, whether the culpable household member is participating in or has successfully completed a supervised drug or alcohol rehabilitation program or has otherwise been rehabilitated successfully
- The PHA will require the participant to submit evidence of the household member's current participation in or successful completion of a supervised drug or alcohol rehabilitation program, or evidence of otherwise having been rehabilitated successfully.
- In the case of program abuse, the dollar amount of the overpaid assistance and whether or not a false certification was signed by the family

#### **Reasonable Accommodation [24 CFR 982.552(c)(2)(iv)]**

If the family includes a person with disabilities, the PHA's decision to terminate the family's assistance is subject to consideration of reasonable accommodation in accordance with 24 CFR Part 8.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

If a family indicates that the behavior of a family member with a disability is the reason for a proposed termination of assistance, Jacksonville Housing will determine whether the behavior is related to the disability. If so, upon the family's request, Jacksonville Housing will determine whether alternative measures are appropriate as a reasonable accommodation. Jacksonville Housing will only consider accommodations that can reasonably be expected to address the behavior that is the basis of the proposed termination of assistance. See Chapter 4 for a discussion of reasonable accommodation.

### **J. TERMINATIONS RELATED TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, DATING VIOLENCE, SEXUAL ASSAULT OR STALKING**

This section describes the protections against termination of assistance that the Violence Against Women Act of 2013 (VAWA) provides for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. For general VAWA requirements, key VAWA definitions, and PHA policies pertaining to notification, documentation, and confidentiality, see section 16 of this plan.

#### **VAWA Protections against Termination**

VAWA provides four specific protections against termination of HCV assistance for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking. (*Note:* The second, third, and fourth protections also apply to terminations of tenancy or occupancy by owners participating in the HCV program, as do the limitations discussed under the next heading.)

- Although the VAWA 2022 statute does not specifically include human trafficking in the list of victims protected under VAWA, in 2022 HUD began including human trafficking as part of the list of victims protected under VAWA (as seen in Notices PIH 2022-06, PIH 2022-22, and PIH 2022-24). In the absence of a final rule implementing VAWA 2022 and to mirror HUD's recent usage, this policy includes human trafficking in addition to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking anywhere such a list appears.

First, VAWA provides that a PHA may not terminate assistance to a family that moves out of an assisted unit in violation of the lease, with or without prior notification to the PHA, if the move occurred to protect the health or safety of a family member who is or has been the victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking and who reasonably believed they were imminently threatened by harm from further violence if they remained in the unit [24 CFR 982.354(b)(4)].

Second, it provides that an incident or incidents of actual or threatened domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking may not be construed either as a serious or repeated lease violation by the victim or as good cause to terminate the assistance of the victim [24 CFR 5.2005(c)(1)].

Third, It provides that criminal activity directly related to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking may not be construed as cause for terminating the assistance of a tenant if a member of the tenant's household, a guest, or another person under the tenant's control is the one engaging in the criminal activity and the tenant or affiliated individual or other individual is the actual or threatened victim of the domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking [24 CFR 5.2005(c)(2)].

Fourth, it gives PHAs the authority to terminate assistance to any tenant or lawful occupant who engages in criminal acts of physical violence against family members or others without terminating assistance to, or otherwise penalizing, the victim of the violence [24 CFR 5.2009(a)].

PHAs and owners may not coerce, intimidate, threaten, interfere with, or retaliate against any person who exercises or assists or encourages a person to exercise any rights or protections under VAWA [FR Notice 1/4/23].

#### **Limitations on VAWA Protections [24 CFR 5.2005(d) and (e)]**

VAWA does not limit the authority of a PHA to terminate the assistance of a victim of abuse for reasons unrelated to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking so long as the PHA does not subject the victim to a more demanding standard than it applies to other program participants [24 CFR 5.2005(d)(1)].

Likewise, VAWA does not limit the authority of a PHA to terminate the assistance of a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking if the PHA can demonstrate an actual and imminent threat to other tenants or those employed at or providing service to the assisted property if the victim is not terminated from assistance [24 CFR 5.2005(d)(2)].

HUD regulations define the *actual and imminent threat* to mean words, gestures, actions, or other indicators of a physical threat that (a) is real, (b) would occur within an immediate time frame, and (c) could result in death or serious bodily harm [24 CFR 5.2005(d)(2) and (e)]. In determining whether an individual would pose an actual and imminent threat, the factors to be considered include:

- The duration of the risk
- The nature and severity of the potential harm
- The likelihood that the potential harm will occur
- The length of time before the potential harm would occur [24 CFR 5.2005(e)]

In order to demonstrate an actual and imminent threat, the PHA must have objective evidence of words, gestures, actions, or other indicators. Even when a victim poses an actual and imminent threat, however, HUD regulations authorize a PHA to terminate the victim's assistance "only when there are no other actions that could be taken to reduce or eliminate the threat" [24 CFR 5.2005(d)(3)].

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

In determining whether a program participant who is a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking is an actual and imminent threat to other tenants or those employed at or providing service to a property, Jacksonville Housing will consider the following, and any other relevant, factors:

- Whether the threat is toward an employee or tenant other than the victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking
- Whether the threat is a physical danger beyond a speculative threat
- Whether the threat is likely to happen within an immediate time frame
- Whether the threat to other tenants or employees can be eliminated in some other way, such as by helping the victim relocate to a confidential location or seeking a legal remedy to prevent the perpetrator from acting on the threat

If the participant wishes to contest the PHA's determination that they are an actual and imminent threat to other tenants or employees, the participant may do so as part of the informal hearing.

#### **Documentation of Abuse [24 CFR 5.2007]**

##### Jacksonville Housing Policy

When an individual faces termination of assistance for reasons related to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking claims protection under VAWA, Jacksonville Housing will request that the individual provide documentation supporting the claim in accordance with the policies in chapter 16 of this plan.

Jacksonville Housing reserves the right to waive the documentation requirement if it determines that a statement or other corroborating evidence from the individual will suffice. In such cases, Jacksonville Housing will document the waiver in the individual's file.

#### **Terminating the Assistance of a Domestic Violence Perpetrator**

Although VAWA provides protection against termination of assistance for victims of domestic violence, it does not provide such protection for perpetrators. VAWA gives the PHA the explicit authority to "terminate assistance to any individual who is a tenant or lawful occupant and who engages in criminal acts of physical violence against family members or others" without terminating assistance to "or otherwise penalizing the victim of such violence who is also a tenant or lawful occupant" [24 CFR 5.2009(a)]. This authority is not dependent on a bifurcated lease or other eviction action by an owner against an individual family member. Further, this authority supersedes any local, state, or other federal law to the contrary. However, if the PHA chooses to exercise this authority, it must follow any procedures prescribed by HUD or by applicable local, state, or federal law regarding termination of assistance. This means that the

PHA must follow the same rules when terminating assistance to an individual as it would when terminating the assistance of an entire family [FR Notice 3/16/07].

If the perpetrator remains in the unit, the PHA continues to pay the owner until the PHA terminates the perpetrator from the program. The PHA must not stop paying HAP until 30 days after the owner bifurcates the lease to evict the perpetrator. The PHA may pay HAP for the full month if the 30-day period will end mid-month [Notice PIH 2017-08].

If the perpetrator is the only participant eligible to receive assistance, the PHA will provide any remaining participant a chance to establish eligibility for the program. If the remaining participant cannot do so, the PHA will provide them with 30 days to establish eligibility for another housing program prior to termination of the HAP contract.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will terminate assistance to a family member if Jacksonville Housing determines that the family member has committed criminal acts of physical violence against other family members or others. This action will not affect the assistance of the remaining, nonculpable family members.

In making its decision, Jacksonville Housing will consider all credible evidence, including, but not limited to, a signed certification (form HUD-5382) or other documentation of abuse submitted to Jacksonville Housing by the victim in accordance with this section and chapter 16. Jacksonville Housing will also consider the factors in this chapter. Upon such consideration, Jacksonville Housing may, on a case-by-case basis, choose not to terminate the assistance of the culpable family member.

If Jacksonville Housing does terminate the assistance of the culpable family member, it will do so in accordance with applicable law, HUD regulations, and the policies in this plan.

### **K. TERMINATION NOTICE**

HUD regulations require PHAs to provide written notice of termination of assistance to a family only when the family is entitled to an informal hearing. However, since the family's HAP contract and lease will also terminate when the family's assistance terminates [form HUD-52641], it is a good business practice to provide written notification to both owner and family anytime assistance will be terminated, whether voluntarily or involuntarily.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Whenever a family's assistance is terminated, Jacksonville Housing will send a written notice of termination to the family and to the owner. Jacksonville Housing will also send form HUD-5382 and form HUD-5380 to the family with the termination notice. The notice will state the date on which the termination will become effective. This date generally will be at least thirty (30) calendar days following the date of the termination notice, but exceptions will be made whenever HUD rules, other PHA policies, or the circumstances surrounding the termination are required.

When Jacksonville Housing notifies an owner that a family's assistance will be terminated, Jacksonville Housing will, if appropriate, advise the owner of their right to offer the family a separate, unassisted lease.

If a family whose assistance is being terminated is entitled to an informal hearing, the notice of termination that the PHA sends to the family must meet the additional HUD and PHA notice requirements discussed in Chapter 16 of this plan. VAWA 2013 expands notification requirements to require PHAs to provide notice of VAWA rights and the HUD 5382 form when a PHA terminates a household's housing benefits.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Whenever Jacksonville Housing decides to terminate a family's assistance because of the family's action or failure to act, Jacksonville Housing will include in its termination notice the VAWA information described in Chapter 16 of this plan and form HUD-5382 and form HUD-5380. Jacksonville Housing will request in writing that a family member wishing to claim protection under VAWA notify Jacksonville Housing within fourteen (14) business days.

Still, other notice requirements apply in two situations:

- If a criminal record is the basis of a family's termination, Jacksonville Housing must provide a copy of the record to the subject of the record and the tenant so that they have an opportunity to dispute the accuracy and relevance of the record [24 CFR 982.553(d)(2)].
- If immigration status is the basis of a family's termination, as discussed in this chapter, the special notice requirements must be followed.

### **L. TERMINATION OF TENANCY BY THE OWNER**

#### **OVERVIEW**

Termination of an assisted tenancy is a matter between the owner and the family; the PHA is not directly involved. However, the owner is under some constraints when terminating an assisted tenancy. Termination of tenancy for certain reasons will also result in termination of assistance as discussed in this section.

#### **M. GROUNDS FOR OWNER TERMINATION OF TENANCY [24 CFR 982.310, 24 CFR 5.2005(c), and Form HUD-52641-A, Tenancy Addendum]**

During the lease term, the owner is not permitted to terminate the tenancy except for serious or repeated violations of the lease, certain violations of state or local law, or other good causes.

##### **Serious or Repeated Lease Violations**

The owner is permitted to terminate the family's tenancy for serious or repeated violations of the terms and conditions of the lease, except when the violations are related to incidents of actual or threatened domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking and the victim is protected from eviction by the Violence Against Women Act of 2013 (see Chapter 12). A serious lease violation includes failure to pay the tenant's portion of the rent. However, the PHA's failure to make a HAP payment to the owner is not a violation of the lease between the family and the owner.

##### **Violation of Federal, State, or Local Law**

The owner is permitted to terminate the tenancy if a family member violates federal, state, or local law that imposes obligations in connection with the occupancy or use of the premises.

## **Criminal Activity or Alcohol Abuse**

The owner may terminate tenancy during the term of the lease if any *covered person*—meaning any member of the household, a guest, or another person under the tenant’s control—commits any of the following types of criminal activity (for applicable definitions, see 24 CFR 5.100):

- Any criminal activity that threatens the health or safety of, or the right to peaceful enjoyment of the premises by, other residents (including property management staff residing on the premises)
- Any criminal activity that threatens the health or safety of, or the right to peaceful enjoyment of their residences by, persons residing in the immediate vicinity of the premises
- Any violent criminal activity on or near the premises
- Any drug-related criminal activity on or near the premises

However, in the case of criminal activity directly related to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, if the tenant or an affiliated individual is the victim, the criminal activity may not be construed as cause for terminating the victim’s tenancy).

The owner may terminate tenancy during the term of the lease if any member of the household is:

- Fleeing to avoid prosecution, custody, or confinement after conviction for a crime or an attempt to commit a crime that is a felony under the laws of the place from which the individual flees, or that, in the case of the State of New Jersey, is a high misdemeanor; or
- Violating a condition of probation or parole imposed under federal or state law.

The owner may terminate tenancy during the term of the lease if any member of the household has engaged in abuse of alcohol that threatens the health, safety, or right to peaceful enjoyment of the premises by other residents.

## ***Evidence of Criminal Activity***

The owner may terminate tenancy and evict by judicial action a family for criminal activity by a covered person if the owner determines the covered person has engaged in the criminal activity, regardless of whether the covered person has been arrested or convicted for such activity and without satisfying the standard of proof used for a criminal conviction. This is the case except in certain incidents where the criminal activity directly relates to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, and the tenant or an affiliated individual is the victim or threatened victim of the domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

## **Other Good Cause**

During the initial lease term, the owner may not terminate the tenancy for “other good cause” unless the owner is terminating the tenancy because of something the family did or failed to do. Other good causes during the initial lease term or during any extension term include the disturbance of neighbors, destruction of property, or living or housekeeping habits that damage the unit or premises.

After the initial lease term, “other good cause” for termination of tenancy by the owner includes:

- Failure by the family to accept the offer of a new lease or revision

- The owner's desire to use the unit for personal or family use, or for a purpose other than as a residential rental unit
- A business or economic reason for termination of the tenancy (such as sale of the property, renovation of the unit, or desire to lease the unit at a higher rent)

After the initial lease term, the owner may give the family notice at any time, in accordance with the lease terms.

If a property is subject to foreclosure, during the term of the lease, the new owner of the property does not have good cause to terminate the tenant's lease, unless the new owner will occupy the unit as their primary residence and has provided the tenant with at least a 90-day notice. In that case, the lease may be terminated effective on the date of sale, although the tenant is still entitled to a 90-day notice to vacate.

#### **N. EVICTION [24 CFR 982.310(e) and (f) and Form HUD-52641-A, Tenancy Addendum]**

The owner must give the tenant written notice that specifies the grounds for terminating the tenancy during the lease term. The tenancy does not terminate before the owner gives this notice, and the notice must be given at or before the commencement of the eviction action.

The notice of grounds may be included in or combined with any owner's eviction notice to the tenant.

Owner eviction notice means a notice to vacate, or a complaint or other initial pleading used under state or local law to commence an eviction action. The owner may only evict the tenant from the unit by instituting a court action. The owner must give the PHA a copy of any eviction notice at the same time the owner notifies the family. The family is also required to give the PHA a copy of any eviction notice (see Chapter 5).

#### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

If the eviction action is finalized in court, the owner must provide Jacksonville Housing with documentation related to the eviction, including notice of the eviction date, as soon as possible, but no later than 5 business days following the court-ordered eviction.

#### **O. DECIDING WHETHER TO TERMINATE TENANCY [24 CFR 982.310(h), 24 CFR 982.310(h)(4)]**

An owner who has grounds to terminate a tenancy is not required to do so and may consider all of the circumstances relevant to a particular case before making a decision. These might include:

- The nature of the offending action
- The seriousness of the offending action;
- The effect on the community of the termination, or of the owner's failure to terminate the tenancy;
- The extent of participation by the leaseholder in the offending action;
- The effect of termination of tenancy on household members not involved in the offending activity;
- The demand for assisted housing by families who will adhere to lease responsibilities;

- The extent to which the leaseholder has shown personal responsibility and taken all reasonable steps to prevent or mitigate the offending action;
- The effect of the owner's action on the integrity of the program.

The owner may require a family to exclude a household member in order to continue to reside in the assisted unit, where that household member has participated in or been culpable for action or failure to act that warrants termination.

In determining whether to terminate tenancy for illegal use of drugs or alcohol abuse by a household member who is no longer engaged in such behavior, the owner may consider whether such household member is participating in or has successfully completed a supervised drug or alcohol rehabilitation program, or has otherwise been rehabilitated successfully (42 U.S.C. 13661). For this purpose, the owner may require the tenant to submit evidence of the household member's current participation in, or successful completion of, a supervised drug or alcohol rehabilitation program or evidence of otherwise having been rehabilitated successfully.

The owner's termination of tenancy actions must be consistent with the fair housing and equal opportunity provisions in 24 CFR 5.105.

An owner's decision to terminate tenancy for incidents related to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking is limited by the Violence Against Women Act of 2013 (VAWA) and the conforming regulations in 24 CFR Part 5, Subpart L. (See Chapter 12.E.)

#### **P. EFFECT OF TENANCY TERMINATION ON THE FAMILY'S ASSISTANCE**

If a termination is not due to a serious or repeated violation of the lease and if the PHA has no other grounds for terminating assistance, the PHA may issue a new voucher so that the family can move with continued assistance (see Chapter 10).



## EXHIBIT 12-1: STATEMENT OF FAMILY OBLIGATIONS

Following is a listing of a participant family's obligations under the HCV program:

- The family must supply any information that the PHA or HUD determines to be necessary, including submission of required evidence of citizenship or eligible immigration status.
- The family must supply any information requested by the PHA or HUD for use in a regularly scheduled reexamination or interim reexamination of family income and composition.
- The family must disclose and verify social security numbers and sign and submit consent forms for obtaining information.
- Any information supplied by the family must be true and complete.
- The family is responsible for any NSPIRE standards breach by the family caused by failure to pay tenant-provided utilities or appliances, or damages to the dwelling unit or premises beyond normal wear and tear caused by any member of the household or guest.

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Damages beyond normal wear and tear will be considered to be damages which could be assessed against the security deposit.

- The family must allow the PHA to inspect the unit at reasonable times and after reasonable notice, as described in Chapter 8 of this plan.
- The family must not commit any serious or repeated violation of the lease.

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will determine if a family has committed serious or repeated violations of the lease based on available evidence, including but not limited to, a court-ordered eviction or an owner's notice to evict, police reports, and affidavits from the owner, neighbors, or other credible parties with direct knowledge.

*Serious and repeated lease violations* will include, but not be limited to, nonpayment of rent, disturbance of neighbors, destruction of property, living or housekeeping habits that cause damage to the unit or premises, and criminal activity. Generally, the criterion to be used will be whether or not the reason for the eviction was the fault of the tenant or guests. Any incidents of, or criminal activity related to, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking will not be construed as serious or repeated lease violations by the victim [24 CFR 5.2005(c)(1)].

- The family must notify the PHA and the owner before moving out of the unit or terminating the lease.

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

The family must comply with lease requirements regarding written notice to the owner. The family must provide written notice to Jacksonville Housing at the same time the owner is notified.

- The family must promptly give Jacksonville Housing a copy of any owner eviction notice.

- The family must use the assisted unit for residence by the family. The unit must be the family's only residence.
- The composition of the assisted family residing in the unit must be approved by Jacksonville Housing. The family must promptly notify Jacksonville Housing in writing of the birth, adoption, or court-awarded custody of a child. The family must request Jacksonville Housing approval to add any other family member as an occupant of the unit.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

The request to add a family member must be submitted in writing and approved prior to the person moving into the unit. Jacksonville Housing will determine eligibility of the new member in accordance with the policies in Chapter 3.

- The family must promptly notify Jacksonville Housing in writing if any family member no longer lives in the unit.
- If Jacksonville Housing has given approval, a foster child or a live-in aide may reside in the unit. Jacksonville Housing has the discretion to adopt reasonable policies concerning residency by a foster child or a live-in aide, and to define when PHA consent may be given or denied. For policies related to the request and approval/disapproval of foster children, foster adults, and live-in aides, see Chapter 11.
- The family must not sublease the unit, assign the lease, or transfer the unit.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Subleasing includes receiving payment to cover rent and utility costs by a person living in the unit who is not listed as a family member.

- The family must supply any information requested by Jacksonville Housing to verify that the family is living in the unit or information related to family absence from the unit.
- The family must promptly notify Jacksonville Housing when the family is absent from the unit.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Notice is required under this provision only when all family members will be absent from the unit for an extended period. An extended period is defined as any period greater than 30 calendar days. Written notice must be provided to Jacksonville Housing at the start of the extended absence.

- The family must pay utility bills and provide and maintain any appliances that the owner is not required to provide under the lease [Form HUD-52646, Voucher].
- The family must not own or have any interest in the unit, (other than in a cooperative and owners of a manufactured home leasing a manufactured home space).
- Family members must not commit fraud, bribery, or any other corrupt or criminal act in connection with the program. (See Chapter 14, Program Integrity for additional information).

- Family members must not engage in drug-related criminal activity or violent criminal activity or other criminal activity that threatens the health, safety or right to peaceful enjoyment of other residents and persons residing in the immediate vicinity of the premises. See Chapter 12 for HUD and Jacksonville Housing policies related to drug-related and violent criminal activity.
- Members of the household must not engage in abuse of alcohol in a way that threatens the health, safety, or right to peaceful enjoyment of the other residents and persons residing in the immediate vicinity of the premises. See Chapter 12 for a discussion of HUD and Jacksonville Housing policies related to alcohol abuse.
- An assisted family or member of the family must not receive HCV program assistance while receiving another housing subsidy, for the same unit or a different unit under any other federal, state or local housing assistance program.
- A family must not receive HCV program assistance while residing in a unit owned by a parent, child, grandparent, grandchild, sister or brother of any member of the family, unless the PHA has determined (and has notified the owner and the family of such determination) that approving rental of the unit, notwithstanding such relationship, would provide reasonable accommodation for a family member who is a person with disabilities. [Form HUD-52646, Voucher]

## **CHAPTER 13 OWNERS**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Owners play a major role in the HCV program by supplying decent, safe, and sanitary housing for participating families.

The term “owner” refers to any person or entity with the legal right to lease or sublease a unit to a participant in the HCV program [24 CFR 982.4(b)]. The term “owner” includes a principal or other interested party [24 CFR 982.453; 24 CFR 982.306(f)], such as a designated agent of the owner.

Owners have numerous responsibilities under the program, including screening and leasing to families, maintaining the dwelling unit, enforcing the lease, and complying with various contractual obligations.

The chapter is organized in two parts:

Owners in the HCV Program. This part discusses the role of an owner in the PHA’s HCV program and highlights key owner rights and responsibilities.

HAP Contracts. This part explains the provisions of the HAP contract and the relationship between the PHA and the owner as expressed in the HAP contract.

For detailed information about HCV program responsibilities and processes, including PHA policies in key areas, owners will need to refer to several other chapters in this plan. Where appropriate, Chapter 13 will reference the other chapters.

### **A. OWNERS IN THE HCV PROGRAM**

#### **OWNER RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION**

**[HCV GB, pp. 2-4 to 2-6; HCV Landlord Strategy Guidebook for PHAs]**

#### **Recruitment**

PHAs are responsible for ensuring that very low-income families have access to all types and ranges of affordable housing in the PHA’s jurisdiction, particularly housing outside areas of poverty or minority concentration. A critical element in fulfilling this responsibility is for the PHA to ensure that a sufficient number of owners representing all types and ranges of affordable housing in the PHA’s jurisdiction are willing to participate in the HCV program.

To accomplish this objective, PHAs must identify and recruit new owners to participate in the program. If the PHA will be conducting outreach events, the PHA must ensure that notices and communications during outreach events are provided in a manner that is effective for persons with hearing, visual, and other communications-related disabilities. PHAs must also take reasonable steps to ensure meaningful access to programs for persons with limited English proficiency.

#### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

Jacksonville Housing will conduct owner outreach to ensure that owners are familiar with the program and its advantages. Jacksonville Housing will actively recruit property owners with property located outside areas of poverty and minority concentration. These outreach strategies will include:

- Distributing printed material about the program to property owners and managers
- Contacting property owners and managers by phone or in-person
- Holding owner recruitment/information meetings at least once a year
- Participating in community-based organizations comprised of private property and apartment owners and managers
- Developing working relationships with owners, apartment associations, industry investor groups, and real estate brokers' associations
- To the extent practical, partnering with and attending events hosted by other area agencies to deliver information about the HCV program

Outreach strategies will be monitored for effectiveness and adapted accordingly.

## **Retention**

In addition to recruiting owners to participate in the HCV program, the PHA must also provide customer service that will encourage participating owners to remain active in the program.

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

All Jacksonville Housing activities that may affect an owner's ability to lease a unit will be processed as rapidly as possible, in order to minimize vacancy losses for owners.

Jacksonville Housing will provide owners with a handbook that explains the program, including HUD and PHA policies and procedures, in easy-to-understand language.

Jacksonville Housing will give special attention to helping new owners succeed through activities such as:

- Providing the owner with a designated Jacksonville Housing contact person.
- Coordinating inspection and leasing activities between Jacksonville Housing, the owner, and the family.
- Initiating telephone contact with the owner to explain the inspection process and provide an inspection booklet and other resource materials about HUD housing quality standards.
- Providing other written information about how the program operates through a landlord handbook, including answers to frequently asked questions.
- Contact owners via emails or texts to disseminate information.

Additional services may be undertaken on an as-needed basis and as resources permit.

## **B. BASIC HCV PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**

HUD requires the PHA to assist families in their housing search by providing the family with a list of landlords or other parties known to the PHA who may be willing to lease a unit to the family or to help the family find a unit. Although the PHA cannot maintain a list of owners that are pre-qualified to participate in the program, owners may indicate to the PHA their willingness to lease a unit to an eligible HCV family or to help the HCV family find a unit [24 CFR 982.301(b)(11)].

## Jacksonville Housing Policy

Owners who wish to indicate their willingness to lease a unit to an eligible HCV family or to help the HCV family find a unit may notify Jacksonville Housing. Jacksonville Housing will maintain a listing of such owners and provide this listing to the HCV family via [www.affordablehousing.com](http://www.affordablehousing.com) as part of the informational briefing packet.

When a family approaches an owner to apply for a tenancy, the owner is responsible for screening the family and deciding whether to lease to the family, just as the owner would with any potential unassisted tenant. Jacksonville Housing has no liability or responsibility to the owner or other persons for the family's behavior or suitability for tenancy. See chapters 3 and 9 for more details on tenant family screening policies and processes.

If the owner is willing, the family and the owner must jointly complete a Request for Tenancy Approval (RFTA, Form HUD 52517), which constitutes the family's request for assistance in the specified unit, and which documents the owner's willingness to lease to the family and to follow the program's requirements. When submitted to the PHA, this document is the first step in the process of obtaining approval for the family to receive the financial assistance it will need in order to occupy the unit. Also submitted with the RTA is a copy of the owner's proposed dwelling lease, including the HUD-required Tenancy Addendum (Form HUD-52641-A). See Chapter 9 for more detail on request for tenancy approval policies and processes.

HUD regulations stipulate requirements for the approval of an assisted tenancy.

The owner must be qualified to participate in the program [24 CFR 982.306]. Some owners are precluded from participating in the program or from renting to a particular family, either because of their past history with this or another federal housing program or because of certain conflicts of interest. Owner qualifications are discussed later in this chapter.

The selected unit must be of a type that is eligible for the program [24 CFR 982.305(a)]. Certain types of dwelling units cannot be assisted under the HCV program. Other types may be assisted under certain conditions. See Chapter 9 for more details on unit eligibility policies and processes.

The selected unit must meet HUD's National Standards for the Physical Inspection of Real Estate (NSPIRE) and/or equivalent state or local standards approved by HUD [24 CFR 982.305(a)]. The PHA will inspect the owner's dwelling unit at least biennially to ensure that the unit continues to meet inspection requirements. See Chapter 8 for a discussion of the NSPIRE standards and policies for inspections at the initial lease-up and throughout the family's tenancy.

Jacksonville Housing must determine that the proposed rent for the unit is reasonable [24 CFR 982.305(a)]. The rent must be reasonable in relation to comparable unassisted units in the area and must not be in excess of rents charged by the owner for comparable, unassisted units on the premises. See Chapter 8 for a discussion of requirements and policies on rent reasonableness, rent comparability, and the rent reasonableness determination process.

At the initial lease-up of a unit, if the gross rent exceeds the applicable payment standard, the PHA must ensure that the family share does not exceed 40 percent of the family's monthly adjusted income [24 CFR 982.305(a)]. See Chapter 6 for a discussion of the calculation of family income, family share of rent, and HAP.

The dwelling lease must comply with all program requirements [24 CFR 982.308]. Owners are encouraged to use their standard leases when renting to an assisted family. The HUD Tenancy

Addendum includes the HUD requirements governing the tenancy and must be added word-for-word to the owner's lease. See Chapter 9 for a discussion of the dwelling lease and tenancy addendum, including lease terms and provisions.

The PHA and the owner must execute a Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) Contract (Form HUD-52641). The HAP contract format is prescribed by HUD. See Chapter 9 for a discussion of the HUD requirements for the execution of the HAP contract.

### **C. OWNER RESPONSIBILITIES [24 CFR 982.452]**

The basic owner responsibilities in the HCV program are outlined in the regulations as follows:

- Complying with all of the owner's obligations under the housing assistance payments (HAP) contract and the lease
- Performing all management and rental functions for the assisted unit, including selecting a voucher-holder to lease the unit, and deciding if the family is suitable for tenancy of the unit
- Maintaining the unit in accordance with the National Standards for the Physical Inspection of Real Estate (NSPIRE), including the performance of ordinary and extraordinary maintenance
- Complying with equal opportunity requirements
- Preparing and furnishing to the PHA information required under the HAP contract
- Collecting the security deposit, the tenant rent, and any charges for unit damage by the family.
- Enforcing tenant obligations under the dwelling lease
- Paying for utilities and services that are not the responsibility of the family as specified in the lease
- Allowing reasonable modifications to a dwelling unit occupied or to be occupied by a disabled person [24 CFR 100.203]
- Complying with the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 (VAWA) when screening prospective HCV tenants or terminating the tenancy of an HCV family (see 24 CFR Part 5, Subpart L; 24 CFR 982.310(h)(4); and 24 CFR 982.452(b)(1))

### **D. OWNER QUALIFICATIONS**

The PHA does not formally approve an owner to participate in the HCV program. However, there are a number of criteria where the PHA may deny approval of an assisted tenancy based on past owner behavior, conflict of interest, or other owner-related issues. No owner has a right to participate in the HCV program [24 CFR 982.306(e)].

#### **Owners Barred from Participation [24 CFR 982.306(a) and (b)]**

The PHA must not approve the assisted tenancy if the PHA has been informed that the owner has been debarred, suspended, or subject to a limited denial of participation under 24 CFR part 24. HUD may direct the PHA not to approve a tenancy request if a court or administrative agency

has determined that the owner violated the Fair Housing Act or other federal equal opportunity requirements, or if such an action is pending.

**Leasing to Relatives [24 CFR 982.306(d), HCV GB p. 11-2]**

The PHA must not approve a tenancy if the owner is the parent, child, grandparent, grandchild, sister, or brother of any member of the family. The PHA may make an exception as a reasonable accommodation for a family member with a disability. The owner is required to certify that no such relationship exists. This restriction applies at the time that the family receives assistance under the HCV program for occupancy of a particular unit. Current contracts on behalf of owners and families that are related may continue, but any new leases or contracts for these families may not be approved.

**Conflict of Interest [24 CFR 982.161; HCV GB p. 8-19; Form HUD-52641, Section 13]**

The PHA must not approve a tenancy in which any of the following classes of persons has any interest, direct or indirect, during tenure or for one year thereafter:

- Any present or former member or officer of the PHA (except a participant commissioner)
- Any employee of the PHA, or any contractor, subcontractor or agent of the PHA, who formulates policy or who influences decisions with respect to the programs
- Any public official, member of a governing body, or State or local legislator, who exercises functions or responsibilities with respect to the programs
- Any member of the Congress of the United States

Such “covered individual” may not have any direct or indirect interest in the HAP contract or in any benefits or payments under the contract (including the interest of an immediate family member of such covered individual) while such person is a covered individual or for one year thereafter.

*Immediate family member* means the spouse, parent (including a stepparent), child (including a stepchild), grandparent, grandchild, sister, or brother (including a stepsister or stepbrother) of any covered individual.

HUD may waive the conflict of interest requirements, except for members of Congress, for good cause. The PHA must submit a waiver request to the appropriate HUD Field Office for determination.

Any waiver request submitted by the PHA must include the following [HCV Guidebook pp.11-2 and 11-3]:

- Complete statement of the facts of the case;
- Analysis of the specific conflict of interest provision of the HAP contract and justification as to why the provision should be waived;
- Analysis of and statement of consistency with state and local laws. The local HUD office, the PHA, or both parties may conduct this analysis. Where appropriate, an opinion by the state’s attorney general should be obtained;
- Opinion by the local HUD office as to whether there would be an appearance of impropriety if the waiver were granted;
- Statement regarding alternative existing housing available for lease under the HCV program or other assisted housing if the waiver is denied;



- If the case involves a hardship for a particular family, statement of the circumstances and discussion of possible alternatives;
- If the case involves a public official or member of the governing body, explanation of their duties under state or local law, including reference to any responsibilities involving the HCV program;
- If the case involves the employment of a family member by the PHA or assistance under the HCV program for an eligible PHA employee, explanation of the responsibilities and duties of the position, including any related to the HCV program;
- If the case involves an investment on the part of a member, officer, or employee of the PHA, description of the nature of the investment, including disclosure/divestiture plans.

Where the PHA has requested a conflict-of-interest waiver, the PHA may not execute the HAP contract until HUD has made a decision on the waiver request.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

In considering whether to request a conflict of interest waiver from HUD, Jacksonville Housing will consider certain factors such as consistency of the waiver with state and local laws, the existence of alternative housing available to families, the individual circumstances of a particular family, the specific duties of individuals whose positions present a possible conflict of interest, the nature of any financial investment in the property and plans for disclosure/divestiture, and the possible appearance of impropriety.

#### **Owner Actions That May Result in Disapproval of a Tenancy Request [24 CFR 982.306(c)]**

HUD regulations permit the PHA to disapprove a request for tenancy for various actions and inactions of the owner.

If the PHA disapproves a request for tenancy because an owner is not qualified, it may not terminate the HAP contract for any assisted families that are already living in the owner's properties unless the owner has violated the HAP contract for those units [HCV GB p. 11-4].

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will refuse to approve a request for tenancy if the PHA becomes aware that any of the following are true:

- The owner has violated obligations under a HAP contract under Section 8 of the 1937 Act (42 U.S.C. 1437f);
- The owner has committed fraud, bribery, or any other corrupt or criminal act in connection with any federal housing program;
- The owner has engaged in any drug-related criminal activity or any violent criminal activity;
- The owner has a history or practice of non-compliance with the NSPIRE for units leased under the tenant-based programs, or with applicable housing standards for units leased with project-based Section 8 assistance or leased under any other federal housing program;
- The owner has a history or practice of failing to terminate the tenancy of tenants of units assisted under Section 8 or any other federally assisted housing program for activity engaged in by the tenant, any member of the

household, a guest or another person under the control of any member of the household that:

- i. Threatens the right to peaceful enjoyment of the premises by other residents;
- ii. Threatens the health or safety of other residents, of employees of the PHA, or of owner-employees or other persons engaged in the management of the housing;
- iii. Threatens the health or safety of, or the right to peaceful enjoyment of their residences, by persons residing in the immediate vicinity of the premises; or
- iv. Is the drug-related criminal activity or violent criminal activity;
- v. The owner has a history or practice of renting units that fail to meet state or local housing codes; or
- vi. The owner has not paid state or local real estate taxes, fines, or assessments.

In considering whether to disapprove owners for any of the discretionary reasons listed above, Jacksonville Housing will consider any mitigating factors. Such factors may include, but are not limited to, the seriousness of the violation in relation to program requirements, the impact on the ability of families to lease units under the program, health and safety of participating families, among others. Upon consideration of such circumstances, Jacksonville Housing may, on a case-by-case basis, choose to approve an owner.

### **Legal Ownership of Unit**

The following represents PHA policy on legal ownership of a dwelling unit to be assisted under the HCV program.

#### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

Jacksonville Housing will only enter into a contractual relationship with the legal owner of a qualified unit. No tenancy will be approved without acceptable documentation of legal ownership (e.g., deed of trust, proof of taxes for most recent year) A copy of the current management agreement must be provided for third-party agents.

### **E. NON-DISCRIMINATION [HAP Contract – Form HUD-52641]**

The owner must not discriminate against any person because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, familial status, or disability, in connection with any actions or responsibilities under the HCV program and the HAP contract with the PHA.

The owner must cooperate with the PHA and with HUD in conducting any equal opportunity compliance reviews and complaint investigations in connection with the HCV program and the HAP contract with the PHA.

See Chapter 4 for a more thorough discussion of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity requirements in the HCV program.

## **F. HOUSING ASSISTANCE PAYMENT (HAP) CONTRACTS**

### **OVERVIEW**

The HAP contract represents a written agreement between the PHA and the owner of the dwelling unit occupied by an HCV-assisted family. The contract spells out the owner's responsibilities under the program, as well as the PHA's obligations. Under the HAP contract, the PHA agrees to make housing assistance payments to the owner on behalf of the family approved by the PHA to occupy the unit.

The HAP contract is used for all HCV tenant-based program tenancies except for assistance under the Section 8 homeownership program, and assistance to families that own a manufactured home and use their assistance to lease the space for the manufactured home. See Chapter 15 for a discussion of any special housing types included in the PHA's HCV program.

When the PHA has determined that the unit meets program requirements and the tenancy is approvable, the PHA and owner must execute the HAP contract. See Chapter 9 for a discussion of the leasing process, including provisions for the execution of the HAP contract.

### **G. HAP CONTRACT CONTENTS**

HUD requires the HAP contract format, specifically the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) Contract, Form HUD-52641.

The HAP contract contains three parts.

Part A of the contract includes basic contract information: the names of the tenant and all household members, the address of the contract unit, start and end dates of the initial lease term, the amount of initial monthly rent to the owner, the amount of initial housing assistance payment, the utilities and appliances to be supplied by owner and tenant, and the signatures of the PHA representative and owner [HCV Guidebook, pp. 11-10 and 11-11].

In general, the HAP contract cannot be modified. However, PHAs do have the discretion to add language to Part A of the HAP contract which prohibits the owner from collecting a security deposit in excess of private market practices or in excess of amounts charged to unassisted tenants. PHA policy on the amount of security deposit an owner may collect is found in Chapter 9.

PHAs also have the discretion to add language to Part A of the HAP contract that defines when the housing assistance payment by the PHA is deemed received by the owner (e.g., upon mailing by the PHA or actual receipt by the owner).

#### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

Jacksonville Housing has not adopted a policy that defines when the housing assistance payment by Jacksonville Housing is deemed received by the owner. Therefore, no modifications to the HAP contract will be necessary.

Part B is the body of the contract. It describes in detail program requirements affecting the owner and owner roles and responsibilities under the HCV program. Most of the requirements contained in Part B of the HAP contract are outlined elsewhere in this plan. Topics addressed in Part B include:

- Lease of Contract Unit

- Maintenance, Utilities, and Other Services
- Term of HAP Contract
- Provision and Payment of Utilities and Appliances
- Rent to Owner: Reasonable Rent
- PHA Payment to Owner
- Prohibition of Discrimination
- Owner's Breach of HAP Contract
- PHA and HUD Access to Premises and Owner's Records
- Exclusion of Third Party Rights
- Conflict of Interest
- Assignment of the HAP Contract
- Written Notices
- Entire Agreement Interpretation

Part C of the contract includes the Tenancy Addendum (Form HUD-52641-A). The addendum sets forth the tenancy requirements for the program and the composition of the household, as approved by the PHA. The tenant has the right to enforce the Tenancy Addendum against the owner. The terms of the Tenancy Addendum prevail over any other provisions of the lease.

## **H. HAP CONTRACT PAYMENTS**

### **General**

During the term of the HAP contract, and subject to the provisions of the HAP contract, the PHA must make monthly HAP payments to the owner on behalf of the family at the beginning of each month. If a lease term begins after the first of the month, the HAP payment for the first month is prorated for a partial month.

The amount of the HAP payment is determined according to the policies described in Chapter 6 and is subject to change during the term of the HAP contract. The PHA must notify the owner and the family in writing of any changes in the HAP payment.

HAP payments can be made only during the lease term, and only while the family is residing in the unit.

The monthly HAP payment by the PHA is credited toward the monthly rent to the owner under the family's lease. The total of the rent paid by the tenant and the HAP payment is equal to the rent to the owner as specified in the lease.

The family is not responsible for payment of the HAP payment, and the PHA is not responsible for the payment of the family share of rent.

The family's share of the rent cannot be more than the difference between the rent to the owner and the HAP payment. The owner may not demand or accept any rent payment from the tenant in excess of this maximum [24 CFR 982.451(b)(4)]. The owner may not charge the tenant extra amounts for items customarily included in rent in the locality or provided at no additional cost to unsubsidized tenants in the premises [24 CFR 982.510(c)]. See Chapter 9 for a discussion of

separate, non-lease agreements for services, appliances, and other items that are not included in the lease.

If the owner receives any excess HAP from the PHA, the excess amount must be returned immediately. If the PHA determines that the owner is not entitled to all or a portion of the HAP, the PHA may deduct the amount of overpayment from any amounts due to the owner, including amounts due under any other Section 8 HCV contract. See Chapter 16 for additional details on owner reimbursement of HAP overpayments.

### **Owner Certification of Compliance**

Unless the owner complies with all provisions of the HAP contract, the owner is not entitled to receive housing assistance payments under the HAP contract [HAP Contract – Form HUD-52641].

By accepting the monthly check from the PHA, the owner certifies compliance with the terms of the HAP contract. This includes a certification that the owner is maintaining the unit and premises in accordance with NSPIRE standards; that the contract unit is leased to the tenant family and, to the best of the owner's knowledge, the family resides in the unit as the family's only residence; the rent to the owner does not exceed rents charged by the owner for comparable unassisted units on the premises; and that the owner does not receive (other than rent to owner) any additional payments or other consideration for rent of the contract unit during the HAP term.

### **Late HAP Payments [24 CFR 982.451(a)(5)]**

The PHA is responsible for making HAP payments promptly when due to the owner, in accordance with the terms of the HAP contract. After the first two calendar months of the HAP contract term, the HAP contract provides for late penalties if the PHA fails to make the HAP payment on time.

Penalties for late HAP payments can only be imposed if 1) the penalties are in accordance with generally accepted local rental market practices and laws governing penalties for late payment by tenants; 2) it is the owner's normal business practice to charge late payment penalties for both assisted and unassisted families; and 3) the owner charges the assisted family for late payment of the family's share of the rent.

The PHA is not required to pay a late payment penalty if HUD determines that the payment is late for reasons beyond the PHA's control. In addition, late payment penalties are not required if the PHA intentionally delays or denies payment as a remedy to an owner's breach of the HAP contract [HCV Guidebook p. 11-7].

### **Termination of HAP Payments [24 CFR 982.311(b)]**

The PHA must continue making housing assistance payments to the owner in accordance with the HAP contract as long as the tenant continues to occupy the unit and the HAP contract is not violated.

HAP payments terminate when the HAP contract terminates or when the tenancy is terminated in accordance with the lease terms.

If the owner has initiated eviction proceedings against the family and the family continues to reside in the unit, the PHA must continue to make housing assistance payments to the owner

until the owner has obtained a court judgment or other process allowing the owner to evict the tenant.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

The owner must inform Jacksonville Housing when the owner has initiated eviction proceedings against the family and the family continues to reside in the unit.

The owner must inform Jacksonville Housing when the owner has obtained a court judgment or other process allowing the owner to evict the tenant and provide Jacksonville Housing with a copy of such judgment or determination.

After the owner has obtained a court judgment or other process allowing the owner to evict the tenant, Jacksonville Housing will continue to make HAP payments to the owner until the family actually moves from the unit or until the family is physically evicted from the unit, whichever is earlier. The owner must inform Jacksonville Housing of the date when the family actually moves from the unit or the family is physically evicted from the unit.

#### **I. BREACH OF HAP CONTRACT [24 CFR 982.453]**

Any of the following actions by the owner constitutes a breach of the HAP contract:

- If the owner violates any obligations under the HAP contract including failure to maintain the unit in accordance with NSPIRE
- If the owner has violated any obligation under any other HAP contract under the Housing Choice Voucher program
- If the owner has committed fraud, bribery or any other corrupt or criminal act in connection with any federal housing program
- For projects with mortgages insured by HUD or loans made by HUD, if the owner has failed to comply with the regulation for the applicable program; or if the owner has committed fraud, bribery, or any other corrupt or criminal act in connection with the mortgage or loan
- If the owner has engaged in drug-related criminal activity
- If the owner has committed any violent criminal activity

If the PHA determines that a breach of the HAP contract has occurred, it may exercise any of its rights and remedies under the HAP contract.

The PHA's rights and remedies against the owner under the HAP contract include recovering any HAP overpayment, suspending housing assistance payments, abatement or reduction of the housing assistance payment, terminating the payment, or terminating the HAP contract. The PHA may also obtain additional relief by judicial order or action.

The PHA must notify the owner of its determination and provide in writing the reasons for the determination. The notice may require the owner to take corrective action by an established deadline. The PHA must provide the owner with written notice of any reduction in housing assistance payments or the termination of the HAP contract.

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Before Jacksonville Housing invokes a remedy against an owner, Jacksonville Housing will evaluate all information and documents available to determine if the contract has been breached.

If relevant, Jacksonville Housing will conduct an audit of the owner's records pertaining to the tenancy or unit.

If it is determined that the owner has breached the contract, Jacksonville Housing will consider all of the relevant factors including the seriousness of the breach, the effect on the family, the owner's record of compliance, and the number and seriousness of any prior HAP contract violations.

## **J. HAP CONTRACT TERMS AND TERMINATIONS**

The term of the HAP contract runs concurrently with the term of the dwelling lease [24 CFR 982.451(a)(2)], beginning on the first day of the initial term of the lease and terminating on the last day of the term of the lease, including any lease term extensions.

The HAP contract and the housing assistance payments made under the HAP contract terminate if [HCV Guidebook pp.11-4 and 11-5, pg. 15-3]:

- The owner or the family terminates the lease;
- The lease expires;
- The PHA terminates the HAP contract;
- The PHA terminates assistance for the family;
- The family moves from the assisted unit. In this situation, the owner is entitled to keep the housing assistance payment for the month when the family moves out of the unit.
- 180 calendar days have elapsed since the PHA made the last housing assistance payment to the owner;
- The family is absent from the unit for longer than the maximum period permitted by the PHA;
- The Annual Contributions Contract (ACC) between the PHA and HUD expires
- The PHA elects to terminate the HAP contract.

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing may elect to terminate the HAP contract in each of the following situations:

- Available program funding is not sufficient to support continued assistance for families in the program [24 CFR 982.454];
- The unit does not meet NSPIRE standards [24 CFR 982.404] – see Chapter 8;
- The family breaks up [HUD Form 52641] – See Chapter 3;
- The owner breaches the HAP contract [24 CFR 982.453(b)] – see Chapter 13.D.

If the PHA terminates the HAP contract, the PHA must give the owner and the family written notice. The notice must specify the reasons for the termination and the effective date of the termination. Once a HAP contract is terminated, no further HAP payments may be made under that contract [HCV Guidebook pg.15-4].

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Generally, the HAP contract terminates at the end of the calendar month that follows the calendar month in which the PHA gives written notice to the owner.

Jacksonville Housing cannot make any HAP payment for any month after the month the family vacates the unit.

The owner is not entitled to any housing assistance payment after this period and must return to Jacksonville Housing any housing assistance payment received after this period.

If the family moves from the assisted unit into a new unit, even if the new unit is in the same building or complex as the assisted unit, the HAP contract for the assisted unit terminates. A new HAP contract would be required [HCV GB, p. 11-17].

When the family moves from an assisted unit into a new unit, the term of the HAP contract for the new unit may begin in the same month in which the family moves out of its old unit. This is not considered a duplicative subsidy [HCV GB, p. 8-22].

### **K. CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP / ASSIGNMENT OF THE HAP CONTRACT** **[HUD-52641]**

The HAP contract cannot be assigned to a new owner without the prior written consent of the PHA.

An owner under a HAP contract must notify the PHA in writing prior to a change in the legal ownership of the unit and supply all information requested by the PHA.

Prior to approval of assignment to a new owner, the new owner must agree to be bound by and comply with the HAP contract. The agreement between the new owner and the former owner must be in writing and in a form that the PHA finds acceptable. The new owner must provide the PHA with a copy of the executed agreement.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Assignment of the HAP contract will be approved only if the new owner is qualified to become an owner under the HCV program according to the policies in this chapter.

Jacksonville Housing must receive a signed, written request from the existing owner stating the name and address of the new HAP payee and the effective date of the assignment in order to change the HAP payee under an outstanding HAP contract.

Jacksonville Housing will inform the current owner in writing within ten (10) business days of receiving the owner's request whether the assignment may take place.

The new owner must provide a written certification to Jacksonville Housing that includes:

- A copy of the escrow statement or other document showing the transfer of title and recorded deed;



- A copy of the owner's IRS Form W-9, Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification, or the social security number of the new owner;
- The effective date of the HAP contract assignment;
- A written agreement to comply with the terms of the HAP contract; and
- A certification that the new owner is not a prohibited relative.

If the new owner does not agree to an assignment of the HAP contract, or fails to provide the necessary documents, Jacksonville Housing will terminate the HAP contract with the old owner. If the new owner wants to offer the family a new lease, and the family elects to stay with continued assistance, Jacksonville Housing will process the leasing in accordance with the policies in Chapter 9.

## **L. FORECLOSURE [Notice PIH 2010-49]**

Families receiving HCV assistance are entitled to certain protections set forth under the Protecting Tenants at Foreclosure Act (PTFA). During the term of the lease, the new owner of the property does not have good cause to terminate the tenant's lease, unless the new owner will occupy the unit as their primary residence and has provided the tenant with at least a 90-day notice. In that case, the lease may be terminated effective on the date of sale, although the tenant is still entitled to a 90-day notice to vacate. Further, the new owner assumes interest in the lease between the prior owner and the tenant and to the HAP contract.

Any state or local law that provides longer time periods or other additional protections for tenants also applies.

### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

If a property is in foreclosure, Jacksonville Housing will make all reasonable efforts to determine the status of the foreclosure and ownership of the property and will continue to make payments to the original owner until ownership legally transfers in accordance with the HAP contract.

Jacksonville Housing will attempt to obtain a written acknowledgement of the assignment of the HAP contract from the successor in interest. This will include a request for owner information, including a tax identification number and payment instructions from the new owner. Even if the new owner does not acknowledge the assignment of the HAP contract in writing, the assignment is still effective by operation of law.

Jacksonville Housing will inform the tenant that they must continue to pay rent in accordance with the lease, and if the new owner refuses to accept payment or cannot be identified, the tenant should pay rent into escrow. Failure to pay rent may constitute an independent ground for eviction.

In the event that the PHA is unable to make HAP payments to the new owner due to an action or inaction by the new owner that prevents such payments (e.g., rejection of payments or failure to maintain the property according to NSPIRE standards), or due to an inability to identify the new owner, the PHA will either use the funds to pay:

- The utilities that are the owner's responsibility after taking reasonable steps to notify the owner; except that if the unit has been or will be rendered uninhabitable due to termination or threat of termination of

service, prior notice is not required. In the latter case, Jacksonville Housing shall notify the owner within a reasonable time after making the utility payment; or

- For the family's reasonable moving costs, including security deposit costs.

Jacksonville Housing will also refer the tenant, as needed, to the local legal aid office in order to ensure adequate protection of the tenant's rights and enforcement of the successor in interest's performance under the HAP contract. See Chapter 12. B. for a discussion of foreclosure as it pertains to owner termination of tenancy.

## **CHAPTER 14 PROGRAM INTEGRITY**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The PHA is committed to ensuring that subsidy funds made available to the PHA are spent in accordance with HUD requirements.

This chapter covers HUD and PHA policies designed to prevent, detect, investigate, and resolve instances of program abuse or fraud. It also describes the actions that will be taken in the case of unintentional errors and omissions.

Preventing, Detecting, and Investigating Errors and Program Abuse. This part presents PHA policies related to preventing, detecting, and investigating errors and program abuse.

Corrective Measures and Penalties. This part describes the corrective measures the PHA must and may take when errors or program abuses are found.

### **A. PREVENTING, DETECTING, AND INVESTIGATING ERRORS AND PROGRAM ABUSE**

#### **PREVENTING ERRORS AND PROGRAM ABUSE**

HUD created the Enterprise Income Verification (EIV) system to provide PHAs with a powerful tool for preventing errors and detecting program abuse. PHAs are required to use the EIV system in its entirety in accordance with HUD administrative guidance [24 CFR 5.233]. PHAs are further required to:

- Provide applicants and participants with form HUD-52675, “Debts Owed to PHAs and Terminations”
- Require all adult members of an applicant or participant family to acknowledge receipt of form HUD-52675 by signing a copy of the form for retention in the family file

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

To ensure that Jacksonville Housing’s HCV program is administered according to the highest ethical and legal standards, Jacksonville Housing will employ a variety of techniques to ensure that both errors and intentional program abuse are rare.

- Jacksonville Housing will discuss program compliance and integrity issues during the voucher briefing sessions described in Chapter 5.
- Jacksonville Housing will provide each applicant and participant with a copy of “Is Fraud Worth It?” (form HUD-1141-OIG), which explains the types of actions a family must avoid and the penalties for program abuse.
- Jacksonville Housing will provide each applicant and participant with a copy of “What You Should Know about EIV,” a guide to the Enterprise Income Verification (EIV) system published by HUD as an attachment to Notice PIH 2017-12. In addition, the PHA will require the head of each household to acknowledge receipt of the guide by signing a copy for retention in the family file.

- Jacksonville Housing will place a warning statement about the penalties for fraud (as described in 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 1010) on key PHA forms and form letters that request information from a family or owner.
- Jacksonville Housing staff will be required to review and explain the contents of all HUD—and PHA-required forms before requesting family member signatures.
- At every regular reexamination, Jacksonville Housing staff will explain any changes in HUD regulations or Jacksonville Housing policy that affect program participants.
- Jacksonville Housing will require first-time owners (or their agents) to participate in a briefing session on HAP contract requirements.
- Jacksonville Housing will provide owners with ongoing information about the program, with an emphasis on actions and situations to avoid.
- Jacksonville Housing will provide each Jacksonville Housing employee with the necessary training on program rules and the organization's standards of conduct and ethics.

For purposes of this chapter, the term *error* refers to an unintentional error or omission. *Program abuse or fraud* refers to a single act or pattern of actions that constitute a false statement, omission, or concealment of a substantial fact, made with the intent to deceive or mislead.

## **B. DETECTING ERRORS AND PROGRAM ABUSE**

Jacksonville Housing will use various activities to detect errors and program abuse in addition to taking steps to prevent them.

### **Quality Control and Analysis of Data**

Under the Section 8 Management Assessment Program (SEMAP), HUD requires the PHA to review a random sample of tenant records annually to determine if the records conform to program requirements and to conduct quality control inspections of a sample of units to ensure compliance with NSPIRE standards [24 CFR, Part 985]. (See Chapter 16 for additional information about SEMAP requirements).

#### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

In addition to the SEMAP quality control requirements, Jacksonville Housing will employ a variety of methods to detect errors and program abuse.

Jacksonville Housing routinely will use HUD and other non-HUD sources of up-front income verification. This includes The Work Number and any other private or public databases available to Jacksonville Housing.

At each annual reexamination, current information provided by the family will be compared to information provided at the last annual reexamination to identify inconsistencies and incomplete information.

Jacksonville Housing will compare family-reported income and expenditures to detect possible unreported income.

## **Independent Audits and HUD Monitoring**

OMB Circular A-133 requires all PHAs that expend \$500,000 or more in federal awards annually to have an independent audit (IPA). In addition, HUD conducts periodic on-site and automated monitoring of PHA activities and notifies the PHA of errors and potential cases of program abuse.

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will use the results reported in any IPA or HUD monitoring reports to identify potential program abuses as well as to assess the effectiveness of Jacksonville Housing's error detection and abuse prevention efforts.

## **Individual Reporting of Possible Errors and Program Abuse**

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will encourage staff, program participants, and the public to report possible program abuse.

## **C. INVESTIGATING ERRORS AND PROGRAM ABUSE**

### **When the PHA Will Investigate**

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will review all referrals, specific allegations, complaints, and tips from any source including other agencies, companies, and individuals, to determine if they warrant investigation. In order for Jacksonville Housing to investigate, the allegation must contain at least one independently verifiable item of information, such as the name of an employer or the name of an unauthorized household member.

Jacksonville Housing will investigate when inconsistent or contradictory information is detected through file reviews and the verification process.

### **Consent to Release of Information [24 CFR 982.516]**

The PHA may investigate possible instances of error or abuse using all available PHA and public records. If necessary, the PHA will require HCV families to sign consent forms for the release of additional information.

### **Analysis and Findings**

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will base its evaluation on a preponderance of the evidence collected during its investigation.

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

For each investigation, Jacksonville Housing will determine (1) whether an error or program abuse has occurred, (2) whether any amount of money is owed Jacksonville Housing, and (3) what corrective measures or penalties will be assessed.

### **Consideration of Remedies**

All errors and instances of program abuse must be corrected prospectively. Whether the PHA will enforce other corrective actions and penalties depends upon the nature of the error or program abuse.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

In the case of family-caused errors or program abuse, Jacksonville Housing will take into consideration (1) the seriousness of the offense and the extent of participation or culpability of individual family members, (2) any special circumstances surrounding the case, (3) any mitigating circumstances related to the disability of a family member, (4) the effects of a particular remedy on family members who were not involved in the offense.

In the case of owner-caused errors or program abuse, Jacksonville Housing will take into consideration (1) the seriousness of the offense, (2) the length of time since the violation has occurred, and (3) the effects of a particular remedy on family members who were not involved in the offense.

### **Notice and Appeals**

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will inform the relevant party in writing of its findings and remedies within 10 business days of the conclusion of the investigation. The notice will include (1) a description of the error or program abuse, (2) the basis on which Jacksonville Housing determined the error or program abuses, (3) the remedies to be employed, and (4) the family's right to appeal the results through the informal review or hearing process, if applicable (see Chapter 16).

## **D. CORRECTIVE MEASURES AND PENALTIES**

### **SUBSIDY UNDER- OR OVERPAYMENTS**

A subsidy under- or overpayment includes (1) an incorrect housing assistance payment to the owner, (2) an incorrect family share established for the family, and (3) an incorrect utility reimbursement to a family.

#### **Corrections**

Whether the incorrect subsidy determination is an overpayment or underpayment of subsidy, the PHA must promptly correct the HAP, family share, and any utility reimbursement prospectively.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Increases in the family share will be implemented on the first of the month following a written 30-day notice.

Any decreases in family share will become effective the first of the month following the discovery of the error.

## **Reimbursement**

Whether the family or owner is required to reimburse the PHA or the PHA is required to make retroactive subsidy payments to the owner or family depends upon which party is responsible for the incorrect subsidy payment and whether the action taken was an error or program abuse. Policies regarding reimbursement are discussed in the three sections that follow.

### **E. FAMILY-CAUSED ERRORS AND PROGRAM ABUSE**

Family obligations and general administrative requirements for participating in the program are discussed throughout this plan. This section deals specifically with errors and program abuse by family members.

An incorrect subsidy determination caused by a family generally would be the result of incorrect reporting of family composition, income, assets, or expenses, but also would include instances in which the family knowingly allows the PHA to use incorrect information provided by a third party.

#### **Family Reimbursement to PHA [HCV GB pp. 22-12 to 22-13]**

##### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

In the case of family-caused errors or program abuse, the family will be required to repay any excess subsidy received. Jacksonville Housing may, but is not required to, offer the family a repayment agreement in accordance with Chapter 16. If the family fails to repay the excess subsidy, Jacksonville Housing will terminate the family's assistance in accordance with the policies in Chapter 12.

#### **PHA Reimbursement to Family [HCV GB p. 22-12]**

##### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

Jacksonville Housing will not reimburse the family for any underpayment of assistance when the underpayment clearly is caused by the family.

## **Prohibited Actions**

An applicant or participant in the HCV program must not knowingly:

- Make a false statement to the PHA [Title 18 U.S.C. Section 1001].
- Commit fraud, bribery, or any other corrupt or criminal act in connection with any federal housing program [24 CFR 982.552(c)(iv)].

##### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

Any of the following will be considered evidence of family program abuse:

- Payment to the owner in excess of amounts authorized by Jacksonville Housing for rent, security deposit, and additional services
- Offering bribes or illegal gratuities to Jacksonville Housing Board of Commissioners, employees, contractors, or other Jacksonville Housing representatives
- Offering payments or other incentives to the owner or a third party as an inducement for the third party to make false or misleading statements to Jacksonville Housing on the family's behalf

- Use of a false name or the use of falsified, forged, or altered documents
- Intentional misreporting of family information or circumstances (e.g. income, family composition)
- Omitted facts that were obviously known by a family member (e.g., not reporting employment income)
- Admission of program abuse by an adult family member

Jacksonville Housing may determine other actions to be program abuse based upon a preponderance of the evidence, as defined earlier in this chapter.

### **Penalties for Program Abuse**

In the case of program abuse caused by a family, the PHA may, at its discretion, impose any of the following remedies.

- The PHA may require the family to repay excess subsidy amounts paid by the PHA, as described earlier in this section.
- The PHA may require, as a condition of receiving or continuing assistance, that a culpable family member not reside in the unit. See policies in Chapter 3 (for applicants) and Chapter 12 (for participants).
- The PHA may deny or terminate the family's assistance following the policies set forth in Chapter 3 and Chapter 12 respectively.
- The PHA may refer the family for state or federal criminal prosecution as described in this chapter.

## **F. OWNER-CAUSED ERROR OR PROGRAM ABUSE**

Owner requirements that are part of the regular process of offering, leasing, and maintaining a unit (e.g., NSPIRE compliance, fair housing) are addressed in the appropriate chapters of this plan. This section focuses on errors and program abuse by owners.

An incorrect subsidy determination caused by an owner generally would be the result of an incorrect owner statement about the characteristics of the assisted unit (e.g., the number of bedrooms, which utilities are paid by the family). It also includes accepting duplicate housing assistance payments for the same unit in the same month, or after a family no longer resides in the unit.

### **Owner Reimbursement to the PHA**

In all cases of overpayment of subsidy caused by the owner, the owner must repay to the PHA any excess subsidy received. The PHA may recover overpaid amounts by withholding housing assistance payments due for subsequent months, or if the debt is large, the PHA may allow the owner to pay in installments over a period of time [HCV GB p. 22-13].

#### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

In cases where the owner has received an excess subsidy, Jacksonville Housing will require the owner to repay the amount owed in accordance with the policies in Chapter 16.



## **Prohibited Owner Actions**

An owner participating in the HCV program must not:

- Make any false statement to the PHA [Title 18 U.S.C. Section 1001].
- Commit fraud, bribery, or any other corrupt or criminal act in connection with any federal housing program [24 CFR 982.453(a)(3)] including:

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Any of the following will be considered evidence of owner-program abuse:

- Charging the family rent above or below the amount specified by Jacksonville Housing
- Charging a security deposit other than that specified in the family's lease
- Charging the family for services that are provided to unassisted tenants at no extra charge
- Knowingly accepting housing assistance payments for any month(s) after the family has vacated the unit
- Knowingly accepting incorrect or excess housing assistance payments
- Offering bribes or illegal gratuities to Jacksonville Housing Board of Commissioners, employees, contractors, or other Jacksonville Housing representatives
- Offering payments or other incentives to an HCV family as an inducement for the family to make false or misleading statements to Jacksonville Housing
- Residing in the unit with an assisted family
- Committing sexual or other harassment, either quid pro quo or hostile environment, based on the protected classes defined in Chapter 3
- Retaliating against any applicant or participant reporting/alleging sexual or other harassment, either quid pro quo or hostile environment, based on the protected classes defined in Chapter 3

## **Remedies and Penalties**

When the PHA determines that the owner has committed program abuse, the PHA may take any of the following actions:

- Require the owner to repay excess housing assistance payments, as discussed earlier in this section and in accordance with the policies in Chapter 16.
- Terminate the HAP contract (See Chapter 13).
- Bar the owner from future participation in any PHA programs.
- Refer the case to state or federal officials for criminal prosecution as described in this chapter.

## **G. PHA-CAUSED ERRORS OR PROGRAM ABUSE**

The responsibilities and expectations of PHA staff with respect to normal program administration are discussed throughout this plan. This section specifically addresses actions of a

PHA staff member that are considered errors or program abuse related to the HCV program. Additional standards of conduct may be provided in the PHA personnel policy.

PHA-caused incorrect subsidy determinations include (1) failing to correctly apply HCV rules regarding family composition, income, assets, and expenses, (2) assigning the incorrect voucher size to a family, and (3) errors in calculation.

### **Repayment to the PHA**

Neither a family nor an owner is required to repay an overpayment of subsidy if the error or program abuse is caused by PHA staff [HCV GB. 22-12].

### **PHA Reimbursement to Family or Owner**

The PHA must reimburse a family for any underpayment of subsidy, regardless of whether the underpayment was the result of staff-caused error or staff or owner program abuse. Funds for this reimbursement must come from the PHA's administrative fee reserves [HCV GB p. 22-12].

### **Prohibited Activities**

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Any of the following will be considered evidence of program abuse by Jacksonville Housing staff:

- Failing to comply with any HCV program requirements for personal gain
- Failing to comply with any HCV program requirements as a result of a conflict-of-interest relationship with any applicant, participant, or owner
- Seeking or accepting anything of material value from applicants, participating families, vendors, owners, contractors, or other persons who provide services or materials to Jacksonville Housing
- Disclosing confidential or proprietary information to outside parties
- Gaining profit as a result of insider knowledge of Jacksonville Housing activities, policies, or practices
- Misappropriating or misusing HCV funds
- Destroying, concealing, removing, or inappropriately using any records related to the HCV program
- Committing any other corrupt or criminal act in connection with any federal housing program

## **H. CRIMINAL PROSECUTION**

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

When Jacksonville Housing determines that program abuse by an owner, family, or Jacksonville Housing staff member has occurred and the amount of overpaid subsidy meets or exceeds the threshold for prosecution under local or state law, Jacksonville Housing will refer the matter to the appropriate entity for prosecution. When the amount of overpaid assistance meets or exceeds the federal threshold, the case will also be referred to the HUD Office of Inspector General (OIG).

Other criminal violations related to the HCV program will be referred to the appropriate local, state, or federal entity.

## **I. FRAUD AND PROGRAM ABUSE RECOVERIES**

The PHA may retain a portion of program fraud losses that the PHA recovers from a family or owner through litigation, court order, or a repayment agreement [24 CFR 982.163].

The PHA must be the principal party initiating or sustaining the action to recover amounts due from tenants that are due as a result of fraud and abuse. 24 CFR 792.202 permits the PHA to retain the greater of:

- 50 percent of the amount it actually collects from a judgment, litigation (including settlement of a lawsuit) or an administrative repayment agreement, or
- Reasonable and necessary costs that the PHA incurs related to the collection including costs of investigation, legal fees, and agency collection fees.

The family must be afforded the opportunity for an informal hearing in accordance with requirements in 24 CFR 982.555.

If HUD incurs costs on behalf of the PHA related to the collection, these costs must be deducted from the amount retained by the PHA.

## **CHAPTER 15 SPECIAL HOUSING TYPES**

### **SPECIAL HOUSING TYPES**

[24 CFR 982 Subpart M; New HCV GB, *Special Housing Types*]; 24 CFR 982.601 and HUD-VASH Operating Requirements (FR-6243-N-01)

### **INTRODUCTION**

The PHA may permit a family to use any of the special housing types discussed in this chapter. However, the PHA is not required to permit families receiving assistance in its jurisdiction to use these housing types, except that PHAs must permit the use of any special housing type if needed as a reasonable accommodation for a person with a disability. The PHA may also limit the number of families who receive HCV assistance in these housing types and cannot require families to use a particular housing type. No special funding is provided for special housing types. Unless specifically modified by the regulations, NSPIRE standards apply to special housing types (Single Room Occupancy, Congregate Housing, Group Homes, Shared Housing, Manufactured Homes, and Homeownership units) [Notice PIH 2023-28].

#### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

Families will not be permitted to use any special housing types unless the use is needed as a reasonable accommodation so that the program is readily accessible to a person with disabilities. However, policy language is included in this chapter where relevant in the event the PHA does grant use as a reasonable accommodation. In addition, HUD-VASH clients do not need a reasonable accommodation request for the use of a special housing type.

Special housing types include single room occupancy (SRO), congregate housing, group homes, shared housing, cooperative housing, manufactured homes where the family owns the home and leases the space, and homeownership [24 CFR 982.601]. A single unit cannot be designated as more than one type of special housing. The PHA cannot give preference to households that wish to live in any of these types of housing and cannot require households to select any of these types of housing [New HCV GB, *Special Housing Types*, p. 3].

Special housing types can be particularly useful to HUD-VASH clients, as it can increase the availability of housing, and for some veterans, can be a better housing environment than a single-family unit. As such, PHAs must permit HUD-VASH clients to use the following special housing types for tenant-based HUD-VASH assistance, regardless of whether these types are permitted in their administrative plan for other families: single room occupancy (SRO); congregate housing; group home; shared housing; and cooperative housing. Regulations for these housing types can be found at 24 CFR part 982, subpart M.

Consistent with the regulations, HUD-VASH PBV can never be applied to shared housing.

This chapter consists of the following five parts. Each part contains a description of the housing type and any special requirements associated with it. Except as modified by this chapter, the general requirements of the HCV program apply to special housing types.

#### **Part I: Single Room Occupancy**

#### **Part II: Congregate Housing**

Part III: Shared Housing

Part IV: Manufactured Homes (including manufactured home space rental)

Part V: Homeownership

## **A. SINGLE ROOM OCCUPANCY**

[24 CFR 982.602 through 982.605; Form HUD-52641; New HCV GB,  
*Special Housing Types*, p. 4]

### **OVERVIEW**

A single room occupancy (SRO) unit provides living and sleeping space for the exclusive use of the occupant but requires the occupant to share sanitary and/or food preparation facilities with others. More than one person may not occupy an SRO unit. HCV regulations do not limit the number of units in an SRO facility, but the size of a facility may be limited by local ordinances.

When providing HCV assistance in an SRO unit, a separate lease and HAP contract are executed for each assisted person. The standard form of the HAP contract is used (form HUD-52641) with the special housing type specified in Part A of the HAP contract, as follows: “This HAP contract is used for the following special housing type under HUD regulations for the Section 8 voucher program: Single room occupancy (SRO) housing.”

### **PAYMENT STANDARD, UTILITY ALLOWANCE, AND HAP CALCULATION**

The payment standard for SRO housing is 75 percent of the zero-bedroom payment standard amount on the PHA’s payment standard schedule.

The utility allowance for an assisted person residing in SRO housing is 75 percent of the zero-bedroom utility allowance.

The HAP for an assisted occupant in an SRO facility is the lower of the SRO payment standard amount minus the TTP or the gross rent for the unit minus the TTP.

### **NATIONAL STANDARDS FOR THE PHYSICAL INSPECTION OF REAL ESTATE (NSPIRE)**

NSPIRE requirements described in Chapter 8 apply to SRO housing except that sanitary facilities, and space and security characteristics must meet local code standards for SRO housing. In the absence of applicable local code standards for SRO housing, the following standards apply:

- *Access*: Access doors to the SRO unit must have working locks for privacy. The occupant must be able to access the unit without going through any other unit. Each unit must have immediate access to two or more approved means of exit from the building, appropriately marked and leading to safe and open space at ground level. The SRO unit must also have any other means of exit required by State or local law.
- *Fire Safety*: All SRO facilities must have a sprinkler system that protects major spaces. “Major spaces” are defined as hallways, large common areas, and any other areas specified in

local fire, building, or safety codes. SROs must also have hard-wired smoke detectors, and any other fire and safety equipment required by state or local law.

Sanitary facilities and space and security standards must meet local code requirements for SRO housing. In the absence of local code standards, the requirements discussed below apply [24 CFR 982.605].

- *Sanitary Facilities:* At least one flush toilet that can be used in privacy, a lavatory basin, and a bathtub or shower in proper operating condition must be provided for each six persons (or fewer) residing in the SRO facility. If the SRO units are leased only to males, flush urinals may be substituted for up to one half of the required number of toilets. Sanitary facilities must be reasonably accessible from a common hall or passageway to all persons sharing them and may not be located more than one floor above or below the SRO unit. They may not be located below grade unless the SRO units are located on that level.
- *Space and Security:* An SRO unit must contain at least 110 square feet of floor space, and at least four square feet of closet space with an unobstructed height of at least five feet, for use by the occupant. If the closet space is less than four square feet, the habitable floor space in the SRO unit must be increased by the amount of the deficiency. Exterior doors and windows accessible from outside the SRO unit must be lockable.

For SRO housing, 24 CFR 5.703(d) only applies to the extent that the SRO unit contains the room or facility referenced in 24 CFR 5.703(d). Because no children live in SRO housing, the NSPIRE standards applicable to lead-based paint do not apply.

## **B. CONGREGATE HOUSING**

[24 CFR 982.606 through 982.609; Form HUD-52641; New HCV GB,  
*Special Housing Types*, p. 6]

### **OVERVIEW**

Congregate housing is intended for elderly or disabled people. It contains a shared central kitchen and dining area and a private living area for each household that includes at least a living room, bedroom, and bathroom. Food service for residents must be provided.

If approved by the PHA, a family member or live-in aide may reside with the elderly person or person with disabilities. The PHA must approve a live-in aide if needed as a reasonable accommodation so that the program is readily accessible to and usable by persons with disabilities.

When providing HCV assistance in congregate housing, a separate lease and HAP contract are executed for each assisted family. The standard form of the HAP contract is used (form HUD-52641) with the special housing type specified in Part A of the HAP contract, as follows: “This HAP contract is used for the following special housing type under HUD regulations for the Section 8 voucher program: Congregate housing.”

## **PAYMENT STANDARD, UTILITY ALLOWANCE, AND HAP CALCULATION**

The payment standard for an individual unit in a congregate housing facility is based on the number of rooms in the private living area for the assisted family. If there is only one room in the unit (not including the bathroom or the kitchen, if a kitchen is provided), the PHA must use the payment standard for a zero-bedroom unit. If the unit has two or more rooms (other than the bathroom and the kitchen), the PHA must use the one-bedroom payment standard.

The HAP for an assisted occupant in a congregate housing facility is the lower of the applicable payment standard minus the TTP or the gross rent for the unit minus the TTP.

The gross rent for the unit for the purpose of calculating HCV assistance is the shelter portion (including utilities) of the resident's monthly housing expense only. The residents' costs for food service should not be included in the rent for a congregate housing unit.

## **NATIONAL STANDARDS FOR THE PHYSICAL INSPECTION OF REAL ESTATE (NSPIRE)**

NSPIRE requirements as described in Chapter 8 apply to congregate housing except for the requirements stated below. Congregate housing is not subject to the requirement that the dwelling unit must have a kitchen area. In place of the NSPIRE standards related to food preparation and refuse disposal, congregate housing must have a refrigerator of appropriate size in the private living area of each resident, a central kitchen and dining facilities located within the premises and accessible to the residents, and food service for the residents, that is not provided by the residents themselves.

The congregate housing must contain adequate facilities and services for the sanitary disposal of food waste and refuse, including facilities for temporary storage where necessary.

The NSPIRE standards applicable to lead-based paint do not apply unless a child under the age of six is expected to reside in the unit.

**C. GROUP HOME** [24 CFR 982.610 through 982.614; Form HUD-52641; New HCV GB, *Special Housing Types*, p. 8]

## **OVERVIEW**

A group home is a state-approved (licensed, certified, or otherwise approved in writing by the state) facility intended for occupancy by elderly persons and/or persons with disabilities. Except for live-in aides, all persons living in a group home, whether assisted or not, must be elderly persons or persons with disabilities. Persons living in a group home must not require continuous medical or nursing care.

A group home consists of bedrooms for residents, which can be shared by no more than two people, and a living room, kitchen, dining area, bathroom, and other appropriate social, recreational, or community space that may be shared with other residents. No more than 12 persons may reside in a group home including assisted and unassisted residents and any live-in aides.

If approved by the PHA, a live-in aide may live in the group home with a person with disabilities. The PHA must approve a live-in aide if needed as a reasonable accommodation so that the program is readily accessible to and usable by persons with disabilities.

When providing HCV assistance in a group home, a separate lease and HAP contract is executed for each assisted family. The standard form of the HAP contract is used (form HUD-52641) with the special housing type specified in Part A of the HAP contract, as follows: “This HAP contract is used for the following special housing type under HUD regulations for the Section 8 voucher program: Group home.”

## **PAYMENT STANDARD, UTILITY ALLOWANCE, AND HAP CALCULATION**

Unless there is a live-in aide, the family unit size (voucher size) for an assisted occupant of a group home must be zero or one bedroom. If there is a live-in aide, the aide must be counted in determining the household’s unit size.

The payment standard used to calculate the HAP is the lower of the payment standard for the family unit size or the pro rata share of the payment standard for the group home size. The pro rata share is calculated by dividing the number of persons in the assisted household by the number of persons (assisted and unassisted) living in the group home. The number of persons in the assisted household equals one assisted person plus any PHA-approved live-in aide.

The HAP for an assisted occupant in a group home is the lower of the payment standard minus the TTP or the gross rent minus the TTP.

The utility allowance for an assisted occupant in a group home is the pro rata share of the family unit size divided by the group home's utility allowance.

The rents paid for participants residing in group homes are subject to generally applicable standards for rent reasonableness. The rent for an assisted person must not exceed the pro rata portion of the reasonable rent for the group home. In determining reasonable rent, the PHA must consider whether sanitary facilities and facilities for food preparation and service are common facilities or private facilities.

## **NATIONAL STANDARDS FOR THE PHYSICAL INSPECTION OF REAL ESTATE (NSPIRE)**

The entire unit must comply with NSPIRE requirements described in Chapter 8, except for the standards that relate to sanitary facilities, food preparation and refuse disposal, space and security, structure and materials, and site and neighborhood, as stated below.

- *Sanitary Facilities:* A group home must have at least one bathroom in the facility, with a flush toilet that can be used in privacy, a fixed basin with hot and cold running water, and a shower or bathtub with hot and cold running water. A group home may contain private or common bathrooms. However, no more than four residents can be required to share a bathroom.



- *Food Preparation and Service:* Group home units must contain a kitchen and dining area with adequate space to store, prepare, and serve food. The facilities for food preparation and service may be private or may be shared by the residents. The kitchen must contain a range, an oven, a refrigerator, and a sink with hot and cold running water. The sink must drain into an approvable public or private disposal system.
- *Space and Security:* Group homes must contain at least one bedroom of appropriate size for every two people and a living room, kitchen, dining area, bathroom, and other appropriate social, recreational, or community space that may be shared with other residents. Doors and windows accessible from outside the unit must be lockable.
- *Structure and Material:* To avoid any threat to the health and safety of the residents, group homes must be structurally sound. Elevators must be in good condition. Group homes must be accessible to and usable by residents with disabilities.
- *Site and Neighborhood:* Group homes must be located in a residential setting. The site and neighborhood should be reasonably free from disturbing noises and reverberations, and other hazards to the health, safety, and general welfare of the residents, and should not be subject to serious adverse conditions, such as:
  - Dangerous walks or steps
  - Instability
  - Flooding, poor drainage
  - Septic tank back-ups, sewage hazards
  - Mud slides
  - Abnormal air pollution
  - Smoke or dust
  - Excessive noise
  - Vibrations or vehicular traffic
  - Excessive accumulations of trash
  - Vermin or rodent infestation, and
  - Fire hazards.

The housing quality standards applicable to lead-based paint do not apply unless a child under the age of six is expected to reside in the unit.

#### **D. SHARED HOUSING**

[24 CFR 982.615 through 982.618; Form HUD-52641; Notice PIH 2021-05;  
New HCV GB, *Special Housing Types*, p. 11]

#### **OVERVIEW**

Families in markets with tight rental conditions or with a prevalence of single-family housing may determine a shared housing living arrangement to be a useful way to secure affordable

housing. PHAs offering shared housing as a housing solution may also experience some reduction in the average per-unit-cost (PUC) paid on behalf of assisted families.

Shared housing is a single housing unit occupied by an assisted family and another resident or residents. The unit may be a house or an apartment. The shared unit consists of both common spaces for use by the occupants of the unit and separate private space for each assisted family.

An assisted family may share a unit with other persons assisted under the HCV program or with other unassisted persons.

Shared housing may be offered in a number of ways, including for-profit co-living (such as a boarding house, single bedroom with common living room/kitchen/dining room) run by a private company [Notice PIH 2021-05].

The owner of a shared housing unit may reside in the unit, but housing assistance may not be paid on behalf of the owner. The resident owner may not be related by blood or marriage to the assisted family.

If approved by the PHA, a live-in aide may reside with the family to care for a person with disabilities. The PHA must approve a live-in aide if needed as a reasonable accommodation so that the program is readily accessible to and usable by persons with disabilities.

When shared housing is offered as a housing option, HUD encourages PHAs to consider ways in which the families may be assisted in finding shared housing, including for-profit shared housing matching (such as roommates or single-family homes) and online sites that charge a fee for their matching services, or nonprofit shared housing matching services. HUD further encourages PHAs to include information about this housing possibility in the family's voucher briefing.

PHAs should be aware of potential local legal barriers to HCV participants using shared housing, which can create additional obstacles for shared housing:

- Municipalities may have occupancy limits for the number of unrelated persons who may share a housing unit.
- Local zoning codes for single family housing may restrict occupancy in certain areas to households whose family members are related by blood.

PHAs should work with local jurisdictions to find solutions that encourage affordable housing and are consistent with the Fair Housing Act, Title VI, and other federal, state, and local fair housing laws. PHAs should inform HUD if they encounter barriers to shared housing that may conflict with fair housing laws.

When providing HCV assistance in shared housing, a separate lease and HAP contract are executed for each assisted family. The standard form of the HAP contract is used (form HUD-52641) with the special housing type specified in Part A of the HAP contract, as follows: "This HAP contract is used for the following special housing type under HUD regulations for the Section 8 voucher program: Shared housing."

## **PAYMENT STANDARD, UTILITY ALLOWANCE AND HAP CALCULATION**

The payment standard for a family in shared housing is the lower of the payment standard for the family unit size (voucher size) or the prorate share of the payment standard for the shared housing unit size.

The prorated share is calculated by dividing the number of bedrooms available for occupancy by the assisted family in the private, non-shared space by the total number of bedrooms in the unit.

**Example:** Family holds a two-bedroom voucher.  
Shared housing unit size: bedrooms available to assisted family = 2  
Total bedrooms in the unit: 3  
2 Bedrooms for assisted family  
÷ 3 Bedrooms in the unit  
.667 pro-rata share  
2 BR payment standard: \$1200  
3 BR payment standard: \$1695  $\$1695 \times .667$  (pro-rata share) = \$1131 \$1131 is  
lower than the \$1200 payment standard for the 2 BR family unit size \$1131 is  
the payment standard used to calculate the HAP

The HAP for a family in shared housing is the lower of the payment standard minus the TTP or the gross rent minus the TTP.

The utility allowance for an assisted family living in shared housing is the prorata share of the utility allowance for the shared housing unit.

**Example:** A family holds a 2-bedroom voucher. The family decides to occupy 3 out of 4 bedrooms available in the unit.  
The utility allowance for a 4-bedroom unit equals \$200  
The utility allowance for a 2-bedroom unit equals \$100  
The prorata share of the utility allowance is \$150 (3/4 of \$200)  
The PHA will use the 2-bedroom utility allowance of \$100.

The rents paid for families living in shared housing are subject to generally applicable standards for rent reasonableness. The rent paid to the owner for the assisted family must not exceed the pro-rata portion of the reasonable rent for the shared unit. In determining reasonable rent, the PHA may consider whether sanitary and food preparation areas are private or shared.

#### **NATIONAL STANDARDS FOR THE PHYSICAL INSPECTION OF REAL ESTATE (NSPIRE)**

The PHA may not give approval to reside in shared housing unless the entire unit, including the portion of the unit available for use by the assisted family under its lease, meets the housing quality standards.

NSPIRE requirements described in Chapter 8 apply to shared housing except for the requirements stated below.

- *Facilities Available for the Family:* Facilities available to the assisted family, whether shared or private, must include a living room, a bathroom, and food preparation and refuse disposal facilities.
- *Space and Security:* The entire unit must provide adequate space and security for all assisted and unassisted residents. The private space for each assisted family must contain at least one bedroom for every two persons in the family. The number of bedrooms in the private space of an assisted family must not be less than the family unit size (voucher size). A zero-bedroom or one-bedroom unit may not be used for shared housing.

**E. COOPERATIVE HOUSING** [24 CFR 982.619; New HCV GB, *Special Housing Types*, p. 14]

**OVERVIEW**

This part applies to rental assistance for a cooperative member residing in cooperative housing. It does not apply to assistance for a cooperative member who has purchased membership under the HCV homeownership option, or to rental assistance for a family that leases a cooperative housing unit from a cooperative member.

A cooperative is a form of ownership (nonprofit corporation or association) in which the residents purchase memberships in the ownership entity. Rather than being charged “rent” a cooperative member is charged a “carrying charge.” The monthly carrying charge includes the member’s share of the cooperative debt service, operating expenses, and necessary payments to cooperative reserve funds. It does not include down payments or other payments to purchase the cooperative unit or to amortize a loan made to the family for this purpose.

The occupancy agreement or lease and other appropriate documents must provide that the monthly carrying charge is subject to Section 8 limitations on rent to the owner and that the rent is reasonable compared to comparable unassisted units.

When providing HCV assistance in cooperative housing, the standard form of the HAP contract is used with the special housing type specified in Part A of the HAP contract, as follows: “This HAP contract is used for the following special housing type under HUD regulations for the Section 8 voucher program: Cooperative housing.”

**PAYMENT STANDARD, UTILITY ALLOWANCE AND HAP CALCULATION**

The payment standard and utility allowance are determined according to regular HCV program requirements.

The HAP for a cooperative housing unit is the lower of the payment standard minus the TTP or the gross rent (monthly carrying charge for the unit, plus any utility allowance) minus the TTP. The monthly carrying charge includes the member’s share of the cooperative debt service, operating expenses, and necessary payments to cooperative reserve funds. The carrying charge does not include down payments or other payments to purchase the cooperative unit or to amortize a loan made to the family for this purpose.

**NATIONAL STANDARDS FOR THE PHYSICAL INSPECTION OF REAL ESTATE (NSPIRE)**

All standard NSPIRE requirements apply to cooperative housing units. There are no additional NSPIRE requirements. The PHA remedies described in 24 CFR 982.404 do not apply. Rather, if

the unit and premises are not maintained in accordance with NSPIRE standards, the PHA may exercise all available remedies regardless of whether the family or cooperative is responsible for the breach of NSPIRE standards.

No housing assistance payment can be made unless unit meets NSPIRE and the defect is corrected within the period as specified by the PHA and the PHA verifies correction (see Chapter 8).

In addition to regular NSPIRE deficiencies, breaches of NSPIRE standards by the family include failure to perform any maintenance for which the family is responsible in accordance with the terms of the cooperative occupancy agreement [HCV GB].

## **F. MANUFACTURED HOMES**

[24 CFR 982.620 through 982.624; FR Notice 1/18/17; New HCV GB, *Special Housing Types*, p. 15;]

### **OVERVIEW**

A manufactured home is a manufactured structure, transportable in one or more parts, that is built on a permanent chassis, and designed for use as a principal place of residence. HCV-assisted families may occupy manufactured homes in three different ways.

- (1) A family can choose to rent a manufactured home already installed in a space and the PHA must permit it. In this instance, program rules are the same as when a family rents any other residential housing, except that there are special NSPIRE requirements as provided in this chapter.
- (2) A family can purchase a manufactured home under the Housing Choice Voucher Homeownership program.
- (3) HUD also permits an otherwise eligible family that owns a manufactured home to rent a space for the manufactured home and receive HCV assistance with the rent for the space as well as certain other housing expenses. PHAs may but are not required to, provide assistance for such families.

## **SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR MANUFACTURED HOMEOWNERS WHO LEASE A SPACE**

### **Family Income**

In determining the annual income of families leasing manufactured home spaces, the value of the family's equity in the manufactured home in which the family resides is not counted as a family asset.

### **Lease and HAP Contract**

There is a designated HAP Contract (form HUD-52642) and a designated Tenancy Addendum (form HUD 52642-A) for this special housing type.

## **PAYMENT STANDARD, UTILITY ALLOWANCE AND HAP CALCULATION [FR Notice 1/18/17]**

### **Payment Standards**

The PHA payment standard for manufactured homes is determined in accordance with 24 CFR 982.505 and is the payment standard used for the PHA's HCV program. It is based on the applicable FMR for the area in which the manufactured home space is located.

The payment standard for the family is the lower of the family unit size (voucher size) or the payment standard for the number of bedrooms in the manufactured home.

### **Utility Allowance**

The PHA must establish utility allowances for manufactured home space rental. For the first 12 months of the initial lease term only, the allowance must include an amount for a utility hook-up charge if the family actually incurred a hook-up charge because of a move. This allowance will not be given to a family that leases in place. Utility allowances for manufactured home space must not include the costs of digging a well or installing a septic system.

If the amount of the monthly assistance payment for a family exceeds the monthly rent for the manufactured home space (including the owner's monthly management and maintenance charges), the PHA may pay the remainder to the family, lender, or utility company.

### **Space Rent**

The rent for the manufactured home space (including other eligible housing expenses) is the total of:

- The rent charged for the manufactured home space;
- Owner maintenance and management charges for the space;
- The monthly payments made by the family to amortize the cost of purchasing the manufactured home, including any required insurance and property taxes; and
- The applicable allowance for tenant-paid utilities.

### **Amortization Costs**

The monthly payment made by the family to amortize the cost of purchasing the manufactured home is the debt service established at the time of application to a lender for financing the purchase of the manufactured home if monthly payments are still being made. Any increase in debt service due to refinancing after the purchase of the home may not be included in the amortization cost. Debt service for set-up charges incurred by a family may be included in the monthly amortization payments made by the family. In addition, set-up charges incurred before the family became an assisted family may be included in the amortization cost if monthly payments are still being made to amortize the charges.

### **Housing Assistance Payment**

The HAP for a manufactured home space under the housing choice voucher program is the lower of the payment standard minus the TTP or the manufactured home space rent (including other eligible housing expenses) minus the TTP.

### **Rent Reasonableness**

Initially, and at least annually thereafter, the PHA must determine that the rent for the manufactured home space is reasonable based on rents for comparable manufactured home spaces. The PHA must consider the location and size of the space and any services and

maintenance to be provided by the owner. By accepting the monthly housing assistance payment, the owner of the manufactured home space certifies that the rent does not exceed rents charged by the owner for comparable unassisted spaces in the same manufactured home park or elsewhere.

If requested by the PHA, the owner must give the PHA information on rents charged by the owner for other manufactured home spaces.

## **NATIONAL STANDARDS FOR THE PHYSICAL INSPECTION OF REAL ESTATE (NSPIRE)**

Under either type of occupancy described in 15-VI.A. above, the manufactured home must meet all NSPIRE performance requirements and acceptability criteria discussed in Chapter 8 of this plan. In addition, the following requirement applies:

### ***Manufactured Home Tie-Down***

A manufactured home must be placed on the site in a stable manner and must be free from hazards such as sliding or wind damage. The home must be securely anchored by a tie-down device that distributes and transfers the loads imposed by the unit to appropriate ground anchors to resist overturning and sliding.

## **G. HOMEOWNERSHIP [24 CFR 982.625 through 982.643]**

### **OVERVIEW [24 CFR 982.625]**

The homeownership option assists a family living in a home purchased and owned by one or more family members. A family assisted under this option may be newly admitted or an existing participant in the HCV program. The PHA must have the capacity to operate a successful HCV homeownership program as defined by the regulations.

The regulations describe two forms of homeownership assistance: monthly homeownership assistance payments and single down payment assistance grants. However, PHAs may not offer down payment assistance until and unless Congress allocates funding. Since this has not yet happened, only monthly homeownership assistance may be offered.

The PHA may choose not to offer homeownership assistance. However, the PHA must offer homeownership assistance if needed as a reasonable accommodation so that the program is readily accessible to and usable by persons with disabilities. It is the sole responsibility of the PHA to determine whether it is reasonable to implement a homeownership program as a reasonable accommodation. The PHA must determine what is reasonable based on the specific circumstances and individual needs of the person with a disability. The PHA may determine that it is not reasonable to offer homeownership assistance as a reasonable accommodation in cases where the PHA has otherwise opted not to implement a homeownership program.

The PHA must approve a live-in aide if needed as a reasonable accommodation so that the program is readily accessible to and usable by persons with disabilities.

### **FAMILY ELIGIBILITY [24 CFR 982.627]**

If the PHA offers the homeownership option, the family's participation is optional. However, the family must meet all of the requirements listed below before the commencement of homeownership assistance. The PHA may also establish additional initial requirements as long as they are described in the PHA administrative plan.

- The family must have been admitted to the Housing Choice Voucher program.
- The family must qualify as a first-time, homeowner, or may be a cooperative member.
- The family must meet the Federal minimum income requirement. The family must have a gross annual income equal to the Federal minimum wage multiplied by 2000, based on the income of adult family members who will own the home. The PHA may establish a higher income standard for families. However, a family that meets the federal minimum income requirement (but not the PHA's requirement) will be considered to meet the minimum income requirement if it can demonstrate that it has been pre-qualified or pre-approved for financing that is sufficient to purchase an eligible unit.
- For disabled families, the minimum income requirement is equal to the current SSI monthly payment for an individual living alone, multiplied by 12.
- For elderly or disabled families, welfare assistance payments for adult family members who will own the home will be included in determining whether the family meets the minimum income requirement. It will not be included for other families.
- The family must satisfy the employment requirements by demonstrating that one or more adult members of the family who will own the home at the commencement of homeownership assistance are currently employed on a full-time basis (the term 'full-time employment' means not less than an average of 30 hours per week); and has been continuously so employed during the year before the commencement of homeownership assistance for the family.
- The employment requirement does not apply to elderly and disabled families. In addition, if a family, other than an elderly or disabled family includes a person with disabilities, the PHA must grant an exemption from the employment requirement if the PHA determines that it is needed as a reasonable accommodation.
- The family has not defaulted on a mortgage securing debt to purchase a home under the homeownership option
- Except for cooperative members who have acquired cooperative membership shares prior to the commencement of homeownership assistance, no family member has a present ownership interest in a residence at the commencement of homeownership assistance for the purchase of any home.
- Except for cooperative members who have acquired cooperative membership shares prior to the commencement of homeownership assistance, the family has entered a contract of sale in accordance with 24 CFR 982.631(c).

#### **SELECTION OF FAMILIES [24 CFR 982.626]**

Unless otherwise provided (under the homeownership option), the PHA may limit homeownership assistance to families or purposes defined by the PHA and may prescribe



additional requirements for the commencement of homeownership assistance for a family. Any such limits or additional requirements must be described in the PHA administrative plan.

If the PHA limits the number of families that may participate in the homeownership option, it must establish a system for selecting those families.

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing has established the Homeownership Program for twenty-four units. The PHA may exceed the number of units planned per year if it is necessary as a reasonable accommodation for a person with a disability. If this occurs, Jacksonville Housing may reduce the number of homeownership units offered in subsequent years.

Families who have been participating in an economic self-sufficiency program for at least six months, or have graduated from such a program, will be given preference over other families. Elderly and disabled families will automatically be given this preference.

Within preference and non-preference categories, families will be selected according to the date and time their application for participation in the homeownership option is submitted to Jacksonville Housing.

All families must meet eligibility requirements as defined in Chapter 15 of this plan.

### **ELIGIBLE UNITS [24 CFR 982.628]**

In order for a unit to be eligible, the PHA must determine that the unit satisfies all of the following requirements:

- The unit must meet HUD's "eligible housing" requirements. The unit may not be any of the following:
  - A public housing or Indian housing unit;
  - A unit receiving Section 8 project-based assistance;
  - A nursing home, board and care home, or facility providing continual psychiatric, medical or nursing services;
  - A college or other school dormitory;
  - On the grounds of penal, reformatory, medical, mental, or similar public or private institutions.
- The unit must be a one-unit property or a single dwelling unit in a cooperative or condominium.
- The unit must have been inspected by the PHA and by an independent inspector designated by the family.
- The unit must meet NSPIRE standards (see Chapter 8).

- For a unit where the family will not own fee title to the real property (such as a manufactured home), the home must have a permanent foundation and the family must have the right to occupy the site for at least 40 years.

Families may enter into contracts of sale for units not yet under construction. However, the PHA will not commence homeownership assistance for the family for that unit until:

1. Either the responsible entity completes the environmental review as required by 24 CFR part 58 and HUD approves the environmental certification and request for release of funds prior to the commencement of construction or HUD performed an environmental review under CFR part 50 and notifies the PHA in writing of environmental approval of the site prior to construction commencement; and
  2. Construction of the unit has been completed and the unit has passed the required NSPIRE inspection and independent inspection as addressed elsewhere in this chapter.
- For PHA-owned units all of the following conditions must be satisfied:
    - The PHA informs the family, both orally and in writing, that the family has the right to purchase any eligible unit, and a PHA-owned unit is freely selected by the family without PHA pressure or steering;
    - The unit is not ineligible for housing;
    - The PHA obtains the services of an independent agency to inspect the unit for compliance with NSPIRE, review the independent inspection report, review the contract of sale, and determine the reasonableness of the sales price and PHA-provided financing.
    - All of these actions must be completed in accordance with program requirements.

The PHA must not approve the unit if the PHA has been informed that the seller is debarred, suspended, or subject to a limited denial of participation.

### **ADDITIONAL PHA REQUIREMENTS FOR SEARCH AND PURCHASE [24 CFR 982.629]**

It is the family's responsibility to find a home that meets the criteria for voucher homeownership assistance. The PHA may establish the maximum time that will be allowed for a family to locate and purchase a home and may require the family to report on their progress in finding and purchasing a home. If the family is unable to purchase a home within the maximum time established by the PHA, the PHA may issue the family a voucher to lease a unit or place the family's name on the waiting list for a voucher.

### **HOMEOWNERSHIP COUNSELING [24 CFR 982.630]**

Before the commencement of homeownership assistance for a family, the family must attend and satisfactorily complete the pre-assistance homeownership and housing counseling program required by the PHA. HUD suggests the following topics for the PHA-required pre-assistance counseling:

- Home maintenance (including care of the grounds);
- Budgeting and money management;

- Credit counseling;
- How to negotiate the purchase price of a home;
- How to obtain homeownership financing and loan pre-approvals, including a description of types of financing that may be available, and the pros and cons of different types of financing;
- How to find a home, including information about homeownership opportunities, schools, and transportation in the PHA jurisdiction;
- Advantages of purchasing a home in an area that does not have a high concentration of low-income families and how to locate homes in such areas;
- Information on fair housing, including fair housing lending and local fair housing enforcement agencies; and
- Information about the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act (12 U.S.C. 2601 et seq.) (RESPA), state and Federal truth-in-lending laws, and how to identify and avoid loans with oppressive terms and conditions.

The PHA may adapt the subjects covered in pre-assistance counseling (as listed) to local circumstances and the needs of individual families.

The PHA may also offer additional counseling after commencement of homeownership assistance (ongoing counseling). If the PHA offers a program of ongoing counseling for participants in the homeownership option, the PHA shall have discretion to determine whether the family is required to participate in the ongoing counseling.

If the PHA does not use a HUD-approved housing counseling agency to provide the counseling, the PHA should ensure that its counseling program is consistent with the counseling provided under HUD's Housing Counseling program.

## **HOME INSPECTIONS, CONTRACT OF SALE, AND PHA DISAPPROVAL OF SELLER [24 CFR 982.631]**

### **Home Inspections**

The PHA may not commence monthly homeownership assistance payments for a family until the PHA has inspected the unit and has determined that the unit passes NSPIRE standards.

An independent professional inspector selected by and paid for by the family must also inspect the unit. The independent inspection must cover major building systems and components, including the foundation and structure, housing interior and exterior, and the roofing, plumbing, electrical, and heating systems. The independent inspector must be qualified to report on property conditions, including major building systems and components.

The PHA may not require the family to use an independent inspector selected by the PHA. The independent inspector may not be a PHA employee or contractor, or other person under the control of the PHA. However, the PHA may establish standards for the qualification of inspectors selected by families under the homeownership option.

The PHA may disapprove a unit for assistance based on information in the independent inspector's report, even if the unit was found to comply with NSPIRE.

## **Contract of Sale**

Before the commencement of monthly homeownership assistance payments, a member or member of the family must enter into a contract of sale with the seller of the unit to be acquired by the family. The family must give the PHA a copy of the contract of sale. The contract of sale must:

- Specify the price and other terms of sale by the seller to the purchaser;
- Provide that the purchaser will arrange for a pre-purchase inspection of the dwelling unit by an independent inspector selected by the purchaser;
- Provide that the purchaser is not obligated to purchase the unit unless the inspection is satisfactory to the purchaser;
- Provide that the purchaser is not obligated to pay for any necessary repairs; and
- Contain a certification from the seller that the seller has not been debarred, suspended, or subject to a limited denial of participation under CFR part 24.
- A contract for the sale of a unit not yet under construction must meet all above requirements, and requirements below. Commencement of construction in violation of the below requirements voids the purchase contract.
  - The purchaser is not obligated to purchase the unit unless an environmental review has been performed and the site received environmental approval prior to commencement of construction in accordance with 24 CFR 982.628; and
  - The construction will not commence until the environmental review has been completed and the seller has received written notice from the PHA that environmental approval has been obtained. Environmental approval may be conditioned on the contracting parties' agreement to modification to the unit design or to mitigation actions.

## **Disapproval of a Seller**

In its administrative discretion, the PHA may deny approval of a seller for the same reasons a PHA may disapprove an owner under the regular HCV program [see 24 CFR 982.306(c)].

## **FINANCING [24 CFR 982.632]**

The PHA may establish requirements for financing the purchase of a home under the homeownership option. This may include requirements concerning qualification of lenders, terms of financing, restrictions concerning debt secured by the home, lender qualifications, loan terms, and affordability of the debt. The PHA must establish policies describing these requirements in the administrative plan.

A PHA may not require that families acquire financing from one or more specified lenders, thereby restricting the family's ability to secure favorable financing terms.

## **CONTINUED ASSISTANCE REQUIREMENTS; FAMILY OBLIGATIONS [24 CFR 982.633]**

Homeownership assistance may only be paid while the family is residing in the home. If the family moves out of the home, the PHA may not continue homeownership assistance after the

month when the family moves out. The family or lender is not required to refund to the PHA the homeownership assistance for the month when the family moves out.

Before the commencement of homeownership assistance, the family must execute a statement of family obligations in the form prescribed by HUD [form HUD-52649]. In the statement, the family agrees to comply with all family obligations under the homeownership option.

The family must comply with the following obligations:

- The family must comply with the terms of the mortgage securing debt incurred to purchase the home or any refinancing of such debt.
- The family may not convey or transfer ownership of the home, except for purposes of financing, refinancing, or pending settlement of the estate of a deceased family member. Use and occupancy of the home are subject to 24 CFR 982.551 (h) and (i).
- The family must supply information to the PHA or HUD as specified in 24 CFR 982.551(b). The family must further supply any information required by the PHA or HUD concerning mortgage financing or refinancing, sale or transfer of any interest in the home, or homeownership expenses.
- The family must notify the PHA before moving out of the home.
- The family must notify the PHA if the family defaults on the mortgage used to purchase the home.
- The family must provide the PHA with information on any satisfaction or payment of the mortgage debt.
- No family member may have any ownership interest in any other residential property.
- The family must comply with the obligations of a participant family described in 24 CFR 982.551, except for the following provisions which do not apply to assistance under the homeownership option: 24 CFR 982.551(c), (d), (e), (f), (g) and (j).

#### **MAXIMUM TERM OF HOMEOWNER ASSISTANCE [24 CFR 982.634]**

Except in the case of a family that qualifies as an elderly or disabled family, other family members (described below) shall not receive homeownership assistance for more than:

- Fifteen years, if the initial mortgage incurred to finance the purchase of the home has a term of 20 years or longer; or
- Ten years, in all other cases.

The maximum term described above applies to any member of the family who:

- Has an ownership interest in the unit during the time that homeownership payments are made; or
- Is the spouse of any member of the household who has an ownership interest in the unit during the time homeownership payments are made.

In the case of an elderly family, the exception only applies if the family qualifies as an elderly family at the start of homeownership assistance. In the case of a disabled family, the exception

applies if at any time during receipt of homeownership assistance the family qualifies as a disabled family.

If, during the course of homeownership assistance, the family ceases to qualify as a disabled or elderly family, the maximum term becomes applicable from the date homeownership assistance commenced. However, such a family must be provided at least 6 months of homeownership assistance after the maximum term becomes applicable (provided the family is otherwise eligible to receive homeownership assistance).

If the family has received such assistance for different homes, or from different PHAs, the total of such assistance terms is subject to the maximum term described in this part.

### **HOMEOWNERSHIP ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS AND HOMEOWNERSHIP EXPENSES [24 CFR 982.635]**

The monthly homeownership assistance payment is the lower of the voucher payment standard minus the total tenant payment, or the monthly homeownership expenses minus the total tenant payment.

In determining the amount of the homeownership assistance payment, the PHA will use the same payment standard schedule, payment standard amounts, and subsidy standards as those described elsewhere in this plan for the Housing Choice Voucher program. The payment standard for a family is the greater of (i) The payment standard as determined at the commencement of homeownership assistance for occupancy of the home, or (ii) The payment standard at the most recent regular reexamination of family income and composition since the commencement of homeownership assistance for occupancy of the home.

The PHA must adopt policies for determining the amount of homeownership expenses to be allowed by the PHA in accordance with HUD requirements.

Homeownership expenses (not including cooperatives) must include amounts allowed by the PHA to cover:

- Principal and interest on initial mortgage debt, any refinancing of such debt, and any mortgage insurance premium incurred to finance purchase of the home;
- Real estate taxes and public assessments on the home;
- Home insurance;
- The PHA allowance for maintenance expenses;
- The PHA allowance for costs of major repairs and replacements;
- The PHA utility allowance for the home;
- Principal and interest on mortgage debt incurred to finance costs for major repairs, replacements or improvements for the home. If a member of the family is a person with disabilities, such debt may include debt incurred by the family to finance costs needed to make the home accessible for such person, if the PHA determines that allowance of such costs as homeownership expenses is needed as a reasonable accommodation so that the homeownership option is readily accessible to and usable by such person;

- Land lease payments where a family does not own fee title to the real property on which the home is located; [see 24 CFR 982.628(b)].
- For a condominium unit, condominium operating charges or maintenance fees assessed by the condominium homeowner association.

The PHA does not have the discretion to exclude any of the listed homeownership expenses or to add any additional items.

Homeownership expenses for a cooperative member include amounts allowed by the PHA to cover:

- The cooperative charge under the cooperative occupancy agreement including payment for real estate taxes and public assessments on the home;
- Principal and interest on initial debt incurred to finance purchase of cooperative membership shares and any refinancing of such debt;
- Home insurance;
- The PHA allowance for maintenance expenses;
- The PHA allowance for costs of major repairs and replacements;
- The PHA utility allowance for the home; and
- Principal and interest on debt incurred to finance major repairs, replacements or improvements for the home. If a member of the family is a person with disabilities, such debt may include debt incurred by the family to finance costs needed to make the home accessible for such person, if the PHA determines that allowance of such costs as homeownership expenses is needed as a reasonable accommodation so that the homeownership option is readily accessible to and usable by such person.
- Cooperative operating charges or maintenance fees assessed by the cooperative homeowner association.

The PHA may pay the homeownership assistance payments directly to the family, or at the PHA's discretion, to a lender on behalf of the family. If the assistance payment exceeds the amount due to the lender, the PHA must pay the excess directly to the family.

#### **PORTABILITY [24 CFR 982.636, 982.637, 982.353(b) and (c), 982.552, 982.553]**

Subject to the restrictions on portability included in HUD regulations and PHA policies, a family may exercise portability if the receiving PHA is administering a voucher homeownership program and accepting new homeownership families. The receiving PHA may absorb the family into its voucher program or bill the initial PHA.

The family must attend the briefing and counseling sessions required by the receiving PHA. The receiving PHA will determine whether the financing for and the physical condition of the unit, are acceptable. The receiving PHA must promptly notify the initial PHA if the family has purchased an eligible unit under the program, or if the family is unable to purchase a home within the maximum time established by the PHA.

#### **MOVING WITH CONTINUED ASSISTANCE [24 CFR 982.637]**

A family receiving homeownership assistance may move with continued tenant-based assistance or with voucher homeownership assistance.

The PHA must determine that all initial requirements have been satisfied if a family that has received homeownership assistance wants to move with continued homeownership assistance. However, the following do not apply:

- The requirement that a family must be a first-time homeowner is not applicable.
- The requirement for pre-assistance counseling is not applicable. However, the PHA may require that the family complete additional counseling (before or after moving to a new unit with continued homeownership assistance).

Continued tenant-based assistance for a new unit cannot begin so long as any family member holds title to the prior home. However, when the family or a member of the family is or has been the victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking and the move is needed to protect the health or safety of the family or family member (or any family member has been the victim of a sexual assault that occurred on the premises during the 90-calendar-day period preceding the family's request to move), such family or family member may be assisted with continued tenant-based assistance even if they own any title or other interest in the prior home.

The PHA may deny permission to move to a new unit with continued voucher assistance:

- If the PHA has insufficient funding to provide continued assistance.
- In accordance with 24 CFR 982.638, regarding denial or termination of assistance.
- In accordance with the PHA's policy regarding number of moves within a 12-month period.

The PHA must deny the family permission to move to a new unit with continued voucher rental assistance if:

- The family defaulted on an FHA-insured mortgage; and
- The family fails to demonstrate that the family has conveyed, or will convey, title to the home, as required by HUD, to HUD or HUD's designee; and
- The family has moved or will move, from the home within the period established or approved by HUD.

#### **DENIAL OR TERMINATION OF ASSISTANCE [24 CFR 982.638]**

At any time, the PHA may deny or terminate homeownership assistance in accordance with HCV program requirements in 24 CFR 982.552 (Grounds for denial or termination of assistance) or 24 CFR 982.553 (Crime by family members).

The PHA may also deny or terminate assistance for violation of participant obligations described in 24 CFR Parts 982.551 or 982.633 and in accordance with its own policy, with the exception of failure to meet obligations under the Family Self-Sufficiency program as prohibited under the alternative requirements set forth in FR Notice 12/29/14.

Homeownership assistance for a family automatically terminates 180 calendar days after the last homeownership assistance payment on behalf of the family. However, a PHA may grant relief



from this requirement in those cases where automatic termination would result in extreme hardship for the family.

The PHA must terminate voucher homeownership assistance for any member of family receiving homeownership assistance that is dispossessed from the home pursuant to a judgment or order of foreclosure on any mortgage (whether FHA insured or non-FHA) securing debt incurred to purchase the home, or any refinancing of such debt.

## **CHAPTER 16 PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION**

### **INTRODUCTION**

This chapter discusses administrative policies and practices that are relevant to the activities covered in this plan. The policies are discussed in seven parts as described below:

Administrative Fee Reserve. This part describes the PHA's policies with regard to oversight of expenditures from its administrative fee reserve.

Setting Program Standards and Schedules. This part describes what payment standards are, and how they are updated, as well as how utility allowances are established and revised.

Informal Reviews and Hearings. This section outlines the requirements and procedures for informal reviews and hearings regarding citizenship status.

Owner or Family Debts to the PHA. This part describes policies for recovering monies that the PHA has overpaid on behalf of families or owners and describes the circumstances under which the PHA will offer repayment agreements to owners and families. Also discussed are the consequences of failure to make payments in accordance with a repayment agreement.

Section 8 Management Assessment Program (SEMAP). This part describes what the SEMAP scores represent, how they are established, and how those scores affect a PHA.

Record-Keeping. All aspects of the program involve certain types of record-keeping. This part outlines the privacy rights of applicants and participants and the record retention policies the PHA will follow.

Reporting and Record Keeping for Children with Elevated Blood Lead Levels. This part describes the PHA's responsibilities for reporting, data collection, and record keeping regarding children with elevated blood lead levels who are less than six years of age and are receiving HCV assistance.

Determination of Insufficient Funding. This part describes the PHA's policies for determining if there is sufficient funding to issue vouchers, to approve moves to higher-cost units or areas, and to continue assistance for all participant families.

Violence Against Women Act (VAWA): Notification, Documentation, Confidentiality. This part contains key terms used in VAWA and describes requirements related to notifying families and owners about their rights and responsibilities under VAWA; requesting documentation from victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual

assault, and stalking; and maintaining the confidentiality of information obtained from victims.

## **A. ADMINISTRATIVE FEE RESERVE [24 CFR 982.155]**

The PHA will maintain administrative fee reserves, or unrestricted net position (UNP) for the program to pay program administrative expenses in excess of administrative fees paid by HUD for a PHA fiscal year. The HUD Appropriations Act, beginning with FFY 2004, has specified that administrative fee funding may be used only for activities related to the provision of HCV assistance, including related development activities. Notice PIH 2012-9 cites two examples of related development activities: unit modification for accessibility purposes and development of project-based voucher units. The notice makes clear that other activities may also qualify as related development activities. Administrative fees that remain in the UNP account from funding provided prior to 2004 may be used for “other housing purposes permitted by state and local law,” in accordance with 24 CFR 982.155(b)(1).

In addition, as specified in Notice PIH 2022-18, PHAs may use administrative fee funding for both administrative and “other expenses” needed to employ strategies and undertake activities beyond regular administrative responsibilities to facilitate the successful leasing and use of housing choice vouchers by families, such as through the use of security deposit assistance and landlord recruitment and incentive payments, among other allowable expenses specified in the notice. PHAs are also permitted to use UNP for these expenses [Notice PIH 2022-18].

If a PHA has not adequately administered its HCV program, HUD may prohibit the use of funds in the UNP Account and may direct the PHA to use funds in that account to improve the program's administration, for HCV HAP expenses, or to reimburse ineligible expenses in accordance with the regulation at 24 CFR 982.155(b)(3).

HUD requires the PHA Board of Commissioners or other authorized officials to establish the maximum amount that may be charged against the UNP account without specific approval.

### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

Expenditures from the UNP account will be made in accordance with all applicable federal requirements. Expenditures will not exceed \$10,000 per occurrence without the prior approval of Jacksonville Housing's Board of Commissioners.

## **B. SETTING PROGRAM STANDARDS AND SCHEDULES**

### **OVERVIEW**

Although many of the program's requirements are established centrally by HUD, the HCV program's regulations recognize that some flexibility is required to allow the PHA to adapt the program to local conditions. This part discusses how the PHA establishes and updates certain schedules and standards that are used to administer the program locally. Details about how these schedules are applied to individual families are provided in other chapters. The schedules and standards discussed here include:

- *Payment Standards*, which dictate the maximum subsidy a family can receive (application of the payment standards is discussed in Chapter 6); and
- *Utility Allowances*, which specify how a family's payment should be adjusted to account for tenant-paid utilities (application of utility allowances is discussed in Chapter 6).

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Copies of the payment standard and utility allowance schedules are available for review in Jacksonville Housing's offices during normal business hours.

Families, owners, and members of the public may submit written comments on the schedules discussed in this part, at any time, for consideration during the next revision cycle.

Jacksonville Housing will retain documentation for at least three (3) years to support its annual review of payment standards and utility allowance schedules.

Chapter 6 covers establishing and updating the PHA passbook rate, which is used to calculate imputed income from assets.

### **C. PAYMENT STANDARDS [24 CFR 982.503; HCV GB, Chapter 7]**

The payment standard sets the maximum subsidy payment a family can receive from the PHA each month [24 CFR 982.505(a)]. Payment standards are based on fair market rents (FMRs) published annually by HUD. FMRs are set at a percentile within the rent distribution of standard quality rental housing units in each FMR area. For most jurisdictions FMRs are set at the 40th percentile of rents in the market area.

The PHA must establish a payment standard schedule that establishes payment standard amounts for each FMR area within the PHA's jurisdiction and for each unit size within each of the FMR areas. For each unit size, the PHA may establish a single payment standard amount for the whole FMR area or may set different payment standards for different parts of the FMR area. Unless HUD grants an exception, the PHA is required to establish a payment standard within a "basic range" established by HUD – between 90 and 110 percent of the published FMR for each unit size.

#### **Updating Payment Standards**

When HUD updates its FMRs, the PHA must update its payment standards if the standards are no longer within the basic range [24 CFR 982.503(b)]. HUD may require the PHA to make further adjustments if it determines that rent burdens for assisted families in the PHA's jurisdiction are unacceptably high [24 CFR 982.503(g)].

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will review the appropriateness of the payment standards on an annual basis when the new FMR is published, and at other times as determined necessary. In addition to ensuring the payment standards are always within the "basic range," Jacksonville Housing will consider the following factors when determining whether an adjustment should be made to the payment standard schedule:

**Funding Availability:** Jacksonville Housing will review the budget to determine the impact projected subsidy adjustments will have on the program's funding and the number of families served. The PHA will compare the number of families who could be served under revised payment standard amounts with the number assisted under current payment standard amounts.

**Rent Burden of Participating Families:** Rent burden will be determined by identifying the percentage of families, for each unit size, that are paying more than 30 percent of their monthly adjusted income as the family share. When 40 percent or more of families, for any given unit size, are paying more than 30 percent of adjusted monthly income as the family share, Jacksonville Housing will consider increasing the payment standard. In evaluating rent burdens, Jacksonville Housing will not include families renting a larger unit than their family unit size.

**Quality of Units Selected:** Jacksonville Housing may review the quality of units selected by participant families when determining the percent of income families are paying for housing to ensure that payment standard increases are only made when needed to reach the mid-range of the market.

**Changes in Rent to Owner:** Jacksonville Housing may review a sample of the units to determine how often owners are increasing or decreasing rents and the average percentage of increases/decreases by bedroom size.

**Unit Availability:** Jacksonville Housing may review the availability of units for each unit size, particularly in areas with low concentrations of poor and minority families.

**Lease-up Time and Success Rate:** Jacksonville Housing may consider the percentage of families that are unable to locate suitable housing before the voucher expires and whether families are leaving the jurisdiction to find affordable housing.

The effective dates of changes to payment standard amounts will be determined at the time of update. Jacksonville Housing will always ensure that the payment standards are within the basic range.

**Exception Payment Standards [24 CFR 982.503(c)(5), Notice PIH 2018-01, FR Notice 9/27/21]**

A non-SAFMR PHA may establish an exception payment standard for a zip code area of up to and including 110 percent of the SAFMR determined by HUD for that zip code area. Regardless of the level of the exception payment standard compared to the metropolitan area FMRs (MAFMRs), the PHA must send an email to [SAFMRs@hud.gov](mailto:SAFMRs@hud.gov) to notify HUD that it has adopted an exception payment standard based on the SAFMR. A PHA that adopts an exception payment standard pursuant to this authority must apply it to the entire ZIP code area, for both its HCV, and if applicable, its PBV program. For the PBV program, this means that the rent to the owner may not exceed the new exception payment standard amount, provided the rent is still reasonable. A PHA that adopts an exception payment standard area must revise its briefing materials to make families aware of the exception payment standard and the area that it covers.

In addition, HUD allows PHAs to establish a HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) exception payment standard. PHAs may go up to but no higher than 120 percent of the FMR or SAFMR specifically for VASH families. PHAs who want to establish a VASH exception payment standard over 120 percent must still request a waiver from HUD (See Section 19-III.E.).

### **Voluntary Use of Small Area FMRs [24 CFR 982.503, Notice PIH 2018-01]**

PHAs that administer vouchers in a metropolitan area where the adoption of SAFMRs is not required may request approval from HUD to voluntarily adopt SAFMRs. SAFMRs may be voluntarily adopted for one or more zip code areas.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing has been chosen to adopt the use of SAFMRs except to establish exception payment standards in all zip codes in Jacksonville Housing jurisdiction.

### **Unit-by-Unit Exceptions [24 CFR 982.503(b), 24 CFR 982.505(d), Notice PIH 2010-26]**

Unit-by-unit exceptions to the PHA's payment standards generally are not permitted. However, an exception may be made as a reasonable accommodation for a family that includes a person with disabilities. (See Chapter 4 for a discussion of reasonable accommodations.) This type of exception does not affect the PHA's payment standard schedule.

When needed as a reasonable accommodation, the PHA may make an exception to the payment standard without HUD approval if the exception amount does not exceed 120 percent of the applicable FMR for the unit size [24 CFR 982.503(b)]. The PHA may request HUD approval for an exception to the payment standard for a particular family if the required amount exceeds 120 percent of the FMR.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

A family that requires a reasonable accommodation may request a higher payment standard at the time the Request for Tenancy Approval (RFTA) is submitted. The family must document the need for the exception. In order to approve an exception, or request an exception from HUD, Jacksonville Housing must determine that:

- There is a shortage of affordable units that would be appropriate for the family;
- The family's TTP would otherwise exceed 40 percent of adjusted monthly income; and
- The rent for the unit is reasonable.

### **"Success Rate" Payment Standard Amounts [24 CFR 982.503(e)]**

If a substantial percentage of families have difficulty finding a suitable unit, the PHA may request a "success rate payment standard" that applies to the entire jurisdiction. If approved by HUD, a success rate payment standard allows the PHA to set its payment standards at 90-110 percent of a higher FMR (the 50<sup>th</sup>, rather than the 40<sup>th</sup> percentile FMR). To support the request, the PHA must demonstrate that during the most recent 6-month period for which information is available:

- Fewer than 75 percent of families who were issued vouchers became participants;
- The PHA had established payment standards for all unit sizes, and for the entire jurisdiction, at 110 percent of the published FMR; and
- The PHA had a policy of allowing voucher holders who made sustained efforts to locate units at least 90 days to search for a unit.

Although HUD approves the success rate payment standard for all unit sizes in the FMR area, the PHA may choose to adjust it for only some unit sizes in all or a designated part of its jurisdiction within the FMR area.

#### **Decreases in the Payment Standard below the Basic Range [24 CFR 982.503(d)]**

The PHA must request HUD approval to establish a payment standard amount lower than the basic range. At HUD's sole discretion, HUD may approve the establishment of a lower payment standard. HUD will not approve a lower payment standard if the family share for more than 40 percent of program participants exceeds 30 percent of adjusted monthly income.

#### **D. UTILITY ALLOWANCES [24 CFR 982.517]**

A PHA-established utility allowance schedule is used in determining family share and PHA subsidy. The PHA must maintain a utility allowance schedule for (1) all tenant-paid utilities, (2) the cost of tenant-supplied refrigerators and ranges, and (3) other tenant-paid housing services such as trash collection.

The utility allowance schedule must be determined based on the typical cost of utilities and services paid by energy-conservative households that occupy housing of similar size and type in the same locality. The PHA must use normal patterns of consumption for the community as a whole and current utility rate in developing the schedule.

The utility allowance must include the utilities and services that are necessary in the locality to provide housing that complies with housing quality standards. Costs for telephone, cable/satellite television, and internet services are not included in the utility allowance schedule.

In the utility allowance schedule, the PHA must classify utilities and other housing services according to the following general categories: space heating; air conditioning; cooking; water heating; water; sewer; trash collection; other electric; cost of tenant-supplied refrigerator; cost of tenant-supplied range; and other specified housing services.

The cost of each utility and housing service must be stated separately by unit size and type. Chapter 18 of the *HCV Guidebook* provides detailed guidance to the PHA about establishing utility allowance schedules.

#### **Air Conditioning**

An allowance for air-conditioning must be provided when the majority of housing units in the market have central air-conditioning or are wired for tenant-installed air conditioners.

##### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

Jacksonville Housing has included an allowance for air-conditioning in its schedule. Central air-conditioning or a portable air conditioner must be present in a unit before Jacksonville Housing will apply this allowance to a family's rent and subsidy calculations.

#### **Reasonable Accommodation and Individual Relief**

Upon request from a family that includes a person with disabilities, the PHA must approve a utility allowance that is higher than the applicable amount on the utility allowance schedule if a higher utility allowance is needed as a reasonable accommodation to make the program accessible and usable by the family member with a disability [24 CFR 982.517(e)]. See Chapter 4 for policies regarding the request and approval of reasonable accommodations.

Further, the PHA may grant requests for relief from charges in excess of the utility allowance on reasonable grounds, such as special needs of the elderly, ill, or residents with disabilities or special factors not within the control of the resident, as the PHA deems appropriate. The family must request the higher allowance and provide the PHA with an explanation of the need for the individual relief and information about the amount of additional allowance required [see HCV GB, p. 18-8].

PHAs should develop criteria for granting individual relief and notify residents and participants about the availability of individual relief programs (sometimes referred to as “Medical Baseline discounts”) offered by the local utility company. Policies for granting exception utility allowances can be found in Chapter 6 of this plan.

### **Utility Allowance Revisions**

The PHA must review its schedule of utility allowances each year and revise it if any utility rate has changed by 10 percent or more since the last time the allowance for that utility was revised.

The PHA must maintain information supporting its annual review of utility allowance and any revisions made in its utility allowance schedule.

## **E. INFORMAL REVIEWS AND HEARINGS**

### **OVERVIEW**

Both applicants and participants have the right to disagree with and appeal certain PHA decisions that may adversely affect them. This section discusses PHA decisions that may be appealed by applicants and participants.

The process for applicant appeals of PHA decisions is called the “informal review.” For participants (or applicants denied admission because of citizenship issues), the appeal process is called an “informal hearing.” PHAs are required to include informal review procedures for applicants and informal hearing procedures for participants in their administrative plans [24 CFR 982.54(d)(12) and (13)].

### **INFORMAL REVIEWS**

Informal reviews are provided for program applicants. An applicant is someone who has applied for admission to the program but is not yet a participant in the program. Informal reviews are intended to provide a “minimum hearing requirement” [24 CFR 982.554], and need not be as elaborate as the informal hearing requirements [*Federal Register* 60, no. 127 (3 July 1995): 34690].

#### **Decisions Subject to Informal Review [24 CFR 982.554(a) and (c)]**

The PHA must give an applicant the opportunity for an informal review of a decision denying assistance [24 CFR 982.554(a)]. Denial of assistance may include any or all of the following [24 CFR 982.552(a)(2)]:

- Denying listing on the PHA waiting list
- Denying or withdrawing a voucher
- Refusing to enter into a HAP contract or approve a lease



- Refusing to process or provide assistance under portability procedures

Informal reviews are *not* required for the following reasons [24 CFR 982.554(c)]:

- Discretionary administrative determinations by the PHA
- General policy issues or class grievances
- A determination of the family unit size under the PHA subsidy standards
- A PHA determination not to approve an extension of a voucher term
- A PHA determination not to grant approval of the tenancy
- A PHA determination that the unit is not in compliance with the NSPIRE
- A PHA determination that the unit does not meet space standards

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will only offer an informal review to applicants for whom assistance is being denied. Denial of assistance includes denying listing on the Jacksonville Housing waiting list, denying or withdrawing a voucher, refusing to enter into a HAP contract or approve a lease, and refusing to process or provide assistance under portability procedures.

#### **Notice to the Applicant [24 CFR 982.554(a)]**

The PHA must give an applicant prompt notice of a decision denying assistance. The notice must contain a brief statement of the reasons for the PHA decision, and must also state that the applicant may request an informal review of the decision. The notice must describe how to obtain the informal review.

#### **Scheduling an Informal Review**

##### Jacksonville Housing Policy

A request for an informal review must be made in writing and delivered to Jacksonville Housing either in person or by first-class mail, by the close of the business day, no later than ten (10) business days from the date of Jacksonville Housing's denial of assistance.

Jacksonville Housing must schedule and send written notice of the informal review within ten (10) business days of the family's request.

If the informal review will be conducted remotely, at the time Jacksonville Housing notifies the family of the informal review, the family will be informed:

- Regarding the processes for conducting a remote informal review;
- That, if needed, Jacksonville Housing will provide technical assistance prior to and during the informal review; and
- if the family or any individual witness has any technological, resource, or accessibility barriers preventing them from fully accessing the remote informal review, the family may inform Jacksonville Housing, and Jacksonville Housing will assist the family in either resolving the issues or allowing the family to participate in an in-person informal review, as appropriate.

### **Informal Review Procedures [24 CFR 982.554(b)]**

The informal review must be conducted by a person other than the one who made or approved the decision under review, or a subordinate of this person.

The applicant must be provided an opportunity to present written or oral objections to the decision of the PHA.

### **Remote Informal Reviews [Notice PIH 2020-32]**

There is no requirement that informal reviews be conducted in person, and as such, HUD allows PHAs to conduct all or a portion of their informal reviews remotely, either over the phone, via video conferencing, or through other virtual platforms. If the PHA chooses to conduct remote informal reviews, applicants may still request an in-person informal review, as applicable.

#### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

Jacksonville Housing has the sole discretion to require that informal reviews be conducted remotely in cases of local, state, or national physical distancing orders and inclement weather or natural disasters.

In addition, Jacksonville Housing will conduct an informal review remotely upon the applicant's request as a reasonable accommodation for a person with a disability, if the applicant does not have childcare or transportation that would enable them to attend the informal review, or if the applicant believes an in-person informal review would create an undue health risk. Jacksonville Housing will consider other reasonable requests for a remote informal review on a case-by-case basis.

### **Ensuring Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities and LEP Individuals**

As with in-person informal reviews, the platform for conducting remote informal reviews must be accessible to persons with disabilities, and the informal review must be conducted in accordance with Section 504 and accessibility requirements. This includes ensuring any information, websites, emails, digital notifications, and other virtual platforms are accessible for persons with vision, hearing, and other disabilities. Further, providing effective communication in a digital context may require the use of individualized auxiliary aids or services, such as audio description, captioning, sign language and other types of interpreters, keyboard accessibility, accessible documents, screen reader support, and transcripts. Auxiliary aids or services must be provided in accessible formats, in a timely manner, and in such a way to protect the privacy and independence of the individual. PHAs may never request or require that individuals with disabilities provide their own auxiliary aids or services, including for remote informal hearings.

PHAs are required to make reasonable accommodations in policies, practices, and procedures to ensure persons with disabilities have a full and equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from all aspects of the informal review process. See Chapter 4 for a more detailed discussion of reasonable accommodation requirements.

If no method of conducting a remote informal review is available that appropriately accommodates an individual's disability, the PHA may not hold against the individual their inability to participate in the remote informal review, and the PHA should consider whether postponing the remote informal review to a later date is appropriate or whether there is a suitable alternative.

Due to the individualized nature of the disability, the appropriate auxiliary aid or service necessary or reasonable accommodation will depend on the specific circumstances and requirements.

As with in-person reviews, Limited English Proficiency (LEP) requirements also apply to remote informal reviews, including the use of interpretation services and document translation. See Chapter 4 for a more thorough discussion of accessibility and LEP requirements, all of which apply in the context of remote informal reviews.

### **Conducting Remote Informal Reviews**

The PHA must ensure that the lack of technology or inability to use technology for remote informal reviews does not pose a disadvantage to families that may not be apparent to the PHA. The PHA should determine through a survey or other means if these barriers exist prior to conducting the remote informal review and, if the family does not have the proper technology to fully participate, either postpone the informal review or provide an alternative means of access.

As with in-person informal reviews, the PHA must provide the family with all materials presented, whether paper or electronic, prior to the remote informal review. The family must also be provided with an accessible means of transmitting their own evidence.

The PHA must ensure that the applicant has the right to hear and be heard. All PHA policies and processes for remote informal reviews must be conducted in accordance with due process requirements and be in compliance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 982.554 and guidance specified in Notice PIH 2020-32.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will conduct remote informal reviews via a videoconferencing platform when available. If, after attempting to resolve any barriers, applicants are unable to adequately access the videoconferencing platform at any point, or upon applicant request, the informal review will be conducted by telephone conferencing call-in. If the family is unable to adequately access the telephone conferencing call-in at any point, the remote informal review will be postponed, and an in-person alternative will be provided promptly within a reasonable time.

At least five business days prior to scheduling the remote review, Jacksonville Housing will provide the family with login information and/or conferencing call-in information and an electronic and/or physical copy of all materials being presented via first-class mail and/or email. The notice will advise the family of technological requirements for the hearing and request the family notify Jacksonville Housing of any known barriers. Jacksonville Housing will resolve any barriers using the guidance in Chapter 6 of Notice PIH 2020-32, including offering the family the opportunity to attend an in-person hearing.

If the informal review is to be conducted remotely, Jacksonville Housing will require the family to provide any documents directly relevant to the informal review at least 24 hours before the scheduled review through the mail, email, or text. Jacksonville Housing will scan and email copies of these documents to a representative the same day.

Documents will be shared electronically whenever possible.

Jacksonville Housing will follow up the email with a phone call and/or email to the applicant at least one business day prior to the remote informal review to ensure that the applicant received all information and is comfortable accessing the video conferencing or call-in platform.

Jacksonville Housing will ensure that all electronic information stored or transmitted regarding the informal review is secure, including protecting personally identifiable information (PII), and meets the requirements for accessibility for persons with disabilities and persons with LEP.

### **Informal Review Decision [24 CFR 982.554(b)]**

The PHA must notify the applicant of its final decision, including a brief statement of its reasons.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

In rendering a decision, Jacksonville Housing will evaluate the following matters:

- Whether or not the grounds for denial were stated factually in the notice to the family.
- The validity of the grounds for denial of assistance. If the grounds for denial are not specified in the regulations, then the decision to deny assistance will be overturned.
- The validity of the evidence. Jacksonville Housing will evaluate whether the facts presented prove the grounds for denial of assistance. If the facts prove that there are grounds for denial, and the denial is required by HUD, Jacksonville Housing will uphold the decision to deny assistance.
- If the facts prove the grounds for denial, and the denial is discretionary, Jacksonville Housing will consider the recommendation of the person conducting the informal review in making the final decision on whether to deny assistance.

Jacksonville Housing will notify the applicant of the final decision, including a statement explaining the reason(s) for the decision. The notice will be mailed to the applicant and their representative, if any, within ten (10) business days of the informal review, along with proof of mailing.

If the decision to deny is overturned after the informal review, admissions processing will resume.

If the family fails to appear for their informal review, the denial of admission will stand and the family will be so notified.

### **INFORMAL HEARINGS FOR PARTICIPANTS [24 CFR 982.555]**

PHAs must offer an informal hearing for certain PHA determinations relating to the individual circumstances of a participant family. A participant is defined as a family that has been admitted to the PHA's HCV program and is currently assisted in the program. The purpose of the informal hearing is to consider whether the PHA's decisions related to the family's circumstances are in accordance with the law, HUD regulations and PHA policies.

The PHA is not permitted to terminate a family's assistance until the time allowed for the family to request an informal hearing has elapsed, and any requested hearing has been completed. Termination of assistance for a participant may include any or all of the following:

- Refusing to enter into a HAP contract or approve a lease
- Terminating housing assistance payments under an outstanding HAP contract
- Refusing to process or provide assistance under portability procedures

### **Decisions Subject to Informal Hearing**

Circumstances for which the PHA must give a participant's family an opportunity for an informal hearing are as follows:

- A determination of the family's annual or adjusted income, and the use of such income to compute the housing assistance payment
- A determination of the appropriate utility allowance (if any) for tenant-paid utilities from the PHA utility allowance schedule
- A determination of the family unit size under the PHA's subsidy standards
- A determination to terminate assistance for a participant's family because of the family's actions or failure to act
- A determination to terminate assistance because the participant has been absent from the assisted unit for longer than the maximum period permitted under PHA policy and HUD rules
- A determination to terminate a family's Family Self Sufficiency contract, withhold supportive services, or propose forfeiture of the family's escrow account [24 CFR 984.303(i)]

Circumstances for which an informal hearing is not required are as follows:

- Discretionary administrative determinations by the PHA
- General policy issues or class grievances
- Establishment of the PHA schedule of utility allowances for families in the program
- A PHA determination not to approve an extension of a voucher term
- A PHA determination not to approve a unit or tenancy
- A PHA determination that a unit selected by the applicant is not in compliance with the NSPIRE
- A PHA determination that the unit is not in accordance with NSPIRE because of family size
- A determination by the PHA to exercise or not to exercise any right or remedy against an owner under a HAP contract

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will only offer participants the opportunity for an informal hearing when required to by the regulations, and if Jacksonville Housing denies a request for a reasonable accommodation (see Chapter 4).

### **Remote Informal Hearings [Notice PIH 2020-32]**

There is no requirement that informal hearings be conducted in person, and as such, HUD allows PHAs to conduct all or a portion of their informal hearings remotely either over the phone, via video conferencing, or through other virtual platforms. If the PHA chooses to conduct remote informal hearings, applicants may still request an in-person informal hearing, as applicable.

#### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

Jacksonville Housing has the sole discretion to require that informal hearings be conducted remotely in case of local, state, or national physical distancing orders, and in cases of inclement weather or natural disaster.

In addition, Jacksonville Housing will conduct an informal hearing remotely upon request as a reasonable accommodation for a person with a disability, if a participant does not have child care or transportation that would enable them to attend the informal hearing, or if the participant believes an in-person hearing would create an undue health risk. Jacksonville Housing will consider other reasonable requests for a remote informal hearing on a case-by-case basis.

### **Ensuring Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities and LEP Individuals**

As with in-person informal hearings, the platform for conducting remote informal hearings must be accessible to persons with disabilities and the informal hearings must be conducted in accordance with Section 504 and accessibility requirements. This includes ensuring any information, websites, emails, digital notifications, and other virtual platforms are accessible for persons with vision, hearing, and other disabilities. Further, providing effective communication in a digital context may require the use of individualized auxiliary aids or services, such as audio description, captioning, sign language and other types of interpreters, keyboard accessibility, accessible documents, screen reader support, and transcripts. Auxiliary aids or services must be provided in accessible formats, in a timely manner, and in such a way to protect the privacy and independence of the individual. PHAs may never request or require that individuals with disabilities provide their own auxiliary aids or services, including for remote informal hearings.

PHAs are required to make reasonable accommodations in policies, practices, and procedures to ensure persons with disabilities have a full and equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from all aspects of the informal hearing process. See Chapter 4 for a more detailed discussion of reasonable accommodation requirements.

If no method of conducting a remote informal hearing is available that appropriately accommodates an individual's disability, the PHA may not hold against the individual their inability to participate in the remote informal hearing, and the PHA should consider whether postponing the remote hearing to a later date is appropriate or whether there is a suitable alternative.

Due to the individualized nature of disability, the appropriate auxiliary aid or service necessary, or reasonable accommodation will depend on the specific circumstances and requirements.

As with in-person reviews, Limited English Proficiency (LEP) requirements also apply to remote informal hearings, including the use of interpretation services and document translation. See Chapter 4 for a more thorough discussion of accessibility and LEP requirements, all of which apply in the context of remote informal hearings.

### **Conducting Informal Hearings Remotely**

The PHA must ensure that the lack of technology or inability to use technology for remote informal hearings does not pose a disadvantage to families that may not be apparent to the PHA. The PHA should determine through a survey or other means if these barriers exist prior to conducting the remote informal hearing and, if the family does not have the proper technology to fully participate, either postpone the informal hearing or provide an alternative means of access.

As with in-person informal hearings, the PHA must provide all materials presented, whether paper or electronic, to the family prior to the remote informal hearing. The family must also be provided with an accessible means by which to transmit their own evidence.

The PHA's essential responsibility is to ensure informal hearings meet the requirements of due process and comply with HUD regulations. Therefore, all PHA policies and processes for remote informal hearings will be conducted in accordance with due process requirements, and will be in compliance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 982.555 and the guidance for conducting remote hearings specified in Notice PIH 2020-32.

#### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

Jacksonville Housing will conduct remote informal hearings via a video conferencing platform, when available. If, after attempting to resolve any barriers, participants are unable to adequately access the video conferencing platform at any point, or upon request, the informal hearing will be conducted by telephone conferencing call-in. If the family is unable to adequately access the telephone conferencing call-in at any point, the remote informal hearing will be postponed, and an in-person alternative will be provided promptly within a reasonable time.

At least five business days prior to scheduling the remote hearing, Jacksonville Housing will provide the family with login information and/or conferencing call-in information and an electronic copy of all materials being presented via first-class mail and/or email. The notice will advise the family of technological requirements for the hearing and request the family notify Jacksonville Housing of any known barriers. Jacksonville Housing will resolve any barriers using the guidance in Section 6 of Notice PIH 2020-32, including offering the family the opportunity to attend an in-person hearing.

Jacksonville Housing will follow up with a phone call and/or email to the family at least one business day prior to the remote informal hearing to ensure that the family received all information and is comfortable accessing the video conferencing or call-in platform.

Jacksonville Housing will ensure that all electronic information stored or transmitted with respect to the informal hearing is secure, including protecting personally identifiable information (PII), and meets the requirements for accessibility for persons with disabilities and persons with LEP.

### **Informal Hearing Procedures**

#### ***Notice to the Family [24 CFR 982.555(c)]***

When the PHA makes a decision that is subject to informal hearing procedures, the PHA must inform the family of its right to an informal hearing at the same time that it informs the family of the decision.

For decisions related to the family's annual or adjusted income, the determination of the appropriate utility allowance, and the determination of the family unit size, the PHA must notify the family that they may ask for an explanation of the basis of the determination, and that if they do not agree with the decision, they may request an informal hearing on the decision.

For decisions related to the termination of the family's assistance, or the denial of a family's request for an exception to the PHA's subsidy standards, the notice must contain a brief statement of the reasons for the decision, a statement that if the family does not agree with the decision, the family may request an informal hearing on the decision, and a statement of the deadline for the family to request an informal hearing.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

In cases where Jacksonville Housing makes a decision for which an informal hearing must be offered, the notice to the family will include all of the following:

- The proposed action or decision of Jacksonville Housing.
- A brief statement of the reasons for the decision, including the regulatory reference.
- The date the proposed action will take place.
- A statement of the family's right to an explanation of the basis for Jacksonville Housing's decision.
- A statement that if the family does not agree with the decision the family may request an informal hearing of the decision.
- A deadline for the family to request the informal hearing.
- To whom the hearing request should be addressed.
- A copy of Jacksonville Housing's hearing procedures.
- That the family may request a remote informal hearing.

#### ***Scheduling an Informal Hearing [24 CFR 982.555(d)]***

When an informal hearing is required, the PHA must proceed with the hearing in a reasonably expeditious manner upon the request of the family.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

A request for an informal hearing must be made in writing and delivered to Jacksonville Housing either in person or by first class mail, by the close of the business day, no later than ten (10) business days from the date of Jacksonville Housing's decision or notice to terminate assistance.

Jacksonville Housing must schedule and send written notice of the informal hearing to the family within ten (10) business days of the family's request.

If Jacksonville Housing hearing will be conducted remotely, at the time the notice is sent to the family, the family will be notified:

Regarding the processes involved in a remote informal hearing;



That Jacksonville Housing will provide technical assistance prior to and during the informal hearing, if needed; and

That if the family or any individual witness has any technological, resource, or accessibility barriers, the family may inform Jacksonville Housing and Jacksonville Housing will assist the family in either resolving the issue or allow the family to participate in an in-person hearing, as appropriate.

The family may request to reschedule a hearing for good cause, or if it is needed as a reasonable accommodation for a person with disabilities. Good cause is defined as an unavoidable conflict which seriously affects the health, safety or welfare of the family. Requests to reschedule a hearing must be made orally or in writing prior to the hearing date. At its discretion, Jacksonville Housing may request documentation of the “good cause” prior to rescheduling the hearing.

If the family does not appear within 20 minutes of the scheduled time and was unable to reschedule the hearing in advance due to the nature of the conflict, the family must contact Jacksonville Housing within 24 hours of the scheduled hearing date, excluding weekends and holidays. Jacksonville Housing will reschedule the hearing only if the family can show good cause for the failure to appear, or if it is needed as a reasonable accommodation for a person with disabilities. If the family cannot show good cause for the failure to appear, or a rescheduling is not needed as a reasonable accommodation, Jacksonville Housing’s decision will stand.

#### ***Pre-Hearing Right to Discovery [24 CFR 982.555(e)]***

Participants and the PHA are permitted pre-hearing discovery rights. The family must be given the opportunity to examine before the hearing any PHA documents that are directly relevant to the hearing. The family must be allowed to copy any such documents at their own expense. If the PHA does not make the document available for examination on request of the family, the PHA may not rely on the document at the hearing.

For the purpose of informal hearings, *documents* include records and regulations.

#### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

The family will be allowed to copy any documents related to the hearing at no cost to the family. The family must request the discovery of PHA documents no later than 12:00 p.m. on the business day prior to the scheduled hearing date.

If the hearing is conducted remotely, Jacksonville Housing will compile a hearing packet, consisting of all documents Jacksonville Housing intends to produce at the informal hearing. Jacksonville Housing will mail copies of the hearing packet to the family, the family’s representatives, if any, and the hearing officer at least three days before the scheduled remote informal hearing. The original hearing packet will be in the possession of Jacksonville Housing representative and retained by Jacksonville Housing.

Documents will be shared electronically whenever possible.

The PHA hearing procedures may provide that the PHA must be given the opportunity to examine at the PHA offices before the hearing any family documents that are directly relevant to the hearing. The PHA must be allowed to copy any such document at the PHA’s expense. If the

family does not make the document available for examination on request of the PHA, the family may not rely on the document at the hearing.

Jacksonville Housing Policy

For in-person hearings, Jacksonville Housing will not require pre-hearing discovery by Jacksonville Housing of family documents directly relevant to the hearing.

If the informal hearing is to be conducted remotely, Jacksonville Housing will require the family to provide any documents directly relevant to the informal hearing at least 24 hours before the scheduled hearing through the mail, via email, or text. Jacksonville Housing will scan and email copies of these documents to the hearing officer and Jacksonville Housing representative the same day.

Documents will be shared electronically whenever possible.

***Participant's Right to Bring Counsel [24 CFR 982.555(e)(3)]***

At its own expense, the family may be represented by a lawyer or other representative at the informal hearing.

***Informal Hearing Officer [24 CFR 982.555(e)(4)]***

Informal hearings will be conducted by a person or persons approved by the PHA, other than the person who made or approved the decision or a subordinate of the person who made or approved the decision.

***Attendance at the Informal Hearing***

Jacksonville Housing Policy

Hearings may be attended by a hearing officer and the following applicable persons:

- A PHA representative(s) and any witnesses for Jacksonville Housing
- The participant and any witnesses for the participant
- The participant's counsel or other representative
- Any other person approved by Jacksonville Housing as a reasonable accommodation for a person with a disability

***Conduct at Hearings***

The person who conducts the hearing may regulate the conduct of the hearing in accordance with the PHA's hearing procedures [24 CFR 982.555(4)(ii)].

Jacksonville Housing Policy

The hearing officer is responsible to manage the order of business and to ensure that hearings are conducted in a professional and businesslike manner. Attendees are expected to comply with all hearing procedures established by the hearing officer and guidelines for conduct. Any person demonstrating disruptive, abusive or otherwise inappropriate behavior will be excused from the hearing at the discretion of the hearing officer.

***Evidence [24 CFR 982.555(e)(5)]***

The PHA and the family must be given the opportunity to present evidence and question any witnesses. In general, all evidence is admissible at an informal hearing. Evidence may be

considered without regard to admissibility under the rules of evidence applicable to judicial proceedings.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Any evidence to be considered by the hearing officer must be presented at the time of the hearing. There are four categories of evidence.

**Oral evidence:** the testimony of witnesses

**Documentary evidence:** a writing which is relevant to the case, for example, a letter written to the PHA. Writings include all forms of recorded communication or representation, including letters, words, pictures, sounds, videotapes or symbols or combinations thereof.

**Demonstrative evidence:** Evidence created specifically for the hearing and presented as an illustrative aid to assist the hearing officer, such as a model, a chart or other diagram.

**Real evidence:** A tangible item relating directly to the case.

*Hearsay Evidence* is evidence based not on a witness' personal knowledge. In and of itself, hearsay evidence carries no weight when making a finding of fact. The hearing officer may include hearsay evidence when considering their decision if it is corroborated by other evidence. Even though hearsay evidence is generally admissible in a hearing, the hearing officer will not base a hearing decision on hearsay alone unless there is clear probative value and credibility of the evidence, and the party seeking the change has met the burden of proof.

If either the PHA (or the family, if required in a remote hearing) fail to comply with the discovery requirements described above, the hearing officer will refuse to admit such evidence.

Other than the failure of a party to comply with discovery, the hearing officer has the authority to overrule any objections to evidence.

#### ***Procedures for Rehearing or Further Hearing***

##### Jacksonville Housing Policy

The hearing officer may ask the family for additional information and/or might adjourn the hearing in order to reconvene at a later date, before reaching a decision. If the family misses an appointment or deadline ordered by the hearing officer, the action of the PHA will take effect and another hearing will not be granted.

#### ***Hearing Officer's Decision [24 CFR 982.555(e)(6)]***

The person who conducts the hearing must issue a written decision, stating briefly the reasons for the decision. Factual determinations relating to the individual circumstances of the family must be based on a preponderance of evidence presented at the hearing.

##### Jacksonville Housing Policy

In rendering a decision, the hearing officer will consider the following matters:

**PHA Notice to the Family:** The hearing officer will determine if the reasons for the PHA's decision are factually stated in the Notice.

**Discovery:** The hearing officer will determine if Jacksonville Housing and the family were given the opportunity to examine any relevant documents in accordance with Jacksonville Housing policy.

**PHA Evidence to Support the PHA Decision:** The evidence consists of the facts presented. Evidence is not conclusion and it is not argument. The hearing officer will evaluate the facts to determine if they support the PHA's conclusion.

**Validity of Grounds for Termination of Assistance (when applicable):** The hearing officer will determine if the termination of assistance is for one of the grounds specified in the HUD regulations and PHA policies. If the grounds for termination are not specified in the regulations or in compliance with PHA policies, then the decision of the PHA will be overturned.

The hearing officer will issue a written decision to the family and the PHA no later than ten (10) business days after the hearing. The report will contain the following information:

**Hearing information:**

Name of the participant;

Date, time and place of the hearing;

Name of the hearing officer;

Name of the PHA representative; and

Name of family representative (if any).

**Background:** A brief, impartial statement of the reason for the hearing.

**Summary of the Evidence:** The hearing officer will summarize the testimony of each witness and identify any documents that a witness produced in support of their testimony and that are admitted into evidence.

**Findings of Fact:** The hearing officer will include all findings of fact, based on a preponderance of the evidence. *Preponderance of the evidence* is defined as evidence which is of greater weight or more convincing than the evidence which is offered in opposition to it; that is, evidence which as a whole shows that the fact sought to be proved is more probable than not. Preponderance of the evidence may not be determined by the number of witnesses, but by the greater weight of all evidence.

**Conclusions:** The hearing officer will render a conclusion derived from the facts that were found to be true by a preponderance of the evidence. The conclusion will result in a determination of whether these facts uphold the PHA's decision.

**Order:** The hearing report will include a statement of whether the PHA's decision is upheld or overturned. If it is overturned, the hearing officer will instruct the PHA to change the decision in accordance with the hearing officer's

determination. In the case of termination of assistance, the hearing officer will instruct the PHA to restore the participant's program status.

***Issuance of Decision [24 CFR 982.555(e)(6)]***

A copy of the hearing must be furnished promptly to the family.

**Jacksonville Housing Policy**

The hearing officer will mail a "Notice of Hearing Decision" to Jacksonville Housing and to the participant on the same day. This notice will be sent by US Postal mail and/or email at the provided email addresses. The participant will be mailed the original "Notice of Hearing Decision". A copy of the "Notice of Hearing Decision" will be maintained in Jacksonville Housing's file.

***Effect of Final Decision [24 CFR 982.555(f)]***

The PHA is not bound by the decision of the hearing officer for matters in which the PHA is not required to provide an opportunity for a hearing, decisions that exceed the authority of the hearing officer, decisions that conflict with or contradict HUD regulations, requirements, or are otherwise contrary to federal, state, or local laws.

If the PHA determines it is not bound by the hearing officer's decision in accordance with HUD regulations, the PHA must promptly notify the family of the determination and the reason for the determination.

**Jacksonville Housing Policy**

The Executive Director has the authority to determine that Jacksonville Housing is not bound by the decision of the hearing officer because Jacksonville Housing was not required to provide a hearing, the decision exceeded the authority of the hearing officer, the decision conflicted with or contradicted HUD regulations, requirements, or the decision was otherwise contrary to federal, state, or local laws.

In such a case, Jacksonville Housing will mail a "Notice of Final Decision" to the participant on the same day. The "Notice of Final Decision" will be sent by first-class mail. A copy of this notice will be maintained in Jacksonville Housing's file.

**HEARING AND APPEAL PROVISIONS FOR NONCITIZENS [24 CFR 5.514]**

Denial or termination of assistance based on immigration status is subject to special hearing and notice rules. Applicants who are denied assistance due to immigration status are entitled to an informal hearing, not an informal review.

Assistance to a family may not be delayed, denied, or terminated on the basis of immigration status at any time prior to a decision under the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) appeal process. Assistance to a family may not be terminated or denied while the PHA hearing is pending, but assistance to an applicant may be delayed pending the completion of the informal hearing.

A decision against a family member, issued in accordance with the USCIS appeal process or the PHA informal hearing process, does not preclude the family from exercising the right, that may otherwise be available, to seek redress directly through judicial procedures.

**Notice of Denial or Termination of Assistance [24 CFR 5.514(d)]**

The notice of denial or termination of assistance for noncitizens must advise the family:

- That financial assistance will be denied or terminated, and provide a brief explanation of the reasons for the proposed denial or termination of assistance.
- The family may be eligible for proration of assistance.
- In the case of a participant, the criteria and procedures for obtaining relief under the provisions for the preservation of families [24 CFR 5.514 and 5.518].
- That the family has a right to request an appeal to the USCIS of the results of secondary verification of immigration status and to submit additional documentation or explanation in support of the appeal.
- That the family has a right to request an informal hearing with the PHA either upon completion of the USCIS appeal or in lieu of the USCIS appeal.
- For applicants, assistance may not be delayed until the conclusion of the USCIS appeal process, but assistance may be delayed during the period of the informal hearing process.

#### **USCIS Appeal Process [24 CFR 5.514(e)]**

When the PHA receives notification that the USCIS secondary verification failed to confirm eligible immigration status, the PHA must notify the family of the results of the USCIS verification. The family will have 30 days from the date of the notification to request an appeal of the USCIS results. The request for appeal must be made by the family in writing directly to the USCIS. The family must provide the PHA with a copy of the written request for appeal and the proof of mailing.

##### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will notify the family in writing of the results of the USCIS secondary verification within 10 business days of receiving the results.

The family must provide Jacksonville Housing with a copy of the written request for appeal and proof of mailing within 10 business days of sending the request to the USCIS.

The family must forward to the designated USCIS office any additional documentation or written explanation in support of the appeal. This material must include a copy of the USCIS document verification request (used to process the secondary request) or such other form specified by the USCIS, and a letter indicating that the family is requesting an appeal of the USCIS immigration status verification results.

The USCIS will notify the family, with a copy to the PHA, of its decision. When the USCIS notifies the PHA of the decision, the PHA must notify the family of its right to request an informal hearing.

##### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will send a written notice to the family of its right to request an informal hearing within 10 business days of receiving notice of the USCIS decision regarding the family's immigration status.

#### **Informal Hearing Procedures for Applicants [24 CFR 5.514(f)]**

After notification of the USCIS decision on appeal, or in lieu of an appeal to the USCIS, the family may request that the PHA provide a hearing. The request for a hearing must be made either within 30 days of receipt of the PHA notice of denial or within 30 days of receipt of the USCIS appeal decision.

The informal hearing procedures for applicant families are described below.

### ***Informal Hearing Officer***

The PHA must provide an informal hearing before an impartial individual, other than a person who made or approved the decision under review, and other than a person who is a subordinate of the person who made or approved the decision. See Section 16-C for a listing of positions that serve as informal hearing officers.

### ***Evidence***

The family must be provided the opportunity to examine and copy at the family's expense, at a reasonable time in advance of the hearing, any documents in the possession of the PHA pertaining to the family's eligibility status, or in the possession of the USCIS (as permitted by USCIS requirements), including any records and regulations that may be relevant to the hearing.

#### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

The family will be allowed to copy any documents related to the hearing at a cost of \$.25 per page. The family must request the discovery of Jacksonville Housing documents no later than 12:00 p.m. on the business day prior to the hearing.

The family must be provided the opportunity to present evidence and arguments in support of eligible status. Evidence may be considered without regard to admissibility under the rules of evidence applicable to judicial proceedings.

The family must also be provided the opportunity to refute evidence relied upon by Jacksonville Housing and to confront and cross-examine all witnesses on whose testimony or information the PHA relies.

### ***Representation and Interpretive Services***

The family is entitled to be represented by an attorney or other designee, at the family's expense, and to have such person make statements on the family's behalf.

The family is entitled to request an interpreter. Upon request, the PHA will provide competent interpretation services, free of charge.

### ***Recording of the Hearing***

The family is entitled to have the hearing recorded by audiotape. The PHA may, but is not required to provide a transcript of the hearing.

#### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

Jacksonville Housing will not provide a transcript of an audiotaped hearing.

### ***Hearing Decision***

The PHA must provide the family with a written final decision, based solely on the facts presented at the hearing, within 14 calendar days of the date of the informal hearing. The decision must state the basis for the decision.

#### **Informal Hearing Procedures for Residents [24 CFR 5.514(f)]**

After notification of the USCIS decision on appeal, or in lieu of an appeal to the USCIS, the family may request that the PHA provide a hearing. The request for a hearing must be made either within 30 days of receipt of the PHA notice of termination or within 30 days of receipt of the USCIS appeal decision.

For the informal hearing procedures that apply to participant families whose assistance is being terminated based on immigration status, see Section 16. C.

#### **Retention of Documents [24 CFR 5.514(h)]**

The PHA must retain for a minimum of 5 years the following documents that may have been submitted to the PHA by the family, or provided to the PHA as part of the USCIS appeal or the PHA informal hearing process:

- The application for assistance
- The form completed by the family for income reexamination
- Photocopies of any original documents, including original USCIS documents
- The signed verification consent form
- The USCIS verification results
- The request for a USCIS appeal
- The final USCIS determination
- The request for an informal hearing
- The final informal hearing decision

### **F. OWNER OR FAMILY DEBTS TO THE PHA**

#### **OVERVIEW**

PHAs are required to include in the administrative plan, policies concerning repayment by a family of amounts owed to the PHA [24 CFR 982.54]. If the family breaches an agreement with the PHA to pay amounts owed to a PHA, or amounts paid to an owner by a PHA, the PHA, at its discretion, may offer a family the opportunity to enter an agreement to pay amounts owed to a PHA or amounts paid to an owner by a PHA. The PHA may prescribe the terms of the agreement [24 CFR 982.552(c)(1)(vii)]. This part describes the PHA's policies for the recovery of monies owed to the PHA by families or owners.

#### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

When an action or inaction of an owner or participant results in the overpayment of housing assistance, Jacksonville Housing holds the owner or participant liable to return any overpayments to Jacksonville Housing.



Jacksonville Housing will enter into repayment agreements in accordance with the policies in this section to recover overpayments.

## **REPAYMENT POLICY**

### **Owner Debts to the PHA**

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Any amount due to Jacksonville Housing by an owner must be repaid by the owner within thirty (30) days of Jacksonville Housing's determination of the debt.

If the owner fails to repay the debt within the required time frame and is entitled to future HAP payments, Jacksonville Housing will reduce the future HAP payments by the amount owed until the debt is paid in full.

If the owner is not entitled to future HAP payments Jacksonville Housing may, in its sole discretion, offer to enter into a repayment agreement on terms prescribed by Jacksonville Housing.

If the owner refuses to repay the debt, does not enter into a repayment agreement, or breaches a repayment agreement, Jacksonville Housing will ban the owner from future participation in the program and pursue other modes of collection.

When an owner refuses to repay monies owed to Jacksonville Housing, Jacksonville Housing will utilize other available collection alternatives including, but not limited to, the following:

- Collection agencies
- Small claims court
- Civil Lawsuit
- State income tax set-off program

### **Family Debts to the PHA**

Families are required to reimburse the PHA if they were charged less rent than required because the family either underreported or failed to report income. PHAs are required to determine retroactive rent amounts as far back as the PHA has documentation of family unreported income [Notice PIH 2018-18].

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Any amount owed to Jacksonville Housing by an HCV family must be repaid by the family. If the family is unable to repay the debt within 30 days, Jacksonville Housing will offer to enter into a repayment agreement in accordance with the policies below.

### **Refusal to Enter into an Agreement**

If the family refuses to repay the debt, does not enter into a repayment agreement, or breaches a repayment agreement, the PHA must terminate assistance [Notice PIH 2018-18].

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

When a family refuses to repay monies owed to Jacksonville Housing, in addition to termination of program assistance, Jacksonville Housing will utilize other available collection alternatives including, but not limited to, the following:

- Collection agencies
- Small claims court
- Civil lawsuit
- State income tax set-off program

### **Repayment Agreement [24 CFR 792.103]**

The term *repayment agreement* refers to a formal written document signed by a tenant or owner and provided to the PHA in which a tenant or owner acknowledges a debt in a specific amount and agrees to repay the amount due at specific time periods.

### **General Repayment Agreement Guidelines for Families**

#### ***Down Payment Requirement***

##### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Before executing a repayment agreement with a family, Jacksonville Housing will generally require a down payment of 10 percent of the total amount owed. If the family can provide evidence satisfactory to Jacksonville Housing that a down payment of 10 percent would impose an undue hardship, Jacksonville Housing may, in its sole discretion, require a lesser percentage or waive the requirement.

#### ***Payment Thresholds***

Notice PIH 2018-18 recommends that the total amount that a family must pay each month—the family’s monthly share of rent plus the monthly debt repayment amount—should not exceed 40 percent of the family’s monthly adjusted income. However, a family may already be paying 40 per cent or more of its monthly adjusted income in rent. Moreover, Notice PIH 2018-18 acknowledges that PHAs have the discretion to establish “thresholds and policies” for repayment agreements with families [24 CFR 982.552(c)(1)(vii)].

##### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing has established the following thresholds for repayment of debts:

- Amounts between \$3,000 and the federal or state threshold for criminal prosecution must be repaid within 36 months.
- Amounts between \$2,000 and \$2,999 must be repaid within 30 months.
- Amounts between \$1,000 and \$1,999 must be repaid within 24 months.
- Amounts under \$1,000 must be repaid within 12 months.

If a family can provide evidence satisfactory to Jacksonville Housing that the threshold applicable to the family’s debt would impose an undue hardship, Jacksonville Housing may, in its sole discretion, determine that a lower monthly payment amount is reasonable. In making its determination, Jacksonville Housing will consider all relevant information, including the following:

- The amount owed by the family to Jacksonville Housing
- The reason for the debt, including whether the debt was the result of family action/inaction or circumstances beyond the family’s control
- The family’s current and potential income and expenses
- The family’s current family share, as calculated under 24 CFR 982.515

- The family's history of meeting its financial responsibilities

### ***Execution of the Agreement***

All repayment agreements must be in writing, dated, and signed by both the family and the PHA [Notice PIH 2018-18].

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Any repayment agreement between Jacksonville Housing and a family must be signed and dated by Jacksonville Housing and by the head of household and spouse/cohead (if applicable).

### ***Due Dates***

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

All payments are due by the close of business on the due date listed on the contract.

### ***Late or Missed Payments***

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

If a payment is not received by the end of the business day on the date due, and prior approval for the missed payment has not been given by Jacksonville Housing, Jacksonville Housing will send the family a delinquency notice giving the family 10 business days to make the late payment. If the payment is not received by the due date of the delinquency notice, it will be considered a breach of the agreement and Jacksonville Housing will terminate assistance in accordance with the policies in Chapter 12.

If a family receives three delinquency notices for unexcused late payments in a 12-month period, the repayment agreement will be considered in default, and Jacksonville Housing will terminate assistance in accordance with the policies in Chapter 12.

### ***No Offer of Repayment Agreement***

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing generally will not enter into a repayment agreement with a family if there is already a repayment agreement in place with the family or if the amount owed by the family exceeds the federal or state threshold for criminal prosecution.

### ***Repayment Agreement Terms***

All repayment agreements must be in writing, dated, and signed by both the family and the PHA, including the total retroactive rent amount owed, any amount of lump sum payment made at the time of execution, if applicable, and the monthly repayment amount. Notice PIH 2018-18 requires certain provisions, at a minimum, be included in any repayment agreement involving amounts owed by a family because it underreported or failed to report income:

- A reference to the items in the family briefing packet that state the family's obligation to provide true and complete information at every reexamination and the grounds on which the PHA may terminate assistance because of a family's action or failure to act

- A statement clarifying that each month the family not only must pay to the PHA the monthly payment amount specified in the agreement but must also pay to the owner the family's monthly share of the rent to owner
- A statement that the terms of the repayment agreement may be renegotiated if the family's income decreases or increases
- A statement that late or missed payments constitute default of the repayment agreement and may result in termination of assistance

## **G. SECTION 8 MANAGEMENT ASSESSMENT PROGRAM (SEMAP)**

### **OVERVIEW**

The Section 8 Management Assessment Program (SEMAP) is a tool that allows HUD to measure PHA performance in key areas to ensure program integrity and accountability. SEMAP scores translate into a rating for each PHA as high-performing, standard, or troubled. Scores on individual SEMAP indicators, as well as overall SEMAP ratings, can affect the PHA in several ways.

- High-performing PHAs can be given a competitive advantage under notices of funding availability [24 CFR 985.103].
- PHAs with deficiencies on one or more indicators are required to correct the deficiencies and report to HUD [24 CFR 985.106].
- PHAs with an overall rating of "troubled" are subject to additional HUD oversight, including on-site reviews by HUD staff, a requirement to develop a corrective action plan, and monitoring to ensure the successful implementation of the corrective action plan. In addition, PHAs that are designated "troubled" may not use any part of the administrative fee reserve for other housing purposes [24 CFR 985.107].
- HUD may determine that a PHA's failure to correct identified SEMAP deficiencies or to prepare and implement a corrective action plan required by HUD constitutes a default under the ACC [24 CFR 985.109].

### **SEMAP CERTIFICATION [24 CFR 985.101]**

PHAs must submit the HUD-required SEMAP certification form within 60 calendar days after the end of its fiscal year. The certification must be approved by the PHA board resolution and signed by the PHA executive director. If the PHA is a unit of local government or a state, a resolution approving the certification is not required, and the certification must be executed by the Section 8 program director.

PHAs with less than 250 voucher units are only required to be assessed every other PHA fiscal year. HUD will assess such PHAs annually if the PHA elects to have its performance assessed on an annual basis; or is designated as "troubled" [24 CFR 985.105].

Failure of a PHA to submit its SEMAP certification within the required time frame will result in an overall performance rating of "troubled."

A PHA's SEMAP certification is subject to HUD verification by an on-site confirmatory review at any time.

Upon receipt of the PHA's SEMAP certification, HUD will rate the PHA's performance under each SEMAP indicator in accordance with program requirements.

### **HUD Verification Method**

Several of the SEMAP indicators are scored based on a review of a quality control sample selected for this purpose. The PHA or the Independent Auditor must select an unbiased sample that provides an adequate representation of the types of information to be assessed, in accordance with SEMAP requirements [24 CFR 985.2].

If the HUD verification method for the indicator relies on data in the Form-50058 module (formerly known as MTCS) in the PIH Information Center (PIC), and HUD determines that those data are insufficient to verify the PHA's certification on the indicator due to the PHA's failure to adequately report family data, HUD will assign a zero rating for the indicator [24 CFR 985.3].

### **SEMAP INDICATORS [24 CFR 985.3 and form HUD-52648]**

The table below lists each of the SEMAP indicators, contains a description of each indicator and explains the basis for points awarded under each indicator.

A PHA that expends less than \$300,000 in Federal awards and whose Section 8 programs are not audited by an independent auditor, is not be rated under SEMAP indicators 1-7.

<b>SEMAP Indicators</b>
<b>Indicator 1: Selection from the waiting list</b> <b>Maximum Score: 15</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• This indicator shows whether the PHA has written policies in its administrative plan for selecting applicants from the waiting list and whether the PHA follows these policies when selecting applicants from the waiting list.</li><li>• Points are based on the percentage of families that are selected from the waiting list in accordance with the PHA's written policies, according to the PHA's quality control samples.</li></ul>
<b>Indicator 2: Rent reasonableness</b> <b>Maximum Score: 20</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• This indicator shows whether the PHA has and implements a reasonable written method to determine and document for each unit leased that the rent to owner is reasonable based on current rents for comparable unassisted units at the required times.</li><li>• Points are based on the percent of units for which the PHA follows its written method to determine reasonable rent and has documented its determination that the rent to owner is reasonable, according to the PHA's quality control sample.</li></ul>
<b>Indicator 3: Determination of adjusted income</b> <b>Maximum Score: 20</b>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This indicator measures whether the PHA verifies and correctly determines adjusted income for each assisted family, and where applicable, uses the appropriate utility allowances for the unit leased in determining the gross rent.</li> <li>• Points are based on the percent of files that are calculated and verified correctly, according to the PHA's quality control sample.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Indicator 4: Utility allowance schedule</b>  <b>Maximum Score: 5</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This indicator shows whether the PHA maintains an up-to-date utility allowance schedule.</li> <li>• Points are based on whether the PHA has reviewed the utility allowance schedule and adjusted it when required, according to the PHA's certification.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Indicator 5: NSPIRE quality control inspections</b>  <b>Maximum Score: 5</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This indicator shows whether a PHA supervisor reinspects a sample of units under contract during the PHA fiscal year, which meets the minimum sample size requirements for quality control of NSPIRE inspections.</li> <li>• Points are based on whether the required quality control re-inspections were completed, according to the PHA's certification.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Indicator 6: NSPIRE enforcement</b>  <b>Maximum Score: 10</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This indicator shows whether, following each inspection of a unit under contract where the unit fails to meet NSPIRE standards, any cited life-threatening deficiencies are corrected within 24 hours from the inspection and all other deficiencies are corrected within no more than 30 calendar days from the inspection or any PHA-approved extension.</li> <li>• Points are based on whether the PHA corrects all deficiencies in accordance with required time frames, according to the PHA's certification.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Indicator 7: Expanding housing opportunities</b>  <b>Maximum Points: 5</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only applies to PHAs with jurisdiction in metropolitan FMR areas.</li> <li>• This indicator shows whether the PHA has adopted and implemented a written policy to encourage participation by owners of units located outside areas of poverty or minority concentration; informs voucher holders of the full range of areas where they may lease units both inside and outside the PHA's jurisdiction; and supplies a list of landlords or other parties who are willing to lease units or help families find units, including units outside areas of poverty or minority concentration.</li> <li>• Points are based on whether the PHA has adopted and implemented written policies in accordance with SEMAP requirements, according to the PHA's certification.</li> </ul>

**Indicator 8: FMR limit and payment standards****Maximum Points: 5 points**

- This indicator shows whether the PHA has adopted a payment standard schedule that establishes payment standard amounts by unit size for each FMR area in the PHA's jurisdiction, that are within the basic range of 90 to 110 percent of the published FMR.
- Points are based on whether the PHA has appropriately adopted a payment standard schedule(s), according to the PHA's certification.

**Indicator 9: Annual reexaminations****Maximum Points: 10**

- This indicator shows whether the PHA completes a reexamination for each participating family at least every 12 months.
- Points are based on the percent of reexaminations that are less than two months overdue, according to data from PIC.

**Indicator 10: Correct tenant rent calculations****Maximum Points: 5**

- This indicator shows whether the PHA correctly calculates the family's share of the rent to owner.
- Points are based on the percent of correct calculations of family share of the rent, according to data from PIC.

**Indicator 11: Pre-contract inspections****Maximum Points: 5**

- This indicator shows whether newly leased units pass NSPIRE inspection on or before the effective date of the assisted lease and HAP contract.
- Points are based on the percent of newly leased units that passed NSPIRE standards inspection on or before the effective date of the lease and HAP contract, according to data from PIC.

**Indicator 12: Annual inspections****Maximum Points: 10**

- This indicator shows whether the PHA inspects each unit under contract at least annually.
- Points are based on the percent of annual inspections of units under the contract is are more than 2 months overdue, according to data from PIC.

**Indicator 13: Lease-up****Maximum Points: 20 points**

- This indicator shows whether the PHA enters HAP contracts for at least 98 percent of the number of the PHA's baseline voucher units in the ACC for the calendar year ending on or before the PHA's fiscal year, or whether the PHA has expended at least 98 percent of

its allocated budget authority for the same calendar year. The PHA can receive 15 points if 95 to 97 percent of vouchers are leased or budget authority is utilized.

- Points are based on the utilization of vouchers and HAP expenditures as reported in the voucher management system (VMS) for the most recently completed calendar year.

**Indicator 14: Family self-sufficiency (FSS) enrollment and escrow account balances**  
**Maximum Points: 10**

- Only applies to PHAs with mandatory FSS programs.
- This indicator shows whether the PHA has enrolled families in the FSS program as required, and measures the percent of current FSS participants that have had increases in earned income which resulted in escrow account balances.
- Points are based on the percentage of mandatory FSS slots that are filled and the percentage of families with escrow account balances, according to data from PIC.

**Success Rate of Voucher Holders**  
**Maximum Points: 5**

- Only applies to PHAs that have received approval to establish success rate payment standard amounts, and isn't effective until the second full PHA fiscal year following the date of HUD approval of success rate payment standard amounts.
- This indicator shows whether voucher holders were successful in leasing units with voucher assistance.
- Points are based on the percentage of families that were issued vouchers, and that became participants in the voucher program.

**Deconcentration Bonus Indicator**  
**Maximum Points: 5**

- Submission of data for this indicator is mandatory for a PHA using one or more payment standard amount(s) that exceed(s) 100 percent of the published FMR set at the 50 percentile rent, starting with the second full PHA fiscal year following initial use of payment standard amounts based on the FMRs set at the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile.
- Additional points are available to PHAs that have jurisdiction in metropolitan FMR areas and that choose to submit the required data.
- Points are based on whether the data that is submitted meets the requirements for bonus points.

## **H. RECORD KEEPING**

### **OVERVIEW**

The PHA must maintain complete and accurate accounts and other records for the program in accordance with HUD requirements, in a manner that permits a speedy and effective audit. All



such records must be made available to HUD or the Comptroller General of the United States upon request.

In addition, the PHA must ensure that all applicant and participant files are maintained in a way that protects an individual's privacy rights.

### **RECORD RETENTION [24 CFR 982.158; 24 CFR 908.101]**

During the term of each assisted lease, and for at least three years thereafter, the PHA must keep:

- A copy of the executed lease;
- The HAP contract; and
- The application from the family.

In addition, the PHA must keep the following records for at least three years:

- Records that provide income, racial, ethnic, gender, and disability status data on program applicants and participants;
- An application from each ineligible family and notice that the applicant is not eligible;
- HUD-required reports;
- Unit inspection reports;
- Lead-based paint records as required by 24 CFR 35, Subpart B.
- Accounts and other records supporting PHA budget and financial statements for the program;
- Records to document the basis for PHA determination that rent to owner is a reasonable rent (initially and during the term of a HAP contract); and
- Other records specified by HUD.

The PHA must keep the last three years of the Form HUD-50058 and supporting documentation during the term of each assisted lease, and for a period of at least three years from the end of participation (EOP) date [24 CFR 908.101].

The PHA must maintain Enterprise Income Verification (EIV) system Income Reports in the tenant file for the duration of the tenancy but for a period not to exceed three years from the EOP date [Notice PIH 2018-18].

Notice PIH 2014-20 requires PHAs to keep records of all complaints, investigations, notices, and corrective actions related to violations of the Fair Housing Act or the equal access final rule.

The PHA must keep confidential records of all emergency transfers requested by victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking under the PHA's Emergency Transfer Plan, as well as the outcomes of such requests, and retain the records for a period of three years [24 CFR 5.2002(e)(12)].

If an informal hearing to establish a family's citizenship status is held, longer retention requirements apply for some types of documents. For specific requirements, see Section 16-D., Retention of Documents.

## **RECORDS MANAGEMENT**

PHAs must maintain applicant and participant files and information in accordance with the regulatory requirements described below.

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

All applicant and participant information will be kept in a secure location and access will be limited to authorized Jacksonville Housing staff.

Jacksonville Housing staff will not discuss personal family information unless there is a business reason to do so. Inappropriate discussion of family information or improper disclosure of family information by staff will result in disciplinary action.

### **Privacy Act Requirements [24 CFR 5.212 and Form-9886]**

The collection, maintenance, use, and dissemination of social security numbers (SSN), employer identification numbers (EIN), any information derived from these numbers, and income information of applicants and participants must be conducted, to the extent applicable, in compliance with the Privacy Act of 1974, and all other provisions of Federal, State, and local law.

Applicants and participants, including all adults in the household, are required to sign a consent form, HUD-9886, Authorization for Release of Information. This form incorporates the Federal Privacy Act Statement and describes how the information collected using the form may be used, and under what conditions HUD or the PHA may release the information collected.

### **Upfront Income Verification (UIV) Records**

PHAs that access UIV data through HUD's Enterprise Income Verification (EIV) system are required to adopt and follow specific security procedures to ensure that all EIV data is protected in accordance with federal laws, regardless of the media on which the data is recorded (e.g. electronic, paper). These requirements are contained in the HUD-issued document, *Enterprise Income Verification (EIV) System, and Security Procedures for Upfront Income Verification data*.

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will adopt and implement the security procedures required by HUD before utilizing HUD's EIV system.

### **Criminal Records**

The PHA may only disclose the criminal conviction records it receives from a law enforcement agency to its officers or employees or to authorized representatives who have a job-related need to have access to the information [24 CFR 5.903(e)].

The PHA must establish and implement a system of records management that ensures that any criminal record received by the PHA from a law enforcement agency is maintained confidentially, not misused or improperly disseminated, and destroyed, once the purpose for which the record was requested has been accomplished, including expiration of the period for filing a challenge to the PHA action without institution of a challenge or final disposition of any such litigation [24 CFR 5.903(g)].

The PHA must establish and implement a system of records management that ensures that any sex offender registration information received by the PHA from a State or local agency is maintained confidentially, not misused or improperly disseminated, and destroyed, once the purpose for which the record was requested has been accomplished, including expiration of the period for filing a challenge to the PHA action without institution of a challenge or final disposition of any such litigation. However, a record of the screening, including the type of screening and the date performed, must be retained [Notice PIH 2012-28]. This requirement does not apply to information that is public information or is obtained by a PHA other than under 24 CFR 5.905.

### **Medical/Disability Records**

PHAs are not permitted to inquire about the nature or extent of a person's disability. The PHA may not inquire about a person's diagnosis or details of treatment for a disability or medical condition. If the PHA receives a verification document that provides such information, the PHA should not place this information in the tenant file. The PHA should destroy the document.

### **Documentation of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, or Stalking**

For requirements and PHA policies related to management of documentation obtained from victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, see section 16.E.

## **I. REPORTING AND RECORD-KEEPING FOR CHILDREN WITH ELEVATED BLOOD LEAD LEVEL**

### **OVERVIEW**

The PHA has certain responsibilities relative to children with elevated blood lead levels who are receiving HCV assistance. Chapter 8 discusses the notification, verification, and hazard reduction requirements. This part deals with the reporting requirements and data collection and record-keeping responsibilities that the PHA is subject to.

### **REPORTING REQUIREMENT [24 CFR 35.1225(e); Notice PIH 2017-13]**

The owner must report the name and address of a child identified as having an elevated blood lead level to the public health department within five business days of being so notified by any other medical healthcare professional. The owner must also notify the HUD field office and the HUD Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes (OLHCHH) of the child's address within five business days. The PHA may collaborate with the owner on the notification process, such as by agreeing with the owner to provide the required notifications on the owner's behalf.

#### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

Upon notification by the owner, Jacksonville Housing will provide the public health department written notice of the name and address of any child identified as having an elevated blood lead level within five business days.

Upon notification by the owner, Jacksonville Housing will notify the HUD field office and the HUD Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes (OLHCHH) of the child's address within five business days.

## **DATA COLLECTION AND RECORD KEEPING [24 CFR 35.1225(f)]**

At least quarterly, the PHA must attempt to obtain from the public health department(s) with a similar area of jurisdiction, the names and/or addresses of children less than 6 years old with an elevated blood lead level.

If the PHA obtains names and addresses of elevated blood lead level children from the public health department(s), the PHA must match this information with the names and addresses of families receiving HCV assistance, unless the public health department performs such a procedure. If a match occurs, the PHA must carry out the notification, verification, and hazard reduction requirements discussed in Chapter 8, and the reporting requirement discussed above.

At least quarterly, the PHA must also report an updated list of the addresses of units receiving assistance under the HCV program to the same public health department(s), unless the public health department(s) states that it does not wish to receive such a report.

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

The public health department(s) have stated they do not wish to receive a quarterly report with an updated list of the addresses of units receiving assistance under the HCV program. Therefore, Jacksonville Housing is not providing such a report.

## **J. DETERMINATION OF INSUFFICIENT FUNDING**

### **OVERVIEW**

The HCV regulations allow PHAs to deny families permission to move and to terminate Housing Assistance Payments (HAP) contracts if funding under the consolidated ACC is insufficient to support continued assistance [24 CFR 982.354(e)(1) and 982.454]. If a PHA denies a family a portability move based on insufficient funding, the PHA is required to notify the local HUD office within 10 business days [24 CFR 982.354]. Insufficient funding may also impact the PHA's ability to issue vouchers to families on the waiting list. This part discusses the methodology the PHA will use to determine whether or not the PHA has sufficient funding to issue vouchers, approve moves, and to continue subsidizing all families currently under a HAP contract.

### **METHODOLOGY**

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will determine whether there is adequate funding to issue vouchers, approve moves to higher-cost units and areas, and continue subsidizing all current participants by comparing Jacksonville Housing's annual budget authority to the annual total HAP needs on a monthly basis. The total HAP needs for the calendar year will be projected by establishing the actual HAP costs year to date. To that figure, Jacksonville Housing will add anticipated HAP expenditures for the remainder of the calendar year. Projected HAP expenditures will be calculated by multiplying the projected number of units leased per remaining month by the most current month's average HAP. The projected number of units leased per month will take into account the average monthly turnover of participant families. If the total annual HAP needs to equal or exceed the

annual budget authority and funding reserves, or if Jacksonville Housing cannot support the cost of the proposed subsidy commitment (voucher issuance or move) based on the funding analysis, Jacksonville Housing will be considered to have insufficient funding.

## **K. VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT (VAWA): NOTIFICATION, DOCUMENTATION, CONFIDENTIALITY**

### **OVERVIEW**

The Violence Against Women Act of 2013 (VAWA) provides special protections for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking who are applying for or receiving assistance under the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program. If your state or local laws provide greater protection for such victims, those laws apply in conjunction with VAWA.

- Although the VAWA 2022 statute does not specifically include human trafficking in the list of victims protected under VAWA, in 2022 HUD began including human trafficking as part of the list of victims protected under VAWA (as seen in Notices PIH 2022-06, PIH 2022-22, and PIH 2022-24). In the absence of a final rule implementing VAWA 2022 and to mirror HUD's recent usage, this policy includes human trafficking in addition to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking anywhere such a list appears.

In addition to definitions of key terms used in VAWA, this part contains general VAWA requirements and PHA policies in three areas: notification, documentation, and confidentiality. Specific VAWA requirements and PHA policies are located primarily in the following sections: 3, "Family Breakup and Remaining Member of Tenant Family"; Chapter 3, "Prohibition against Denial of Assistance to Victims of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking"; Chapter 10, "Allowable Moves"; Chapter 10, "Restrictions on Moves"; Chapter 12, "Terminations Related to Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, or Stalking"; and Chapter 12, "Termination Notice."

### **DEFINITIONS [24 CFR 5.2003, 42 USC 13925]**

As used in VAWA:

- The term *affiliated individual* means, with respect to a person:
  - A spouse, parent, brother or sister, or child of that individual, or an individual to whom that individual stands in the position or place of a parent; or
  - Any other individual, tenant, or lawful occupant living in the household of the victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.
- The term *bifurcate* means, with respect to a public housing or Section 8 lease, to divide a lease as a matter of law such that certain tenants can be evicted or removed while the remaining family members' lease and occupancy rights are allowed to remain intact.
- The term *dating violence* means violence committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim, and where the existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on a consideration of the following factors:
  - The length of the relationship

- The type of relationship
  - The frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship
- The term *domestic violence* includes felony or misdemeanor crimes committed by a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim under the family or domestic violence laws of the jurisdiction receiving grant funding, and in the case of victim services, includes the use or attempted use of physical abuse or sexual abuse, or a pattern of any other coercive behavior committed, enabled, or solicited to gain or maintain power and control over a victim, including verbal, psychological, economic, or technological abuse that may or may not constitute criminal behavior, by a person who is:
  - The current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim, or person similarly situated to a spouse or intimate partner of the victim
  - A person who is cohabitating or has cohabitated with the victim as a spouse or intimate partner
  - A person with whom the victim shares a child in common
  - A person who commits acts against a youth or adult victim who is protected from those acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction
- The term *economic abuse* means behavior that is coercive, deceptive, or unreasonably controls or restrains a person's ability to acquire, use, or maintain economic resources to which they are entitled, including using coercion, fraud, and manipulation to:
  - Restrict a person's access to money, assets, credit, or financial information
  - Unfairly use a person's personal economic resources, including money, assets, and credit, for one's own advantage
  - Exert undue influence over a person's financial and economic behavior or decisions, including forcing default on joint or other financial obligations, exploiting powers of attorney, guardianship, or conservatorship, or to whom one has a fiduciary duty
- The term *sexual assault* means:
  - Any nonconsensual sexual act proscribed by federal, tribal, or state law, including when the victim lacks the capacity to consent
- The term *stalking* means:
  - To engage in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to fear for their safety or the safety of others, or suffer substantial emotional distress.
- The term *technological abuse* means an act or pattern of behavior that occurs within domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking and is intended to harm, threaten, intimidate, control, stalk, harass, impersonate, exploit, extort, or monitor another person, except as otherwise permitted by law, that occurs using any form of technology, including but not limited to:
  - Internet-enabled devices

- Online spaces and platforms
- Computers
- Mobile devices
- Cameras and imaging programs
- Apps
- Location tracking devices
- Communication technologies
- Any other emergency technologies

## **NOTIFICATION [24 CFR 5.2005(a)]**

### **Notification to Public**

The PHA adopts the following policy to help ensure that all actual and potential beneficiaries of its HCV program are aware of their rights under VAWA.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will post the following information regarding VAWA in its offices and on its website. It will also make the information readily available to anyone who requests it.

A copy of the notice of occupancy rights under VAWA to housing choice voucher program applicants and participants who are or have been victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking (Form HUD-5380, see Exhibit 16-1)

A copy of form HUD-5382, Certification of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, or Stalking and Alternate Documentation (see Exhibit 16-2)

A copy of the PHA's emergency transfer plan (Exhibit 16-3)

A copy of HUD's Emergency Transfer Request for Certain Victims of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, or Stalking, Form HUD-5383 (Exhibit 16-4)

The National Domestic Violence Hot Line: 1-800-799-SAFE (7233) or 1-800-787-3224 (TTY) (included in Exhibits 16-1 and 16-2)

Contact information for local victim advocacy groups or service providers

### **Notification to Program Applicants and Participants [24 CFR 5.2005(a)(1)]**

PHAs are required to inform program applicants and participants of their rights under VAWA, including their right to confidentiality and the limits thereof, when they are denied assistance, when they are admitted to the program, and when they are notified of an eviction or termination of housing benefits.

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will provide all applicants with information about VAWA at the time they request an application for housing assistance, as part of the written briefing packet, and at the time the family is admitted to the program. Jacksonville Housing will also include information about VAWA in all notices of denial of assistance (see Chapter 3).

Jacksonville Housing will provide all participants with information about VAWA at the time of admission (see Chapter 5) and at the annual reexamination. Jacksonville Housing will also include information about VAWA in notices of termination of assistance, as provided in Chapter 12F.

The VAWA information provided to applicants and participants will consist of the notices in Exhibits 16-1 and 16-2.

The PHA is not limited to providing VAWA information at the times specified in the above policy. If the PHA decides to provide VAWA information to a participant following an incident of domestic violence, Notice PIH 2017-08 cautions against sending the information by mail, since the abuser may be monitoring the mail. The notice recommends that in such cases the PHA make alternative delivery arrangements that will not put the victim at risk.

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Whenever Jacksonville Housing has reason to suspect that providing information about VAWA to a participant might place a victim of domestic violence at risk, it will attempt to deliver the information by hand directly to the victim or by having the victim come to an office or other space that may be safer for the individual, making reasonable accommodations as necessary. For example, Jacksonville Housing may decide not to send mail regarding VAWA protections to the victim's unit if Jacksonville Housing believes the perpetrator may have access to the victim's mail unless requested by the victim.

When discussing VAWA with the victim, Jacksonville Housing will take reasonable precautions to ensure that no one can overhear the conversation, such as having conversations in a private room.

The victim may, but is not required to, designate an attorney, advocate, or other secure contact for communications regarding VAWA protections.

### **Notification to Owners and Managers**

While PHAs are no longer required by regulation to notify owners and managers participating in the HCV program of their rights and obligations under VAWA, the PHA may still choose to inform them.

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will provide owners and managers with information about their rights and obligations under VAWA when they begin their participation in the program and at least annually thereafter.



The VAWA information provided to owners will consist of the notice in Exhibit 16-5 and a copy of form HUD-5382, Certification of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking and Alternate Documentation.

## **DOCUMENTATION [24 CFR 5.2007]**

A PHA presented with a claim for initial or continued assistance based on status as a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or criminal activity related to any of these forms of abuse may—but is not required to—request that the individual making the claim document the abuse. Any request for documentation must be in writing, and the individual must be allowed at least 14 business days after receipt of the request to submit the documentation. The PHA may extend this time period at its discretion. [24 CFR 5.2007(a)]

The individual may satisfy the PHA’s request by providing any one of the following three forms of documentation [24 CFR 5.2007(b)]:

- (1) A completed and signed HUD-approved certification form (HUD-5382, Certification of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, or Stalking), which must include the name of the perpetrator only if the name of the perpetrator is safe to provide and is known to the victim. The form may be filled out and submitted on behalf of the victim.
- (2) A federal, state, tribal, territorial, or local police report or court record, or an administrative record
- (3) Documentation signed by a person who has assisted the victim in addressing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking, or the effects of such abuse. This person may be an employee, agent, or volunteer of a victim service provider, an attorney, a mental health professional, or a medical professional. The person signing the document must attest under penalty of perjury to the person’s belief that the incidents in question are bona fide incidents of abuse. The victim must also sign the documentation.

The PHA may not require third-party documentation (forms 2 and 3) in addition to certification (form 1), except as specified below under “Conflicting Documentation,” nor may it require certification in addition to third-party documentation[FR Notice 11/16/16].

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Any request for documentation of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking will be in writing, will specify a deadline of 14 business days following receipt of the request, will describe the three forms of acceptable documentation, will provide explicit instructions on where and to whom the documentation must be submitted, and will state the consequences for failure to submit the documentation or request an extension in writing by the deadline.

Jacksonville Housing may, in its discretion, extend the deadline for 10 business days. In determining whether to extend the deadline, Jacksonville Housing will consider factors that may contribute to the victim’s inability to provide documentation in a timely manner, including cognitive limitations, disabilities, limited English proficiency, absence from the unit, administrative delays, the danger of further violence, and the victim’s need to address health or safety issues. Any extension granted by Jacksonville Housing will be in writing.

Once the victim provides documentation, Jacksonville Housing will acknowledge receipt of the documentation within 10 business days.

### **Conflicting Documentation [24 CFR 5.2007(e)]**

In cases where the PHA receives conflicting certification documents from two or more members of a household, each claiming to be a victim and naming one or more of the other petitioning household members as the perpetrator, the PHA may determine which is the true victim by requiring each to provide acceptable third-party documentation, as described above (forms 2 and 3). The PHA may also request third-party documentation when submitted documentation contains information that conflicts with existing information already available to the PHA. Individuals have 30 calendar days to return third-party verification to the PHA. If the PHA does not receive third-party documentation, and the PHA will deny or terminate assistance as a result, the PHA must hold separate hearings for the tenants [Notice PIH 2017-08].

The PHA must honor any court orders issued to protect the victim or to address the distribution of property.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

If presented with conflicting certification documents from members of the same household, Jacksonville Housing will attempt to determine which is the true victim by requiring each of them to provide third-party documentation in accordance with 24 CFR 5.2007(e) and by following any HUD guidance on how such determinations should be made.

When requesting third-party documents, Jacksonville Housing will provide contact information for local domestic violence and legal aid offices. In such cases, applicants or tenants will be given 30 calendar days from the date of the request to provide such documentation.

If Jacksonville Housing does not receive third-party documentation within the required timeframe (and any extensions) Jacksonville Housing will deny VAWA protections and will notify the applicant or tenant in writing of the denial. If, as a result, the applicant or tenant is denied or terminated from the program, Jacksonville Housing will hold separate hearings for the applicants or tenants.

### **Discretion to Require No Formal Documentation [24 CFR 5.2007(d)]**

The PHA has the discretion to provide benefits to an individual based solely on the individual's statement or other corroborating evidence—i.e., without requiring formal documentation of abuse in accordance with 24 CFR 5.2007(b). HUD recommends documentation in a confidential manner when a verbal statement or other evidence is accepted.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

If Jacksonville Housing accepts an individual's statement or other corroborating evidence (as determined by the victim) of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking, Jacksonville Housing will document acceptance of the statement or evidence in the individual's file.

**Failure to Provide Documentation [24 CFR 5.2007(c)]**

In order to deny relief for protection under VAWA, a PHA must provide the individual requesting relief with a written request for documentation of abuse. If the individual fails to provide the documentation within 14 business days from the date of receipt, or such longer time as the PHA may allow, the PHA may deny relief for protection under VAWA.

**CONFIDENTIALITY [24 CFR 5.2007(b)(4)]**

All information provided to the PHA regarding domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking, including the fact that an individual is a victim of such violence or stalking, must be retained in confidence. This means that the PHA (1) may not enter the information into any shared database, (2) may not allow employees or others to access the information unless they are explicitly authorized to do so and have a need to know the information for purposes of their work, and (3) may not provide the information to any other entity or individual, except to the extent that the disclosure is (a) requested or consented to by the individual in writing, (b) required for use in an eviction proceeding, or (c) otherwise required by applicable law.

**Jacksonville Housing Policy**

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

<b>EXHIBIT 16-1: SAMPLE NOTICE OF OCCUPANCY RIGHTS UNDER THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT, FORM HUD-5380</b>
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**Jacksonville Housing**

**Notice of Occupancy Rights under the Violence Against Women Act<sup>1</sup>**

**To all Tenants and Applicants**

The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) provides protections for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. VAWA protections are not only available to women but are available equally to all individuals regardless of sex, gender identity, or sexual orientation.<sup>2</sup> The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is the federal agency that oversees that the housing choice voucher program is in compliance with VAWA. This notice explains your rights under VAWA. A HUD-approved certification form is attached to this notice. You can fill out this form to show that you are or have been a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking and that you wish to use your rights under VAWA.”

**Protections for Applicants**

If you otherwise qualify for assistance under the housing choice voucher program, you cannot be denied admission or denied assistance because you are or have been a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

**Protections for Tenants**

If you are receiving assistance under the housing choice voucher program, you may not be denied assistance, terminated from participation, or be evicted from your rental housing because you are or have been a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

Also, if you or an affiliated individual of yours is or has been the victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking by a member of your household or any guest, you may not be denied rental assistance or occupancy rights under the housing choice voucher program solely on the basis of criminal activity directly relating to that domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

Affiliated individual means your spouse, parent, brother, sister, or child, or a person to whom you stand in the place of a parent or guardian (for example, the affiliated individual is in your care, custody, or control); or any individual, tenant, or lawful occupant living in your household.

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<sup>1</sup> Despite the name of this law, VAWA protection is available regardless of sex, gender identity, or sexual orientation.

<sup>2</sup> Housing providers cannot discriminate on the basis of any protected characteristic, including race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status, disability, or age. HUD-assisted and HUD-insured housing must be made available to all otherwise eligible individuals regardless of actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status.

## **Removing the Abuser or Perpetrator from the Household**

The PHA may divide (bifurcate) your lease in order to evict the individual or terminate the assistance of the individual who has engaged in criminal activity (the abuser or perpetrator) directly relating to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

If the PHA chooses to remove the abuser or perpetrator, the PHA may not take away the rights of eligible tenants to the unit or otherwise punish the remaining tenants. If the evicted abuser or perpetrator was the sole tenant to have established eligibility for assistance under the program, the PHA must allow the tenant who is or has been a victim and other household members to remain in the unit for a period of time, in order to establish eligibility under the program or under another HUD housing program covered by VAWA, or, find alternative housing.

In removing the abuser or perpetrator from the household, the PHA must follow federal, state, and local eviction procedures. In order to divide a lease, the PHA may, but is not required to, ask you for documentation or certification of the incidences of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

## **Moving to Another Unit**

Upon your request, the PHA may permit you to move to another unit, subject to the availability of other units, and still keep your assistance. In order to approve a request, the PHA may ask you to provide documentation that you are requesting to move because of an incidence of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. If the request is a request for an emergency transfer, the housing provider may ask you to submit a written request or fill out a form where you certify that you meet the criteria for an emergency transfer under VAWA. The criteria are:

- 1. You are a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.**

If your housing provider does not already have documentation that you are a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, your housing provider may ask you for such documentation, as described in the documentation section below.

- 2. You expressly request the emergency transfer.** Your housing provider may choose to require that you submit a form, or may accept another written or oral request.

- 3. You reasonably believe you are threatened with imminent harm from further violence if you remain in your current unit.** This means you have a reason to fear that if you do not receive a transfer, you will suffer violence in the very near future.

**OR**

**You are a victim of sexual assault, and the assault occurred on the premises during the 90-calendar-day period before you request a transfer.** If you are a victim of sexual assault, then in addition to qualifying for an emergency transfer because you reasonably believe you are threatened with imminent harm from further violence if you remain in your unit, you may qualify for an emergency transfer if the sexual assault occurred on the premises of the property from which you are seeking your transfer, and that assault happened within the 90-calendar-day period before you expressly request the transfer.

The PHA will keep confidential requests for emergency transfers by victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, and the location of any move by such victims and their families.

The PHA's emergency transfer plan provides further information on emergency transfers, and the PHA must make a copy of its emergency transfer plan available to you if you ask to see it.

### **Documenting You Are or Have Been a Victim of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault or Stalking**

The PHA can, but is not required to, ask you to provide documentation to "certify" that you are or have been a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. Such request from the PHA must be in writing, and the PHA must give you at least 14 business days (Saturdays, Sundays, and federal holidays do not count) from the day you receive the request to provide the documentation. The PHA may, but does not have to, extend the deadline for the submission of documentation upon your request.

You can provide one of the following to the PHA as documentation. It is your choice which of the following to submit if the PHA asks you to provide documentation that you are or have been a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

- A complete HUD-approved certification form given to you by the PHA with this notice, that documents an incident of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. The form will ask for your name, the date, time, and location of the incident of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, and a description of the incident. The certification form provides for including the name of the abuser or perpetrator if the name of the abuser or perpetrator is known and is safe to provide.
- A record of a Federal, State, tribal, territorial, or local law enforcement agency, court, or administrative agency that documents the incident of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. Examples of such records include police reports, protective orders, and restraining orders, among others.
- A statement, which you must sign, along with the signature of an employee, agent, or volunteer of a victim service provider, an attorney, a medical professional, or a mental health professional (collectively, "professional") from whom you sought assistance in addressing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, or the effects of abuse, and with the professional selected by you attesting under penalty of perjury that they believe that the incident or incidents of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking are grounds for protection.
- Any other statement or evidence that the PHA has agreed to accept.

If you fail or refuse to provide one of these documents within 14 business days, the PHA does not have to provide you with the protections contained in this notice.

If the PHA receives conflicting evidence that an incident of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking has been committed (such as certification forms from two or more members of a household, each claiming to be a victim and naming one or more of the other petitioning household members as the abuser or perpetrator), the PHA has the right to request that you provide third-party documentation within thirty 30 calendar days in order to resolve the conflict. If you fail or refuse to provide third-party documentation where there is conflicting evidence, the PHA does not have to provide you with the protections contained in this notice.

## **Confidentiality**

The PHA must keep confidential any information you provide related to the exercise of your rights under VAWA, including the fact that you are exercising your rights under VAWA.

The PHA must not allow any individual administering assistance or other services on behalf of the PHA (for example, employees and contractors) to have access to confidential information unless for reasons that specifically call for these individuals to have access to this information under applicable Federal, State, or local law.

The PHA must not enter your information into any shared database or disclose your information to any other entity or individual. The PHA, however, may disclose the information provided if:

- You give written permission to the PHA to release the information on a time limited basis.
- The PHA needs to use the information in an eviction or termination proceeding, such as to evict your abuser or perpetrator or terminate your abuser or perpetrator from assistance under this program.
- A law requires the PHA or your landlord to release the information.

VAWA does not limit the PHA's duty to honor court orders about access to or control of property. This includes orders issued to protect a victim and orders dividing property among household members in cases of family breakup.

## **Reasons a Tenant Eligible for Occupancy Rights under VAWA May Be Evicted or Assistance May Be Terminated**

You can be evicted, and your assistance can be terminated for serious or repeated lease violations that are not related to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking committed against you. However, the PHA cannot hold tenants who have been victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking to a more demanding set of rules than it applies to tenants who have not been victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

The protections described in this notice might not apply, and you could be evicted and your assistance terminated, if the PHA can demonstrate that not evicting you or terminating your assistance would present a real physical danger that:

1. Would occur within an immediate time frame, and
2. Could result in death or serious bodily harm to other tenants or those who work on the property.

If the PHA can demonstrate the above, it should only terminate your assistance or evict you if no other actions can be taken to reduce or eliminate the threat.

## **Other Laws**

VAWA does not replace any federal, state, or local law that provides greater protection for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. You may be entitled to additional housing protections for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking under other Federal laws, as well as under State and local laws.

### **Non-Compliance with The Requirements of This Notice**

You may report a covered housing provider's violations of these rights and seek additional assistance, if needed, by contacting or filing a complaint with **[insert contact information for any intermediary, if applicable]** or **[insert HUD field office]**.

### **For Additional Information**

You may view a copy of HUD's final VAWA rule at: <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-11-16/pdf/2016-25888.pdf>.

Additionally, the PHA must make a copy of HUD's VAWA regulations available to you if you ask to see them.

For questions regarding VAWA, please contact **[insert name of program or rental assistance contact information able to answer questions on VAWA]**.

For help regarding an abusive relationship, you may call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-7233 or, for persons with hearing impairments, 1-800-787-3224 (TTY). You may also contact **[Insert contact information for relevant local organizations]**.

For tenants who are or have been victims of stalking seeking help may visit the National Center for Victims of Crime's Stalking Resource Center at <https://www.victimsofcrime.org/our-programs/stalking-resource-center>.

For help regarding sexual assault, you may contact **[Insert contact information for relevant organizations]**

Victims of stalking seeking help may contact **[Insert contact information for relevant organizations]**.

**Attachment:** Certification form HUD-5382 **[form approved for this program to be included]**



<b>EXHIBIT 16-2: CERTIFICATION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, DATING VIOLENCE, SEXUAL ASSAULT, OR STALKING AND ALTERNATE DOCUMENTATION, FORM HUD-5382</b>
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**CERTIFICATION OF  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE,  
DATING VIOLENCE,  
SEXUAL ASSAULT, OR STALKING,  
AND ALTERNATE DOCUMENTATION**

**U.S. Department of Housing  
and Urban Development**

OMB Approval No. 2577-0286  
Exp. 06/30/2017

**Purpose of Form:** The Violence Against Women Act (“VAWA”) protects applicants, tenants, and program participants in certain HUD programs from being evicted, denied housing assistance, or terminated from housing assistance based on acts of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking against them. Despite the name of this law, VAWA protection is available to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, regardless of sex, gender identity, or sexual orientation.

**Use of This Optional Form:** If you are seeking VAWA protections from your housing provider, your housing provider may give you a written request that asks you to submit documentation about the incident or incidents of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

In response to this request, you or someone on your behalf may complete this optional form and submit it to your housing provider, or you may submit one of the following types of third-party documentation:

- (1) A document signed by you and an employee, agent, or volunteer of a victim service provider, an attorney, or medical professional, or a mental health professional (collectively, “professional”) from whom you have sought assistance relating to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, or the effects of abuse. The document must specify, under penalty of perjury, that the professional believes the incident or incidents of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking occurred and meet the definition of “domestic violence,” “dating violence,” “sexual assault,” or “stalking” in HUD’s regulations at 24 CFR 5.2003.
- (2) A record of a Federal, State, tribal, territorial or local law enforcement agency, court, or administrative agency; or
- (3) At the discretion of the housing provider, a statement or other evidence provided by the applicant or tenant.

**Submission of Documentation:** The time period to submit documentation is 14 business days from the date that you receive a written request from your housing provider asking that you provide documentation of the occurrence of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. Your housing provider may, but is not required to, extend the time period to submit the documentation, if you request an extension of the time period. If the requested information is not received within 14 business days of when you received the request for the documentation, or any extension of the date provided by your housing provider, your housing provider does not need to grant you any of the VAWA protections. Distribution or issuance of this form does not serve as a written request for certification.

**Confidentiality:** All information provided to your housing provider concerning the incident(s) of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking shall be kept confidential and such details shall not be entered into any shared database. Employees of your housing provider are not to have access to these details unless to grant or deny VAWA protections to you, and such employees may not disclose this information to any other entity or individual, except to the extent that disclosure is: (i) consented to by you in writing in a time-limited release; (ii) required for use in an eviction proceeding or hearing regarding termination of assistance; or (iii) otherwise required by applicable law.

**TO BE COMPLETED BY OR ON BEHALF OF THE VICTIM OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE,  
DATING VIOLENCE, SEXUAL ASSAULT, OR STALKING**

1. Date the written request is received by victim: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Name of victim: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Your name (if different from victim's): \_\_\_\_\_

4. Name(s) of other family member(s) listed on the lease: \_\_\_\_\_

5. Residence of victim: \_\_\_\_\_

6. Name of the accused perpetrator (if known and can be safely disclosed): \_\_\_\_\_

7. Relationship of the accused perpetrator to the victim: \_\_\_\_\_

8. Date(s) and times(s) of incident(s) (if known): \_\_\_\_\_

10. Location of incident(s): \_\_\_\_\_

In your own words, briefly describe the incident(s):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

This is to certify that the information provided on this form is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and recollection, and that the individual named above in Item 2 is or has been a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. I acknowledge that submission of false information could jeopardize program eligibility and could be the basis for denial of admission, termination of assistance, or eviction.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Signed on (Date) \_\_\_\_\_

**Public Reporting Burden:** The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response. This includes the time for collecting, reviewing, and reporting the data. The information provided is to be used by the housing provider to request certification that the applicant or tenant is a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. The information is subject to the confidentiality requirements of VAWA. This agency may not collect this information, and you are not required to complete this form, unless it displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget control number.

<b>EXHIBIT 16-3: EMERGENCY TRANSFER PLAN FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, DATING VIOLENCE, SEXUAL ASSAULT, OR STALKING (HCV VERSION)</b>
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Attachment: Certification form HUD-5382

**Jacksonville Housing**

**Emergency Transfer Plan for Victims of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, or Stalking  
Housing Choice Voucher Program**

**Emergency Transfers**

The PHA is concerned about the safety of its tenants, and such concern extends to tenants who are victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. In accordance with the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA),<sup>3</sup> the PHA allows tenants who are victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking to request an emergency transfer from the tenant's current unit to another unit. The ability to request a transfer is available regardless of sex, gender identity, or sexual orientation.<sup>4</sup> The ability of the PHA to honor such request for tenants currently receiving assistance, however, may depend upon a preliminary determination that the tenant is or has been a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, and on whether the PHA has another dwelling unit that is available and is safe to offer the tenant for temporary or more permanent occupancy.

This plan identifies tenants who are eligible for an emergency transfer, the documentation needed to request an emergency transfer, confidentiality protections, how an emergency transfer may occur, and guidance to tenants on safety and security. This plan is based on a model emergency transfer plan published by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the federal agency that oversees that the **public housing and housing choice voucher (HCV) programs** are in compliance with VAWA.

**Eligibility for Emergency Transfers**

A tenant who is a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, as provided in HUD's regulations at 24 CFR part 5, subpart L, is eligible for an emergency transfer if the tenant reasonably believes that there is a threat of imminent harm from further violence if the tenant remains within the same unit. If the tenant is a victim of sexual assault, the tenant may also be eligible to transfer if the sexual assault occurred on the premises within the 90-calendar-day period preceding a request for an emergency transfer.

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<sup>3</sup>Despite the name of this law, VAWA protection is available to all victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, regardless of sex, gender identity, or sexual orientation.

<sup>4</sup>Housing providers cannot discriminate on the basis of any protected characteristic, including race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status, disability, or age. HUD-assisted and HUD-insured housing must be made available to all otherwise eligible individuals regardless of actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status.

A tenant requesting an emergency transfer must expressly request the transfer in accordance with the procedures described in this plan.

Tenants who are not in good standing may still request an emergency transfer if they meet the eligibility requirements in this section.

### **Emergency Transfer Request Documentation**

To request an emergency transfer, the tenant shall notify the PHA's management office and submit a written request for a transfer to **any PHA office**. The PHA will provide reasonable accommodations to this policy for individuals with disabilities. The tenant's written request for an emergency transfer should include either:

1. A statement expressing that the tenant reasonably believes that there is a threat of imminent harm from further violence if the tenant were to remain in the same dwelling unit assisted under the PHA's program; OR
2. A statement that the tenant was a sexual assault victim and that the sexual assault occurred on the premises during the 90-calendar-day period preceding the tenant's request for an emergency transfer.

### **Confidentiality**

The PHA will keep confidential any information that the tenant submits in requesting an emergency transfer, and information about the emergency transfer, unless the tenant gives the PHA written permission to release the information on a time-limited basis, or disclosure of the information is required by law or required for use in an eviction proceeding or hearing regarding termination of assistance from the covered program. This includes keeping confidential the new location of the dwelling unit of the tenant, if one is provided, from the person or persons that committed an act of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking against the tenant. See the Notice of Occupancy Rights under the Violence against Women Act for All Tenants for more information about the PHA's responsibility to maintain the confidentiality of information related to incidents of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

### **Emergency Transfer Timing and Availability**

The PHA cannot guarantee that a transfer request will be approved or how long it will take to process a transfer request. The PHA will, however, act as quickly as possible to move a tenant who is a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking to another unit, subject to availability and safety of a unit. If a tenant reasonably believes a proposed transfer would not be safe, the tenant may request a transfer to a different unit. If a unit is available, the transferred tenant must agree to abide by the terms and conditions that govern occupancy in the unit to which the tenant has been transferred. The PHA may be unable to transfer a tenant to a particular unit if the tenant has not or cannot establish eligibility for that unit.

If the PHA has no safe and available units for which a tenant who needs an emergency transfer is eligible, the PHA will assist the tenant in identifying other housing providers who may have safe and available units to which the tenant could move. At the tenant's request, the PHA will also assist tenants in contacting the local organizations offering assistance to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking that are attached to this plan.

## **Emergency Transfers: Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Program**

Tenant-based assistance: If you are a participant in the tenant-based HCV program and request an emergency transfer as described in this plan, the PHA will assist you to move to a safe unit quickly using your existing voucher assistance. The PHA will make exceptions to program regulations restricting moves as required.

At your request, the PHA will refer you to organizations that may be able to further assist you.

Project-based assistance: If you are assisted under the project-based voucher (PBV) program, you may request an emergency transfer under the following programs for which you are not required to apply:

- Tenant-based voucher, if available
- Project-based assistance in the same project (if a vacant unit is available and you determine that the vacant unit is safe)
- Project-based assistance in another development owned by the PHA

Emergency transfers under VAWA will take priority over waiting list admissions for these types of assistance.

You may also request an emergency transfer under the following programs for which you are required to apply:

- Public housing program
- PBV assistance in another development not owned by the PHA
- **[Insert other programs the PHA provides, such as LIHTC or HOME]**

Emergency transfers will not take priority over waiting list admissions for these programs. At your request, the PHA will refer you to organizations that may be able to further assist you.

## **Safety and Security of Tenants**

Pending processing of the transfer and the actual transfer, if it is approved and occurs, the tenant is urged to take all reasonable precautions to be safe.

Tenants who are or have been victims of domestic violence are encouraged to contact the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-7233, or a local domestic violence shelter, for assistance in creating a safety plan. For persons with hearing impairments, that hotline can be accessed by calling 1-800-787-3224 (TTY).

Tenants who have been victims of sexual assault may call the Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network's National Sexual Assault Hotline at 1-800-656-HOPE, or visit the online hotline at: <https://ohl.rainn.org/online/>.

Tenants who are or have been victims of stalking seeking help may visit the National Center for Victims of Crime's Stalking Resource Center at: <https://www.victimsofcrime.org/our-programs/stalking-resource-center>.

**Attachment:** Local organizations offering assistance to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

<b>EXHIBIT 16-4: EMERGENCY TRANSFER REQUEST FOR CERTAIN VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, DATING VIOLENCE, SEXUAL ASSAULT, OR STALKING, FORM HUD-5383</b>
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**EMERGENCY TRANSFER  
REQUEST FOR CERTAIN  
VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC  
VIOLENCE, DATING VIOLENCE,  
SEXUAL ASSAULT, OR STALKING**

**U.S. Department of Housing  
and Urban Development**

OMB Approval No. 2577-0286  
Exp. 06/30/2017

**Purpose of Form:** If you are a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, and you are seeking an emergency transfer, you may use this form to request an emergency transfer and certify that you meet the requirements of eligibility for an emergency transfer under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). Although the statutory name references women, VAWA rights and protections apply to all victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking. Using this form does not necessarily mean that you will receive an emergency transfer. See your housing provider's emergency transfer plan for more information about the availability of emergency transfers.

**The requirements you must meet are:**

**(1) You are a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.**

If your housing provider does not already have documentation that you are a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, your housing provider may ask you for such documentation. In response, you may submit Form HUD-5382, or any one of the other types of documentation listed on that Form.

**(2) You expressly request the emergency transfer.** Submission of this form confirms that you have expressly requested a transfer. Your housing provider may choose to require that you submit this form, or may accept another written or oral request. Please see your housing provider's emergency transfer plan for more details.

**(3) You reasonably believe you are threatened with imminent harm from further violence if you remain in your current unit.** This means you have a reason to fear that if you do not receive a transfer you would suffer violence in the very near future.

**OR**

**You are a victim of sexual assault and the assault occurred on the premises during the 90-calendar-day period before you request a transfer.** If you are a victim of sexual assault, then in addition to qualifying for an emergency transfer because you reasonably believe you are threatened with imminent harm from further violence if you remain in your unit, you may qualify for an emergency transfer if the sexual assault occurred on the premises of the property from which you are seeking your transfer, and that assault happened within the 90-calendar-day period before you submit this form or otherwise expressly request the transfer.

**Submission of Documentation:** If you have third-party documentation that demonstrates why you are eligible for an emergency transfer, you should submit that documentation to your housing provider if it is safe for you to do so. Examples of third party documentation include, but are not limited to: a letter or other documentation from a victim service provider, social worker, legal assistance provider, pastoral counselor, mental health provider, or other professional from whom you have sought assistance; a current restraining order; a recent court order or other court records; a law enforcement report or records; communication records from the perpetrator of the violence or family members or friends of the perpetrator of the violence, including emails, voicemails, text messages, and social media posts.

**Confidentiality:** All information provided to your housing provider concerning the incident(s) of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, and concerning your request for an emergency transfer shall be kept confidential. Such details shall not be entered into any shared database. Employees of your housing provider are not to have access to these details unless to grant or deny VAWA protections or an emergency transfer to you. Such employees may not disclose this information to any other entity or individual, except to the extent that disclosure is: (i) consented to by you in writing in a time-limited release; (ii) required for use in an eviction proceeding or hearing regarding termination of assistance; or (iii) otherwise required by applicable law.

**TO BE COMPLETED BY OR ON BEHALF OF THE PERSON REQUESTING A TRANSFER**

1. Name of victim requesting an emergency transfer: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Your name (if different from victim's) \_\_\_\_\_

3. Name(s) of other family member(s) listed on the lease: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Name(s) of other family member(s) who would transfer with the victim: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Address of location from which the victim seeks to transfer: \_\_\_\_\_

6. Address or phone number for contacting the victim: \_\_\_\_\_

7. Name of the accused perpetrator (if known and can be safely disclosed): \_\_\_\_\_

8. Relationship of the accused perpetrator to the victim: \_\_\_\_\_

9. Date(s), Time(s) and location(s) of incident(s): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

10. Is the person requesting the transfer a victim of a sexual assault that occurred in the past 90 days on the premises of the property from which the victim is seeking a transfer? If yes, skip question 11. If no, fill out question 11. \_\_\_\_\_

11. Describe why the victim believes they are threatened with imminent harm from further violence if they remain in their current unit.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

12. If voluntarily provided, list any third-party documentation you are providing along with this notice: \_\_\_\_\_

This is to certify that the information provided on this form is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, and that the individual named above in Item 1 meets the requirement laid out on this form for an emergency transfer. I acknowledge that submission of false information could jeopardize program eligibility and could be the basis for denial of admission, termination of assistance, or eviction.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Signed on (Date) \_\_\_\_\_



<b>MODEL OWNER NOTIFICATION OF RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS</b>
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**[Insert Name of Housing Provider]**

**NOTIFICATION OF YOUR RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS**

**UNDER THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT (VAWA)**

VAWA provides protections for Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) and PBV applicants, tenants, and participants from being denied assistance on the basis or as a direct result of being a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking.

**Purpose**

Many of VAWA's protections to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking involve action by the public housing agency (PHA), but some situations involve action by owners of assisted housing. The purpose of this notice (herein called "Notice") is to explain your rights and obligations under VAWA, as an owner of housing assisted through **[insert name of housing provider]** HCV program. Each component of this Notice also provides citations to HUD's applicable regulations.

**Denial of Tenancy**

*Protections for applicants:* Owners cannot deny tenancy based on the applicant having been or currently being a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. However, the applicant must be otherwise eligible for tenancy. (See 24 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 982.452(b)(1).)

**Eviction**

*Protections for HCV participants:* Incidents or threats of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking will not be considered a serious or repeated lease violation by the victim, or good cause to terminate the tenancy of the victim (24 CFR 5.2005(c)). Protection also applies to criminal activity related directly to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, conducted by a member of a tenant's household or any guest or other person under the tenant's control, if the tenant or an affiliated individual of the tenant is the victim or threatened victim of such domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking (24 CFR 5.2005(b)(2)).

*Limitations of VAWA protections:*

a. Nothing in the VAWA Final Rule limits the authority of an owner, when notified of a court order, to comply with a court order with respect to (24 CFR 5.2005(d)(1)):

- 1) The rights of access or control of property, including civil protection orders issued to protect a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking; or
- 2) The distribution or possession of property among members of a household in a case.

b. Nothing in the VAWA Final Rule limits an owner from evicting a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking for a lease violation that is not premised on an act of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, as long as the owner does not subject the victim to more demanding standards than other tenants when deciding whether to evict. (See 24 CFR 5.2005(d)(2).)

c. Nothing in the VAWA Final Rule limits an owner from evicting a tenant (including the victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking) if the owner can demonstrate an actual and imminent threat to other tenants or those employed at or providing services to the HCV property would be present if the tenant or lawful occupant is not evicted. (See 24 CFR 5.2005(d)(3).)

- i. In this context, words, gestures, actions, or other indicators will be considered an “actual and imminent threat” if they meet the following standards: An actual and imminent threat consists of a physical danger that is real, would occur within an immediate time frame, and could result in death or serious bodily harm. In determining whether an individual would pose an actual and imminent threat, the factors to be considered include: the duration of the risk, the nature and severity of the potential harm, the likelihood that the potential harm will occur, and the length of time before the potential harm would occur. (See 24 CFR 5.2003.)
- ii. Any eviction due to “actual and imminent threat” should be utilized by an owner only when there are no other actions that could be taken to reduce or eliminate the threat, including, but not limited to, transferring the victim to a different unit, barring the perpetrator from the property, contacting law enforcement to increase police presence or develop other plans to keep the property safe, or seeking other legal remedies to prevent the perpetrator from acting on a threat. Restrictions predicated on public safety cannot be based on stereotypes, but must be tailored to particularized concerns about individual residents. (See 24 CFR 5.2005(d)(4).)

### **Documentation of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, or Stalking**

If an applicant or tenant requests VAWA protection based on status as a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, the owner has the option to request that the victim document or provide written evidence to demonstrate that the violence occurred. However, nothing in HUD’s regulation requires a covered housing provider to request this documentation. (See 24 CFR 5.2007(b)(3).)

If the owner chooses to request this documentation, the owner must make such request in writing. The individual may satisfy this request by providing any one document type listed under 24 CFR 5.2007(b)(1):

- a. Form HUD-55383 (Self-Certification Form); or
- b. A document: 1) Signed by an employee, agent, or volunteer of a victim service provider, an attorney, or medical professional or a mental health professional (collectively, “professional”) from whom the victim has sought assistance relating to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, or the effects of abuse:  
2) Signed by the applicant or tenant; and  
3) That specifies, under penalty of perjury, that the professional believes in the occurrence of the incident of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking that is the ground for protection and remedies under 24 CFR part 5, subpart L, and that the incident meets the applicable definition of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking under 24 CFR 5.2003; or
- c. A record of a Federal, State, tribal, territorial or local law enforcement agency, court, or administrative agency; or
- d. At the discretion of a covered housing provider, a statement or other evidence provided by the applicant or tenant.

The owner must accept any of the above items (a – c). The owner has discretion to accept a statement or other evidence (d).

The owner is prohibited from requiring third-party documentation of the domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, unless the submitted documentation contains conflicting information.

If the owner makes a written request for documentation, the owner may require submission of that documentation within 14 business days after the date that the individual received the written request for documentation. (24 CFR 5.2007(a)(2)). The owner may extend this time period at its discretion. During the 14 business day period and any granted extensions of that time, no adverse actions, such as evictions or terminations, can be taken against the individual requesting VAWA protection.

Once a victim provides documentation of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, the owner is encouraged to acknowledge receipt of the documentation in a timely manner.

If the applicant or tenant fails to provide documentation that meets the criteria in 24 CFR 5.2007 within 14 business days after receiving the written request for that documentation or within the designated extension period, nothing in VAWA Final Rule may be construed to limit the authority of the covered housing provider to:

- a. Deny admission by the applicant or tenant to the housing or program;
- b. Deny assistance under the covered housing program to the applicant or tenant;
- c. Terminate the participation of the tenant in the covered housing program; or
- d. Evict the tenant, or a lawful occupant that commits a violation of a lease.

An individual's failure to timely provide documentation of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking does not result in a waiver of the individual's right to challenge the denial of assistance or termination, nor does it preclude the individual's ability to raise an incident of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking at eviction or termination proceedings.

### **Moves**

A victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking may move in violation of their lease if the move is required to protect their safety. If a move results in the termination of the Housing Assistance Payment Contract, the lease is automatically terminated.

### **Lease Bifurcation**

Owners may choose to bifurcate a lease, or remove a household member from a lease in order to evict, remove, terminate occupancy rights, or terminate assistance to such member who engages in criminal activity directly relating to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking against an affiliated individual or other individual. (See 24 CFR 5.2009(a).) If an owner chooses to bifurcate the lease, the owner must comply with the reasonable time to establish eligibility under the covered housing program or find alternative housing following lease bifurcation provision in 24 CFR 5.2009(b). VAWA protections, including bifurcation, do not apply to guests or unreported members of a household or anyone else residing in a household who is not a tenant.

Eviction, removal, termination of occupancy rights, or termination of assistance must be effected in accordance with the procedures prescribed by federal, state, or local law for termination of leases.

To avoid unnecessary delay in the bifurcation process, HUD recommends that owners seek court-ordered eviction of the perpetrator pursuant to applicable laws. This process results in the underlying lease becoming null and void once the owner regains possession of the unit. The owner would then execute a new lease with the victim.

## **Evictions Due to “Actual and Imminent Threat” or Violations Not Premised on Abuse**

The VAWA Final Rule generally prohibits eviction on the basis or as a direct result of the fact that the applicant or tenant is or has been a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, if the applicant or tenant otherwise qualifies for assistance, participation or occupancy. (See 24 CFR 5.2005.)

However, the VAWA Final Rule does not prohibit an owner from evicting a tenant for any violation not premised on an act of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking that is in question against the tenant or an affiliated individual of the tenant. Nor does the VAWA Final Rule prohibit an owner from evicting a tenant if the owner can demonstrate an actual and imminent threat to other tenants or those employed at or providing services to property of the owner would be present if that tenant or lawful occupant is not evicted or terminated from assistance. (See 5.2005(d)(2) and (3).)

In order to demonstrate an actual and imminent threat to other tenants or employees at the property, the covered housing provider must have objective evidence of words, gestures, actions, or other indicators that meet the standards in the following definition:

Actual and imminent threat refers to a physical danger that is real, would occur within an immediate time frame, and could result in death or serious bodily harm. In determining whether an individual would pose an actual and imminent threat, the factors to be considered include:

- The duration of the risk;
- The nature and severity of the potential harm;
- The likelihood that the potential harm will occur; and
- The length of time before the potential harm would occur.

(See 24 CFR 5.2003 and 5.2005(d)(2).)

## **Confidentiality**

Any information submitted to a covered housing provider under 24 CFR 5.2007, including the fact that an individual is a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, must be maintained in strict confidence by the covered housing provider. (See 24 CFR 5.2007(c).)

Employees of the owner (or those within their employ, e.g., contractors) must not have access to the information unless explicitly authorized by the owner for reasons that specifically call for these individuals to have access to this information under applicable Federal, State, or local law (e.g., the information is needed by an employee to provide the VAWA protections to the victim).

The owner must not enter this information into any shared database, or disclose this information to any other entity or individual, except to the extent that disclosure is:

- a. Requested or consented to in writing by the individual (victim) in a time-limited release;
- b. Required for use in an eviction proceeding or hearing regarding termination of assistance from the covered program; or
- c. Otherwise required by applicable law.

When communicating with the victim, owners must take precautions to ensure compliance with these confidentiality requirements.

## Service Providers

[insert name of housing provider] has extensive relationships with local service providers. [insert name of housing provider] staff are available to provide referrals to shelters, counselors, and advocates. These resources are also provided in [insert name of housing provider] Annual and 5-Year Plan, Administrative Plan, VAWA Notice of Occupancy Rights, and Emergency Transfer Plan. A list of local service providers is attached to this Notice.

## Definitions

**Actual and imminent threat** refers to a physical danger that is real, would occur within an immediate time frame, and could result in death or serious bodily harm. In determining whether an individual would pose an actual and imminent threat, the factors to be considered include: the duration of the risk, the nature and severity of the potential harm, the likelihood that the potential harm will occur, and the length of time before the potential harm would occur.

**Affiliated individual**, with respect to an individual, means:

- (1) A spouse, parent, brother, sister, or child of that individual, or a person to whom that individual stands in the place of a parent or guardian (for example, the affiliated individual is a person in the care, custody, or control of that individual); or
- (2) Any individual, tenant, or lawful occupant living in the household of that individual.

**Bifurcate** means to divide a lease as a matter of law, subject to the permissibility of such process under the requirements of the applicable HUD-covered program and State or local law, such that certain tenants or lawful occupants can be evicted or removed and the remaining tenants or lawful occupants can continue to reside in the unit under the same lease requirements or as may be revised depending upon the eligibility for continued occupancy of the remaining tenants and lawful occupants.

**Dating violence** means violence committed by a person:

- (1) Who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim; and
- (2) Where the existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on a consideration of the following factors:
  - (i) The length of the relationship;
  - (ii) The type of relationship; and
  - (iii) The frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.

**Domestic violence** includes felony or misdemeanor crimes of violence committed by a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim, by a person with whom the victim shares a child in common, by a person who is cohabitating with or has cohabitated with the victim as a spouse or intimate partner, by a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction receiving grant monies, or by any other person against an adult or youth victim who is protected from that person's acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction. The term "spouse or intimate partner of the victim" includes a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim, as determined by the length of the relationship, the type of the relationship, and the frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.

**Sexual assault** means any nonconsensual sexual act proscribed by Federal, tribal, or State law, including when the victim lacks capacity to consent.

**Stalking** means engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to:

- (1) Fear for the person's individual safety or the safety of others; or
- (2) Suffer substantial emotional distress.

**VAWA** means the Violence Against Women Act of 1994, as amended (42 U.S.C. 13925 and 42 U.S.C. 14043e et seq.).

**Attached:**

Legal services and the domestic violence resources for the Metro area

Form HUD-5382 Certification of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, or Stalking

[insert name of housing provider] VAWA Notice of Occupancy Rights

## **CHAPTER 17 PROJECT-BASED VOUCHERS**

### **INTRODUCTION**

This chapter describes HUD regulations and PHA policies related to the project-based voucher (PBV) program in nine parts:

General Requirements. This section describes the general provisions of the PBV program, including maximum budget authority requirements, relocation requirements, and equal opportunity requirements.

PBV Owner Proposals. This part includes policies related to the submission and selection of owner proposals for PBV assistance. It describes the factors the PHA will consider when selecting proposals, the type of housing that is eligible to receive PBV assistance, the cap on assistance at projects receiving PBV assistance, subsidy layering requirements, site selection standards, and environmental review requirements.

Dwelling Units. This part describes requirements related to NSPIRE, the type and frequency of inspections, and housing accessibility for persons with disabilities.

Rehabilitated and Newly Constructed Units. This part describes requirements and policies related to the development and completion of rehabilitated and newly constructed housing units that will be receiving PBV assistance.

Housing Assistance Payments Contract. This part discusses HAP contract requirements and policies, including the execution, term, and termination of the HAP contract. It also describes how the HAP contract may be amended and identifies provisions that may be added to it at the PHA's discretion.

Selection of PBV Program Participants. This part describes the requirements and policies governing how the PHA and the owner will select a family to receive PBV assistance.

Occupancy. This part discusses occupancy requirements related to the lease and describes under what conditions families are allowed or required to move. In addition, exceptions to the occupancy cap (which limits PBV assistance to 25 percent of the units in any project) are also discussed.

Determining Rent to Owner. This part describes how the initial rent to the owner is determined and how the rent will be redetermined throughout the life of the HAP contract. Rent reasonableness requirements are also discussed.

Payments to Owner. This part describes the types of payments owners may receive under this program.

### **A. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS**

#### **OVERVIEW [24 CFR 983.5; FR Notice 1/18/17; Notice PIH 2017-21]**

The project-based voucher (PBV) program allows PHAs that already administer a tenant-based voucher program under an annual contributions contract (ACC) with HUD to take up to 20 percent of its authorized units and attach the funding to specific units rather than using it for tenant-based assistance [24 CFR 983.6]. PHAs may only operate a PBV program if doing so is

consistent with the PHA's Annual Plan, and the goal of deconcentrating poverty and expanding housing and economic opportunities [42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)(13)].

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will operate a project-based voucher program using up to 20 percent of its authorized units for project-based assistance.

See Exhibit 17-1 for information on projects to which Jacksonville Housing has attached PBV assistance.

PBV assistance may be attached to existing housing or newly constructed or rehabilitated housing [24 CFR 983.52]. If PBV units are already selected for project-based assistance either under an agreement to enter into HAP Contract (Agreement) or a HAP contract, Jacksonville Housing is not required to reduce the number of these units if the number of authorized units is subsequently reduced. However, Jacksonville Housing is responsible for determining the amount of budget authority that is available for project-based vouchers and ensuring that the amount of assistance that is attached to units is within the amounts available under the ACC, regardless of whether Jacksonville Housing has vouchers available for project-basing [FR Notice 1/18/17].

#### **Additional Project-Based Units [FR Notice 1/18/17; Notice PIH 2017-21; FR Notice 1/24/22]**

Jacksonville Housing may project-base an additional 10 percent of its units above the 20 percent program limit. The units may be distributed among one, all, or a combination of the categories as long as the total number of units does not exceed the 10 percent cap.

For units under a HAP contract that was first executed on or after April 18, 2017, units qualify under this exception if the units:

- Are specifically made available to house individuals and families that meet the definition of homeless under section 103 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11302) and contained in the Continuum of Care Interim Rule at 24 CFR 578.3.
- Are specifically made available to house families that are comprised of or include a veteran.
  - *Veteran* means an individual who has served in the United States Armed Forces.
- Provide supportive housing to persons with disabilities or elderly persons as defined in 24 CFR 5.403.
- Are located in a census tract with a poverty rate of 20 percent or less, as determined in the most recent American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates.

PBV units that house eligible youth receiving FUPY/FYI assistance are also covered by this 10 percent exception authority if the units are under a HAP contract that became effective after December 27, 2020, and if the unit is occupied by an eligible youth receiving FUPY/FYI assistance. FYI TPVs that were awarded under Notice PIH 2019-20 are not part of this exception since PHAs are prohibited from project-basing FYI TPVs. Units added after December 27, 2020, through an amendment of a HAP contract that became effective after December 27, 2020, are eligible for this 10 percent exception authority. In contrast, units added after December 27, 2020, through an amendment of a HAP contract that became effective on or prior to December 27, 2020, are not eligible for this 10 percent exception authority [FR Notice 1/24/22]. See Chapter 19 for policies specific to project-basing FUPY vouchers.



#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing may project-base up to an additional 10 percent of its authorized units, up to 30 percent, in accordance with HUD regulations and requirements.

#### **Units Not Subject to the PBV Program Limitation [FR Notice 1/18/17]**

PBV units under the RAD program and HUD-VASH PBV set-aside vouchers do not count toward the 20 percent limitation when PBV assistance is attached to them.

In addition, units that were previously subject to certain federal rent restrictions or were receiving another type of long-term housing subsidy provided by HUD are not subject to the cap. The unit must be covered under a PBV HAP contract that first became effective on or after April 18, 2017.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing may project-based units not subject to the 20 percent cap in accordance with HUD regulations and requirements.

#### **B. TENANT-BASED VS. PROJECT-BASED VOUCHER ASSISTANCE** **[24 CFR 983.2]**

Many of the regulations governing the tenant-based voucher program also apply to the PBV program, and, consequently, many of the PHA policies related to tenant-based assistance also apply to PBV assistance. The provisions of the tenant-based voucher regulations that do not apply to the PBV program are listed at 24 CFR 983.2.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Except as otherwise noted in this chapter, or unless specifically prohibited by PBV program regulations, Jacksonville Housing policies for the tenant-based voucher program contained in this administrative plan also apply to the PBV program and its participants.

#### **RELOCATION REQUIREMENTS [24 CFR 983.7]**

Any persons displaced as a result of the implementation of the PBV program must be provided relocation assistance in accordance with the requirements of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (URA)[42 U.S.C. 4201-4655] and implementing regulations at 49 CFR part 24.

The cost of required relocation assistance may be paid with funds provided by the owner, local public funds, or funds available from other sources. PHAs may not use voucher program funds to cover relocation costs, except that PHAs may use their administrative fee reserve to pay for relocation expenses after all other program administrative expenses are satisfied, and provided that payment of the relocation benefits is consistent with state and local law. Use of the administrative fee for these purposes must also be consistent with other legal and regulatory requirements, including the requirement in 24 CFR 982.155 and other official HUD issuances.

The acquisition of real property for a PBV project is subject to the URA and 49 CFR part 24, subpart B. It is the responsibility of the PHA to ensure the owner complies with these requirements.

## **EQUAL OPPORTUNITY REQUIREMENTS [24 CFR 983.8]**

The PHA must comply with all equal opportunity requirements under federal law and regulations in its implementation of the PBV program. This includes the requirements and authorities cited at 24 CFR 5.105(a). In addition, the PHA must comply with the PHA Plan certification on civil rights and affirmatively furthering fair housing, submitted in accordance with 24 CFR 903.7(o).

## **C. PBV OWNER PROPOSALS**

### **OVERVIEW**

With certain exceptions, the PHA must describe the procedures for owner submission of PBV proposals and for PHA selection of PBV proposals [24 CFR 983.51]. Before selecting a PBV proposal, the PHA must determine that the PBV proposal complies with HUD program regulations and requirements, including a determination that the property is eligible housing [24 CFR 983.53 and 983.54], complies with the cap on the number of PBV units per project [24 CFR 983.56], and meets the site selection standards [24 CFR 983.57]. The PHA may not commit PBVs until or unless it has followed the proposal selection requirements defined in 24 CFR 983.51 [Notice PIH 2011-54].

### **OWNER PROPOSAL SELECTION PROCEDURES [24 CFR 983.51(b)]**

The PHA must select PBV proposals in accordance with the selection procedures in the PHA administrative plan. The PHA must select PBV proposals by either of the following two methods.

- PHA request for PBV Proposals. The PHA may solicit proposals by using a request for proposals to select proposals on a competitive basis in response to the PHA request. The PHA may not limit proposals to a single site or impose restrictions that explicitly or practically preclude owner submission of proposals for PBV housing on different sites.
- The PHA may select proposals that were previously selected based on a competition. This may include the selection of a proposal for housing assisted under a federal, state, or local government housing assistance program that was subject to a competition in accordance with the requirements of the applicable program, community development program, or supportive services program that requires competitive selection of proposals (e.g., HOME, and units for which competitively awarded LIHTCs have been provided), where the proposal has been selected in accordance with such program's competitive selection requirements within three years of the PBV proposal selection date, and the earlier competitive selection proposal did not involve any consideration that the project would receive PBV assistance. The PHA need not conduct another competition.

### **Units Selected Non-Competitively [FR Notice 1/18/17; Notice PIH 2017-21; 24 CFR 983.51(b)]**

For certain public housing projects where the PHA has an ownership interest or control, the PHA may attach PBV assistance non-competitively without following one of the two processes above.

This exception applies when the PHA is engaged in an initiative to improve, develop, or replace a public housing property or site. The public housing units may either currently be in the public housing inventory or may have been removed from the public housing inventory within five years of the date on which the PHA entered into the AHAP or HAP.

If the PHA is planning rehabilitation or new construction on the project, a minimum threshold of \$25,000 per unit in hard costs must be expended.

If the PHA plans to replace public housing by attaching PBV assistance to existing housing in which the PHA has an ownership interest or control, then the \$25,000 per unit minimum threshold does not apply as long as the existing housing substantially complies with NSPIRE.

The PHA must include in the administrative plan what work it plans to do on the property or site and how many PBV units will be added to the site.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing reserves the right to attach PBVs to projects owned by the PHA as described above.

### **Solicitation and Selection of PBV Proposals [24 CFR 983.51(c)]**

PHA procedures for selecting PBV proposals must be designed and actually operated to provide broad public notice of the opportunity to offer PBV proposals for consideration by the PHA. The public notice procedures may include publication of the public notice in a local newspaper of general circulation and other means designed and actually operated to provide broad public notice. The public notice of the PHA request for PBV proposals must specify the submission deadline. Detailed application and selection information must be provided at the request of interested parties.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

#### PHA Request for Proposals for Rehabilitated and Newly Constructed Units

Jacksonville Housing will advertise its request for proposals (RFP) for rehabilitated and newly constructed housing in the following newspapers and trade journals.

The advertisement will state the number of vouchers available to be project-based, the type of units that will be considered, the submission deadline, and will note how to obtain the full RFP with information on the application and selection process. Advertisements will also contain a statement that participation in the PBV program requires compliance with Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity (FHEO) requirements.

In addition, Jacksonville Housing will post the RFP and proposal submission and rating and ranking procedures on its website.

Jacksonville Housing will publish its advertisement in the newspapers and trade journals mentioned above for at least one day per week for three consecutive weeks. The advertisement will specify the number of units Jacksonville Housing estimates that it will be able to assist under the funding Jacksonville Housing is making available. Proposals will be due in Jacksonville Housing office by close of business 30 calendar days from the date of the last publication.

In order for the proposal to be considered, the owner must submit the proposal to Jacksonville Housing by the published deadline date, and the proposal must respond to all requirements as outlined in the RFP. Incomplete proposals will not be reviewed.

Jacksonville Housing will rate and rank proposals for rehabilitated and newly constructed housing using the following criteria:

- Owner experience and capability to build or rehabilitate housing as identified in the RFP;

- The extent to which the project furthers Jacksonville Housing's goal of deconcentrating poverty and expanding housing and economic opportunities;

- If applicable, the extent to which services for special populations are provided on-site or in the immediate area for occupants of the property; and

- In order to promote partially assisted projects, projects where less than 25 percent of the units will be assisted will be rated higher than projects where 25 percent or more of the units will be assisted. In the case of projects for occupancy by the elderly, persons with disabilities, or families needing other services, the PHA will rate partially assisted projects on the percentage of units assisted. Projects with the lowest percentage of assisted units will receive the highest score.

#### PHA Requests for Proposals for Existing Housing Units

Jacksonville Housing will advertise its request for proposals (RFP) for existing housing in the following newspapers and trade journals.

The advertisement will state the number of vouchers available to be project-based, the type of units that will be considered, and the submission deadline, and will note how to obtain the full RFP with information on the application and selection process.

Advertisements will also contain a statement that participation in the PBV program requires compliance with Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity (FHEO) requirements.

In addition, Jacksonville Housing will post the notice inviting such proposal submissions and the rating and ranking procedures on its website.

Jacksonville Housing will periodically publish its advertisement in the newspapers and trade journals mentioned above for at least one day per week for three consecutive weeks. The advertisement will specify the number of units Jacksonville Housing estimates that it will be able to assist under the funding Jacksonville Housing is making available. Owner proposals will be accepted on a first-come first-served basis and will be evaluated using the following criteria:

- Experience as an owner in the tenant-based voucher program and owner compliance with the owner's obligations under the tenant-based program;

- Extent to which the project furthers Jacksonville Housing goal of deconcentrating poverty and expanding housing and economic opportunities;

- If applicable, extent to which services for special populations are provided on site or in the immediate area for occupants of the property; and

Extent to which units are occupied by families that are eligible to participate in the PBV program.

**PHA Selection of Proposals Subject to a Previous Competition under a Federal, State, or Local Housing Assistance Program**

Jacksonville Housing will accept proposals for PBV assistance from owners that were competitively selected under another federal, state or local housing assistance program, including projects that were competitively awarded Low-Income Housing Tax Credits on an ongoing basis.

Jacksonville Housing may periodically advertise that it is accepting proposals, in the following newspapers and trade journals:

The advertisement will state the number of vouchers available to be project-based, the type of units that will be considered, the submission deadline, and will note how to obtain the full RFP with information on the application and selection process. Advertisements will also contain a statement that participation in the PBV program requires compliance with Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity (FHEO) requirements.

In addition to, or in place of advertising, Jacksonville Housing may also directly contact specific owners that have already been selected for Federal, state, or local housing assistance based on a previously held competition, to inform them of available PBV assistance.

Proposals will be reviewed on a first-come first-served basis. Jacksonville Housing will evaluate each proposal on its merits using the following factors:

Extent to which the project furthers Jacksonville Housing goal of deconcentrating poverty and expanding housing and economic opportunities; and

Extent to which the proposal complements other local activities such as the redevelopment of a public housing site under the HOPE VI program, the HOME program, CDBG activities, other development activities in a HUD-designated Enterprise Zone, Economic Community, Choice Neighborhood, or Renewal Community.

**PHA-Owned Units [24 CFR 983.51(e), 983.59, FR Notice 1/18/17, and Notice PIH 2017-21]**

A PHA-owned unit may be assisted under the PBV program only if the HUD field office or HUD-approved independent entity reviews the selection process and determines that the PHA-owned units were appropriately selected based on the selection procedures specified in the PHA administrative plan. This also applies to noncompetitive selections. If the PHA selects a proposal for housing that is owned or controlled by the PHA, the PHA must identify the entity that will review the PHA proposal selection process and perform specific functions with respect to rent determinations, the term of the HAP contract, and inspections.

In the case of PHA-owned units, the term of the HAP contract and any HAP contract renewal must be agreed upon by the PHA and a HUD-approved independent entity. In addition, an independent entity must determine the initial rent to owner, the redetermined rent to owner, and reasonable rent. NSPIRE inspections must also be conducted by an independent entity.

The independent entity that performs these program services may be the unit of general local government for the PHA jurisdiction (unless the PHA is itself the unit of general local government or an agency of such government) or another HUD-approved public or private independent entity.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing may submit a proposal for project-based housing that is owned or controlled by Jacksonville Housing. If the proposal for PHA-owned housing is selected, Jacksonville Housing will use another entity to review the selection process. Jacksonville Housing will obtain the entity's HUD approval prior to selecting the proposal for PHA-owned housing.

The PHA may only compensate the independent entity from the PHA's ongoing administrative fee income (including amounts credited to the administrative fee reserve). The PHA may not use other program receipts to compensate the independent entity for its services. The PHA and the independent entity may not charge the family any fee for the appraisal or the services provided by the independent entity.

#### **PHA Notice of Owner Selection [24 CFR 983.51(d)]**

The PHA must promptly write to the party that submitted a selected proposal and promptly publicize the selection. Public notice procedures may include publishing the notice in a local newspaper of general circulation and other means designed and actually operated to provide broad public notice.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Within 10 business days of Jacksonville Housing making the selection, Jacksonville Housing will notify the selected owner in writing of the owner's selection for the PBV program. Jacksonville Housing will also notify in writing all owners who submitted proposals that were not selected and advise such owners of the selected owner's name.

In addition, Jacksonville Housing will publish its notice for selecting PBV proposals for two consecutive days in the same newspapers and trade journals it used to solicit the proposals. The announcement will include the name of the owner who was selected for the PBV program. Jacksonville Housing will also post the notice of owner selection on its electronic website.

Jacksonville Housing will make its rating and ranking sheets and documents that identify its basis for selecting the proposal available to any interested party. These documents will be available for review by the public and other interested parties for one month after the notice of owner selection is published. Jacksonville Housing will not make available sensitive owner information that is privileged, such as financial statements and similar information about the owner.

Jacksonville Housing will make these documents available for review at Jacksonville Housing during normal business hours. The cost for reproduction of allowable documents will be \$.25 per page.

#### **D. HOUSING TYPE [24 CFR 983.52]**

The PHA may attach PBV assistance for units in existing housing or for newly constructed or rehabilitated housing developed under and in accordance with an agreement to enter into a housing assistance payments contract that was executed prior to the start of construction. A housing unit is considered an existing unit for purposes of the PBV program, if, at the time of notice of PHA selection, the units substantially comply with NSPIRE. Units for which new construction or rehabilitation began after the owner's proposal submission but prior to the execution of the HAP do not subsequently qualify as existing housing. Units that were newly constructed or rehabilitated in violation of program requirements also do not qualify as existing housing.

The PHA must decide what housing type, new construction, rehabilitation, or existing housing, will be used to develop project-based housing. The PHA's choice of housing type must be reflected in its solicitation for proposals.

#### **PROHIBITION OF ASSISTANCE FOR CERTAIN UNITS**

##### **Ineligible Housing Types [24 CFR 983.53]**

The PHA may not attach or pay PBV assistance to shared housing units; units on the grounds of a penal reformatory, medical, mental, or similar public or private institution; nursing homes or facilities providing continuous psychiatric, medical, nursing services, board and care, or intermediate care (except that assistance may be provided in assisted living facilities); units that are owned or controlled by an educational institution or its affiliate and are designated for occupancy by students; manufactured homes; and transitional housing. In addition, the PHA may not attach or pay PBV assistance for a unit occupied by an owner, and the PHA may not select or enter into an agreement to enter into a HAP contract or HAP contract for a unit occupied by a family ineligible for participation in the PBV program. A member of a cooperative who owns shares in the project assisted under the PBV program is not considered an owner for purposes of participation in the PBV program. Finally, PBV assistance may not be attached to units for which construction or rehabilitation has started after the proposal submission and prior to the execution of an AHAP.

##### **Subsidized Housing [24 CFR 983.54]**

A PHA may not attach or pay PBV assistance to units in any of the following types of subsidized housing:

- A public housing unit;
- A unit subsidized with any other form of Section 8 assistance;
- A unit subsidized with any governmental rent subsidy;
- A unit subsidized with any governmental subsidy that covers all or any part of the operating costs of the housing;
- A unit subsidized with Section 236 rental assistance payments (except that a PHA may attach assistance to a unit subsidized with Section 236 interest reduction payments);
- A Section 202 project for non-elderly with disabilities;
- Section 811 project-based supportive housing for persons with disabilities;

- Section 202 supportive housing for the elderly;
- A Section 101 rent supplement project;
- A unit subsidized with any form of tenant-based rental assistance;
- A unit with any other duplicative federal, state, or local housing subsidy, as determined by HUD or the PHA in accordance with HUD requirements.

#### **E. SUBSIDY LAYERING REQUIREMENTS [24 CFR 983.55, Notice PIH 2013-11, and FR Notice 2/28/20]**

The subsidy layering review is intended to prevent excessive public assistance by combining (layering) housing assistance payment subsidy under the PBV program with other governmental housing assistance from federal, state, or local agencies, including assistance such as tax concessions or tax credits.

HUD requires new construction and rehabilitation housing that will include forms of governmental assistance other than PBVs to undergo a subsidy layering review (SLR) prior to entering into an Agreement to Enter into the Housing Assistance Payments Contract (AHAP). Subsidy layering requirements do not apply to existing housing when PBV is the only governmental assistance or for projects already subject to a PBV HAP contract, even if the project is recapitalized with outside sources of funding.

When a PHA selects a new construction or rehabilitation project, it must require the project owner to disclose all HUD and/or other federal, state, or local governmental assistance using Form HUD-2880. Appendix A of FR Notice 2/28/20 contains a list of all required documentation.

Either HUD or a HUD-approved housing credit agency (HCA) in the PHA's jurisdiction performs the subsidy layering review. The PHA must request an SLR through their local HUD Field Office or, if eligible, through a participating HCA.

If the SLR request is submitted to an approved HCA, and the proposed project-based voucher assistance meets HUD subsidy layering requirements, the HCA must submit a certification to HUD and notify the PHA. The PHA may proceed to execute an AHAP at that time if the environmental approval is received.

The HAP contract must contain the owner's certification that the project has not received and will not receive (before or during the term of the HAP contract) any public assistance for the acquisition, development, or operation of the housing other than assistance disclosed in the subsidy layering review in accordance with HUD requirements.

#### **CAP ON THE NUMBER OF PBV UNITS IN EACH PROJECT**

##### **25 Percent per Project Cap [24 CFR 983.56, FR Notice 1/18/17, and Notice PIH 2017-21]**

In general, the PHA may not select a proposal to provide PBV assistance for units in a project or enter into an agreement to enter into a HAP or a HAP contract to provide PBV assistance for units in a project, if the total number of dwelling units in the project that will receive PBV assistance during the term of the PBV HAP contract is more than the greater of 25 units or 25 percent of the number of dwelling units (assisted or unassisted) in the project.



### **Exceptions to 25 Percent per Project Cap [FR Notice 1/18/17; Notice PIH 2017-21; FR Notice 1/24/22]**

As of April 18, 2017, units are not counted against the 25 percent or 25-unit per project cap if:

- The units are exclusively for elderly families
- The units are for households eligible for supportive services available to all families receiving PBV assistance in the project
  - If the project is located in a census tract with a poverty rate of 20 percent or less, as determined in the most recent American Community Survey Five-Year estimates, the project cap is the greater of 25 units or 40 percent (instead of 25 percent) of the units in the project [FR Notice 7/14/17].

The Housing Opportunity Through Modernization Act of 2016 (HOTMA) eliminated the project cap exemption for projects that serve disabled families and modified the exception for supportive services.

Under the Fostering Stable Housing Opportunities (FSHO) amendments, units exclusively made available to youth receiving FUPY/FYI assistance may be excepted from the project cap for HAP contracts first effective after December 27, 2020. For more information on excepted units for FUPY, see Chapter 19.

Projects where these caps were implemented prior to HOTMA (HAP contracts executed prior to April 18, 2017) or FSHO (contract in effect on or prior to December 27, 2020) may continue to use the former exceptions and may renew their HAP contracts under the old requirements unless the PHA and owner agree to change the conditions of the HAP contract. However, this change may not be made if it would jeopardize an assisted family's eligibility for continued assistance in the project.

### ***Supportive Services***

PHAs must include in the PHA administrative plan the type of services offered to families for a project to qualify for the exception and the extent to which such services will be provided. As of April 18, 2017, the project must make supportive services available to all families receiving PBV assistance in the project, but the family does not actually have to accept and receive supportive services for the exception to apply to the unit, although the family must be eligible to receive the supportive services. It is not necessary that the services be provided at or by the project but must be reasonably available to families receiving PBV assistance at the project and designed to help families in the project achieve self-sufficiency or live in the community as independently as possible. A PHA may not require participation in the supportive service as a condition of living in the excepted unit, although such services may be offered.

### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

Excepted units will be limited to units for elderly families.

### **Projects not Subject to a Project Cap [FR Notice 1/18/17; Notice PIH 2017-21]**

PBV units that were previously subject to certain federal rent restrictions or receiving another type of long-term housing subsidy provided by HUD are exempt from the project cap. In other words, 100 percent of the units in these projects may receive PBV assistance.

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing does not have any PBV units that are subject to the per project cap exception.

#### **Promoting Partially Assisted Projects [24 CFR 983.56(c)]**

A PHA may establish local requirements designed to promote PBV assistance in partially assisted projects. A *partially assisted project* is a project in which there are fewer units covered by a HAP contract than residential units [24 CFR 983.3].

A PHA may establish a per-project cap on the number of units that will receive PBV assistance or other project-based assistance in a multifamily project containing excepted units or in a single-family building. A PHA may also determine not to provide PBV assistance for excepted units, or the PHA may establish a per-project cap of less than 25 units or 25 percent of units.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy:

Excepted units will be limited to units for elderly families.

Beyond that, Jacksonville Housing will not impose any further cap on the number of PBV units assisted per project.

### **SITE SELECTION STANDARDS**

#### **Compliance with PBV Goals, Civil Rights Requirements, and NSPIRE Site Standards [24 CFR 983.57(b)]**

The PHA may not select a proposal for existing, newly constructed, or rehabilitated PBV housing on a site or enter into an agreement to enter into a HAP contract or HAP contract for units on the site, unless the PHA has determined that PBV assistance for housing at the selected site is consistent with the goal of deconcentrating poverty and expanding housing and economic opportunities. The standard for deconcentrating poverty and expanding housing and economic opportunities must be consistent with the PHA Plan under 24 CFR 903 and the PHA administrative plan.

In addition, prior to selecting a proposal, the PHA must determine that the site is suitable for facilitating and furthering full compliance with the applicable Civil Rights Laws, regulations, and Executive Orders and that it meets the NSPIRE site and neighborhood standards at 24 CFR 982.401(l).

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

It is Jacksonville Housing's goal to select sites for PBV housing that provide for deconcentrating poverty and expanding housing and economic opportunities. In complying with this goal, Jacksonville Housing will limit approval of sites for PBV housing in census tracts that have poverty concentrations of 20 percent or less.

However, the PHA will grant exceptions to the 20 percent standard where the PHA determines that the PBV assistance will complement other local redevelopment activities designed to deconcentrate poverty and expand housing and economic opportunities in census tracts with poverty concentrations greater than 20 percent, such as sites in:

A census tract in which the proposed PBV development will be located in a HUD-designated Enterprise Zone, Economic Community, Choice Neighborhood, or Renewal Community;

A census tract where the concentration of assisted units will be or has decreased as a result of public housing demolition and HOPE VI redevelopment;

A census tract in which the proposed PBV development will be located is undergoing significant revitalization as a result of state, local, or federal dollars invested in the area;

A census tract where new market rate units are being developed where such market rate units will positively impact the poverty rate in the area;

A census tract where there has been an overall decline in the poverty rate within the past five years; or

A census tract where there are meaningful opportunities for educational and economic advancement.

#### **Existing and Rehabilitated Housing Site and Neighborhood Standards [24 CFR 983.57(d)]**

The PHA may not enter into an agreement to enter into a HAP contract nor enter into a HAP contract for existing or rehabilitated housing until it has determined that the site complies with the HUD required site and neighborhood standards. The site must:

- Be adequate in size, exposure, and contour to accommodate the number and type of units proposed;
- Have adequate utilities and streets available to service the site;
- Promote a greater choice of housing opportunities and avoid undue concentration of assisted persons in areas containing a high proportion of low-income persons;
- Be accessible to social, recreational, educational, commercial, and health facilities and services and other municipal facilities and services equivalent to those found in neighborhoods consisting largely of unassisted similar units; and
- Be located so that travel time and cost via public transportation or private automobile from the neighborhood to places of employment is not excessive.

#### **New Construction Site and Neighborhood Standards [24 CFR 983.57(e)]**

In order to be selected for PBV assistance, a site for newly constructed housing must meet the following HUD-required site and neighborhood standards:

- The site must be adequate in size, exposure, and contour to accommodate the number and type of units proposed;
- The site must have adequate utilities and streets available to service the site;
- The site must not be located in an area of minority concentration unless the PHA determines that sufficient, comparable opportunities exist for housing for minority families in the income range to be served by the proposed project outside areas of minority concentration or that the project is necessary to meet overriding housing needs that cannot be met in that housing market area;

- The site must not be located in a racially mixed area if the project will cause a significant increase in the proportion of minority to non-minority residents in the area.
- The site must promote a greater choice of housing opportunities and avoid undue concentration of assisted persons in areas containing a high proportion of low-income persons;
- The neighborhood must not be one that is seriously detrimental to family life or in which substandard dwellings or other undesirable conditions predominate;
- The housing must be accessible to social, recreational, educational, commercial, and health facilities and services and other municipal facilities and services equivalent to those found in neighborhoods consisting largely of unassisted similar units; and
- Except for housing designed for elderly persons, the housing must be located so that travel time and cost via public transportation or private automobile from the neighborhood to places of employment is not excessive.

## **F. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW [24 CFR 983.58]**

The PHA activities under the PBV program are subject to HUD environmental regulations in 24 CFR parts 50 and 58. The *responsible entity* is responsible for performing the federal environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.). The PHA may not enter into an agreement to enter into a HAP contract nor enter into a HAP contract until it has complied with the environmental review requirements.

In the case of existing housing, the responsible entity that is responsible for the environmental review under 24 CFR part 58 must determine whether or not PBV assistance is categorically excluded from review under the National Environmental Policy Act and whether or not the assistance is subject to review under the laws and authorities listed in 24 CFR 58.5.

The PHA may not enter into an agreement to enter into a HAP contract or a HAP contract with an owner, and the PHA, the owner, and its contractors may not acquire, rehabilitate, convert, lease, repair, dispose of, demolish, or construct real property or commit or expend program or local funds for PBV activities under this part, until the environmental review is completed.

The PHA must supply all available, relevant information necessary for the responsible entity to perform any required environmental review for any site. The PHA must require the owner to carry out mitigating measures required by the responsible entity (or HUD, if applicable) as a result of the environmental review.

## **G. DWELLING UNITS**

### **OVERVIEW**

This part identifies the special housing quality standards that apply to the PBV program, housing accessibility for persons with disabilities, and special procedures for conducting NSPIRE inspections.

### **NATIONAL STANDARDS FOR THE PHYSICAL INSPECTION OF REAL ESTATE [24 CFR 983.101]**

NSPIRE standards for the tenant-based program, including those for special housing types, generally apply to the PBV program. NSPIRE requirements for shared housing, manufactured home space rental, and the homeownership option do not apply because these housing types are not assisted under the PBV program.

#### **Lead-based Paint [24 CFR 983.101(c)]**

The lead-based paint requirements for the tenant-based voucher program do not apply to the PBV program. Instead, The Lead-based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act (42 U.S.C. 4821-4846), the Residential Lead-based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 4851-4856), and implementing regulations at 24 CFR Part 35, Subparts A, B, H, and R, and 40 CFR 745.227, apply to the PBV program.

### **HOUSING ACCESSIBILITY FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

The housing must comply with program accessibility requirements of section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794) and implementing regulations at 24 CFR part 8. The PHA must ensure that the percentage of accessible dwelling units complies with the requirements of section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794), as implemented by HUD's regulations at 24 CFR 8, subpart C.

Housing first occupied after March 13, 1991, must comply with design and construction requirements of the Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988 and implementing regulations at 24 CFR 100.205, as applicable. (24 CFR 983.102)

### **INSPECTING UNITS**

#### **Pre-selection Inspection [24 CFR 983.103(a)]**

The PHA must examine the proposed site before the proposal selection date. If the units to be assisted already exist, the PHA must inspect all the units before the proposal selection date and must determine whether the units substantially comply with NSPIRE. To qualify as existing housing, units must substantially comply with NSPIRE on the proposal selection date. However, the PHA may not execute the HAP contract until the units fully comply with NSPIRE.

#### **Pre-HAP Contract Inspections [24 CFR 983.103(b), FR Notice 1/18/17, and Notice PIH 2017-20]**

The PHA must inspect each contract unit before the execution of the HAP contract. The PHA may not provide assistance on behalf of the family until the unit fully complies with NSPIRE unless the PHA has adopted a policy to enter into a HAP contract for units that fail the initial inspection as a result of only non-life-threatening conditions, or if the unit passed an alternative inspection.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will not provide assistance on behalf of the family until the unit fully complies with NSPIRE.

#### **Turnover Inspections [24 CFR 983.103(c)]**

Before providing assistance to a new family in a contract unit, the PHA must inspect the unit. The PHA may not provide assistance on behalf of the family until the unit fully complies with NSPIRE.

### **Annual/Biennial Inspections [24 CFR 983.103(d); FR Notice 6/25/14]**

At least once every 24 months during the term of the HAP contract, the PHA must inspect a random sample consisting of at least 20 percent of the contract units in each building to determine if the contract units and the premises are maintained in accordance with NSPIRE. Turnover inspections are not counted toward meeting this inspection requirement. The PHA also has the option in certain mixed finance properties to rely on alternative inspections conducted at least triennially.

#### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

Jacksonville Housing will inspect on an annual basis a random sample consisting of at least 20 percent of the contract units in each building to determine if the contract units and the premises are maintained in accordance with NSPIRE.

If more than 20 percent of the sample of inspected contract units in a building fail the initial inspection, Jacksonville Housing must reinspect 100 percent of the contract units in the building.

### **Other Inspections [24 CFR 983.103(e)]**

The PHA must inspect contract units whenever needed to determine that the contract units comply with NSPIRE inspection protocol and that the owner is providing maintenance, utilities, and other services in accordance with the HAP contract. The PHA must take into account complaints and any other information coming to its attention in scheduling inspections.

The PHA must conduct follow-up inspections needed to determine if the owner (or, if applicable, the family) has corrected an NSPIRE violation, and must conduct inspections to determine the basis for exercise of contractual and other remedies for owner or family violation of NSPIRE.

In conducting PHA supervisory quality control NSPIRE inspections, the PHA should include a representative sample of both tenant-based and project-based units.

### **Inspecting PHA-Owned Units [24 CFR 983.103(f)]**

In the case of PHA-owned units, the inspections must be performed by an independent entity designated by the PHA and approved by HUD. The independent entity must furnish a copy of each inspection report to the PHA and to the HUD field office where the project is located. The PHA must take all necessary actions in response to inspection reports from the independent entity, including exercise of contractual remedies for violation of the HAP contract by the PHA-owner.

## **H. REHABILITATED AND NEWLY CONSTRUCTED UNITS**

### **OVERVIEW [24 CFR 983.151]**

There are specific requirements that apply to PBV assistance for newly constructed or rehabilitated housing that do not apply to PBV assistance in existing housing. This part describes the requirements unique to this type of assistance.

Housing selected for this type of assistance may not at a later date be selected for PBV assistance as existing housing.

## **AGREEMENT TO ENTER INTO HAP CONTRACT**

In order to offer PBV assistance in rehabilitated or newly constructed units, the PHA must enter into an agreement to enter into HAP contract (Agreement) with the owner of the property. The Agreement must be in the form required by HUD [24 CFR 983.152(b)]. The PHA may not enter into an Agreement if commencement of construction or rehabilitation has commenced after proposal submission [24 CFR 983.152(c)]. Construction begins when excavation or site preparation (including clearing of the land) begins for the housing. Rehabilitation begins with the physical commencement of rehabilitation activity on the housing.

In the Agreement the owner agrees to develop the PBV contract units to comply with NSPIRE, and the PHA agrees that upon timely completion of such development in accordance with the terms of the Agreement, the PHA will enter into a HAP contract with the owner for the contract units [24 CFR 983.152(a)].

### **Content of the Agreement [24 CFR 983.152(d)]**

At a minimum, the Agreement must describe the following features of the housing to be developed and assisted under the PBV program:

- Site and the location of the contract units;
- Number of contract units by area (size) and number of bedrooms and bathrooms;
- Services, maintenance, or equipment to be supplied by the owner without charges in addition to the rent;
- Utilities available to the contract units, including a specification of utility services to be paid by the owner and utility services to be paid by the tenant;
- An indication of whether or not the design and construction requirements of the Fair Housing Act and section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 apply to units under the Agreement. If applicable, any required work item resulting from these requirements must be included in the description of work to be performed under the Agreement;
- Estimated initial rents to owner for the contract units;
- Description of the work to be performed under the Agreement. For rehabilitated units, the description must include the rehabilitation work write up and, where determined necessary by the PHA, specifications and plans. For new construction units, the description must include the working drawings and specifications.
- Any additional requirements for quality, architecture, or design over and above NSPIRE.

### **Execution of the Agreement [24 CFR 983.153]**

The Agreement must be executed promptly after PHA notice of proposal selection to the selected owner. The PHA may not enter into the Agreement if construction or rehabilitation has started after proposal submission. Generally, the PHA may not enter into the Agreement with the owner until the subsidy layering review is completed. Likewise, the PHA may not enter into the Agreement until the environmental review is completed and the PHA has received environmental approval. However, the PHA does not need to conduct a subsidy layering review in the case of a HAP contract for existing housing or if the applicable state or local agency has conducted such a

review. Similarly, environmental reviews are not required for existing structures unless otherwise required by law or regulation.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will enter into the Agreement with the owner within 10 business days of receiving both environmental approval and notice that subsidy layering requirements have been met, and before construction or rehabilitation work is started.

### **CONDUCT OF DEVELOPMENT WORK**

#### **Labor Standards [24 CFR 983.154(b)]**

If an Agreement covers the development of nine or more contract units (whether or not completed in stages), the owner and the owner's contractors and subcontractors must pay Davis-Bacon wages to laborers and mechanics employed in the development of housing. The HUD-prescribed form of the Agreement will include the labor standards clauses required by HUD, such as those involving Davis-Bacon wage rates.

The owner, contractors, and subcontractors must also comply with the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act, Department of Labor regulations in 29 CFR part 5, and other applicable federal labor relations laws and regulations. The PHA must monitor compliance with labor standards.

#### **Owner Disclosure [24 CFR 983.154(d) and (e)]**

The Agreement and HAP contract must include a certification by the owner that the owner and other project principals are not on the U.S. General Services Administration list of parties excluded from federal procurement and non-procurement programs.

The owner must also disclose any possible conflict of interest that would be a violation of the Agreement, the HAP contract, or HUD regulations.

### **COMPLETION OF HOUSING**

The Agreement must specify the deadlines for completion of the housing, and the owner must develop and complete the housing in accordance with these deadlines. The Agreement must also specify the deadline for submission by the owner of the required evidence of completion.

#### **Evidence of Completion [24 CFR 983.155(b)]**

At a minimum, the owner must submit the following evidence of completion to the PHA in the form and manner required by the PHA:

- Owner certification that the work has been completed in accordance with NSPIRE and all requirements of the Agreement; and
- Owner certification that the owner has complied with labor standards and equal opportunity requirements in the development of the housing.

At the PHA's discretion, the Agreement may specify additional documentation that must be submitted by the owner as evidence of housing completion.



## Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will determine the need for the owner to submit additional documentation as evidence of housing completion on a case-by-case basis depending on the nature of the PBV project. Jacksonville Housing will specify any additional documentation requirements in the Agreement to enter into HAP contract.

### **PHA Acceptance of Completed Units [24 CFR 983.156]**

Upon notice from the owner that the housing is completed, the PHA must inspect to determine if the housing has been completed in accordance with the Agreement, including compliance with NSPIRE and any additional requirements imposed under the Agreement. The PHA must also determine if the owner has submitted all required evidence of completion.

If the work has not been completed in accordance with the Agreement, the PHA must not enter into the HAP contract.

If the PHA determines the work has been completed in accordance with the Agreement and that the owner has submitted all required evidence of completion, the PHA must submit the HAP contract for execution by the owner and must then execute the HAP contract.

## **I. HOUSING ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS CONTRACT (HAP)**

### **OVERVIEW**

The PHA must enter into a HAP contract with an owner for units that are receiving PBV assistance. The purpose of the HAP contract is to provide housing assistance payments for eligible families. Housing assistance is paid for contract units leased and occupied by eligible families during the HAP contract term. With the exception of single-family scattered-site projects, a HAP contract shall cover a single project. If multiple projects exist, each project is covered by a separate HAP contract. The HAP contract must be in the form required by HUD [24 CFR 983.202(a)].

### **HAP CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS**

#### **Contract Information [24 CFR 983.203]**

The HAP contract must specify the following information:

- The total number of contract units by number of bedrooms;
- The project's name, street address, city or county, state and zip code, block, and lot number (if known), and any other information necessary to clearly identify the site and the building;
- The number of contract units in each building, the location of each contract unit, the area of each contract unit, and the number of bedrooms and bathrooms in each contract unit;
- Services, maintenance, and equipment to be supplied by the owner and included in the rent to the owner;
- Utilities available to the contract units, including a specification of utility services to be paid by the owner (included in rent) and utility services to be paid by the tenant;

- Features provided to comply with program accessibility requirements of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and implementing regulations at 24 CFR part 8;
- The HAP contract term;
- The number of units in any project that will exceed the 25 percent per project cap, which will be set aside for occupancy by qualifying families (elderly and/or disabled families and families receiving supportive services); and
- The initial rent to owner for the first 12 months of the HAP contract term.

#### **Execution of the HAP Contract [24 CFR 983.204]**

The PHA may not enter into a HAP contract until each contract unit has been inspected and the PHA has determined that the unit complies with the NSPIRE standards, unless the PHA has adopted a policy to enter into a HAP contract for units that fail the initial NSPIRE inspection as a result of only non-life-threatening conditions. For existing housing, the HAP contract must be executed promptly after the PHA selects the owner proposal and inspects the housing units. For newly constructed or rehabilitated housing the HAP contract must be executed after the PHA has inspected the completed units and has determined that the units have been completed in accordance with the agreement to enter into HAP, and the owner furnishes all required evidence of completion.

##### Jacksonville Housing Policy

For existing housing, the HAP contract will be executed within 10 business days of Jacksonville Housing determining that all units pass NSPIRE standards.

For rehabilitated or newly constructed housing, the HAP contract will be executed within 10 business days of Jacksonville Housing determining that the units have been completed in accordance with the agreement to enter into HAP, all units meet NSPIRE, and the owner has submitted all required evidence of completion.

#### **Term of HAP Contract [24 CFR 983.205, FR Notice 1/18/17, and Notice PIH 2017-21]**

The PHA may enter into a HAP contract with an owner for an initial term of no less than one year and no more than 20 years for each contract unit. The length of the term of the HAP contract for any contract unit may not be less than one year, nor more than 20 years. In the case of PHA-owned units, the term of the HAP contract must be agreed upon by the PHA and the independent entity approved by HUD [24 CFR 983.59(b)(2)].

##### Jacksonville Housing Policy

The terms of all PBV HAP contracts will be negotiated with the owner on a case-by-case basis.

At the time of the initial HAP contract term or any time before expiration of the HAP contract, the PHA may extend the term of the contract for an additional term of up to 20 years if the PHA determines an extension is appropriate to continue providing affordable housing for low-income families. A HAP contract extension may not exceed 20 years. A PHA may provide for multiple extensions; however, in no circumstances may such extensions exceed 20 years, cumulatively. Extensions after the initial extension are allowed at the end of any extension term, provided that not more than 24 months prior to the expiration of the previous extension contract the PHA agrees to extend the term, and that such extension is appropriate to continue providing affordable

housing for low-income families or to expand housing opportunities. Extensions after the initial extension term shall not begin prior to the expiration date of the previous extension term. Subsequent extensions are subject to the same limitations. All extensions must be on the form and subject to the conditions prescribed by HUD at the time of the extension. In the case of PHA-owned units, any extension of the term of the HAP contract must be agreed upon by the PHA and the independent entity approved by HUD [24 CFR 983.59(b)(2)].

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

When determining whether or not to extend an expiring PBV contract, Jacksonville Housing will consider several factors including, but not limited to:

- The cost of extending the contract and the amount of available budget authority;
- The condition of the contract units;
- The owner's record of compliance with obligations under the HAP contract and lease(s);
- Whether the location of the units continues to support the goals of deconcentrating poverty and expanding housing opportunities; and
- Whether the funding could be used more appropriately for tenant-based assistance.

#### ***Termination by PHA [24 CFR 983.205(c) and FR Notice 1/18/17]***

The HAP contract must provide that the term of the PHA's contractual commitment is subject to the availability of sufficient appropriated funding as determined by HUD or by the PHA in accordance with HUD instructions. For these purposes, sufficient funding means the availability of appropriations, and of funding under the ACC from such appropriations, to make full payment of housing assistance payments payable to the owner for any contract year in accordance with the terms of the HAP contract.

In times of insufficient funding, HUD requires that PHAs first take all cost-saving measures prior to failing to make payments under existing PBV HAP contracts.

If it is determined that there may not be sufficient funding to continue housing assistance payments for all contract units and for the full term of the HAP contract, the PHA may terminate the HAP contract by notice to the owner. The termination must be implemented in accordance with HUD instructions.

#### ***Termination by Owner [24 CFR 983.205(d)]***

If in accordance with program requirements the amount of rent to an owner for any contract unit is reduced below the amount of the rent to owner at the beginning of the HAP contract term, the owner may terminate the HAP contract by giving notice to the PHA. In this case, families living in the contract units must be offered tenant-based assistance.

#### **Statutory Notice Requirements: Contract Termination or Expiration [24 CFR 983.206, FR Notice 1/18/17, and Notice PIH 2017-21]**

Not less than one year before the HAP contract terminates, or if the owner refuses to renew the HAP contract, the owner must notify the PHA and assisted tenants of the termination. The notice must be provided in the form prescribed by HUD. If the owner does not give timely notice, the

owner must permit the tenants in assisted units to remain in their units for the required notice period with no increase in the tenant portion of their rent, and with no eviction as a result of the owner's inability to collect an increased tenant portion of rent. An owner may renew the terminating contract for a period of time sufficient to give tenants one-year advance notice under such terms as HUD may require.

Upon termination or expiration of the contract, a family living at the property is entitled to receive a tenant-based voucher. Tenant-based assistance would not begin until the owner's required notice period ends. The PHA must provide the family with a voucher, and the family must also be given the option by the PHA and owner to remain in their unit with HCV tenant-based assistance as long as the unit complies with inspection and rent reasonableness requirements. The family must pay their total tenant payment (TTP) and any additional amount if the gross rent exceeds the applicable payment standard. The family has the right to remain in the project as long as the units are used for rental housing and are otherwise eligible for HCV assistance. The owner may not terminate the tenancy of a family that exercises its right to remain except for serious or repeated lease violations or other good cause. Families that receive a tenant-based voucher at the expiration or termination of the PBV HAP contract are not new admissions to the PHA HCV tenant-based program and are not subject to income eligibility requirements or any other admission requirements. If the family chooses to remain in their unit with tenant-based assistance, the family may do so regardless of whether the family share would initially exceed 40 percent of the family's adjusted monthly income.

#### **Remedies for NSPIRE Deficiencies [24 CFR 983.208(b)]**

The PHA may not make any HAP payment to the owner for a contract unit during any period in which the unit does not comply with NSPIRE. If the PHA determines that a contract does not comply with NSPIRE, the PHA may exercise any of its remedies under the HAP contract, for any or all of the contract units. Available remedies include termination of housing assistance payments, abatement or reduction of housing assistance payments, reduction of contract units, and termination of the HAP contract.

#### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

Jacksonville Housing will abate and terminate PBV HAP contracts for non-compliance with NSPIRE in accordance with the policies used in the tenant-based voucher program, which are contained in Chapter 8, Enforcing Owner Compliance.

### **AMENDMENTS TO THE HAP CONTRACT**

#### **Substitution of Contract Units [24 CFR 983.207(a)]**

At the PHA's discretion and subject to all PBV requirements, the HAP contract may be amended to substitute a different unit with the same number of bedrooms in the same project for a previously covered contract unit. Before any such substitution can take place, the PHA must inspect the proposed unit and determine the reasonable rent for the unit.

#### **Addition of Contract Units [FR Notice 1/18/17 and Notice PIH 2017-21]**

The PHA and owner may amend the HAP contract to add additional PBV contract units in projects that already have a HAP contract without having to fulfill the selection requirements found at 24 CFR 983.51(b) for those additional PBV units, regardless of when the HAP contract was signed. The additional PBV units, however, are still subject to the PBV program cap and

individual project caps. Prior to attaching additional units without competition, the PHA must submit to the local field office the information outlined in FR Notice 1/18/17. The PHA must also detail in the administrative plan their intent to add PBV units and the rationale for adding units to the specific PBV project.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will add units to the contract on a case-by-case basis to ensure the availability of affordable housing as long as the addition of units does not exceed allowable project caps.

### **HAP CONTRACT YEAR, ANNIVERSARY AND EXPIRATION DATES [24 CFR 983.207(b) and 983.302(e)]**

The HAP contract year is the period of 12 calendar months preceding each annual anniversary of the HAP contract during the HAP contract term. The initial contract year is calculated from the first day of the first calendar month of the HAP contract term.

The annual anniversary of the HAP contract is the first day of the first calendar month after the end of the preceding contract year.

There is a single annual anniversary and expiration date for all units under a particular HAP contract, even in cases where contract units are placed under the HAP contract in stages (on different dates) or units are added by amendment. The anniversary and expiration dates for all units coincide with the dates for the contract units that were originally placed under contract.

### **OWNER RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THE HAP CONTRACT [24 CFR 983.210]**

When the owner executes the HAP contract, s/he certifies that at such execution and at all times during the term of the HAP contract:

- All contract units are in good condition and the owner is maintaining the premises and contract units in accordance with NSPIRE standards;
- The owner is providing all services, maintenance, equipment, and utilities as agreed to under the HAP contract and the leases;
- Each contract unit for which the owner is receiving HAP is leased to an eligible family referred by the PHA, and the lease is in accordance with the HAP contract and HUD requirements;
- To the best of the owner's knowledge, the family resides in the contract unit for which the owner is receiving HAP, and the unit is the family's only residence;
- The owner (including a principal or other interested party) is not the spouse, parent, child, grandparent, grandchild, sister, or brother of any member of a family residing in a contract unit;
- The amount of the HAP the owner is receiving is correct under the HAP contract;
- The rent for contract units does not exceed rents charged by the owner for comparable unassisted units;

- Except for HAP and tenant rent, the owner has not received and will not receive any other payment or consideration for rental of the contract unit;
- The family does not own or have any interest in the contract unit (does not apply to family's membership in a cooperative); and
- Repair work on the project selected as an existing project that is performed after HAP execution within such post-execution period as specified by HUD may constitute development activity, and if determined to be development activity, the repair work undertaken shall be in compliance with Davis-Bacon wage requirements.

## **ADDITIONAL HAP REQUIREMENTS**

### **Housing Quality and Design Requirements [24 CFR 983.101(e) and 983.208(a)]**

The owner is required to maintain and operate the contract units and premises in accordance with NSPIRE standards, including the performance of ordinary and extraordinary maintenance. The owner must provide all the services, maintenance, equipment, and utilities specified in the HAP contract with the PHA and in the lease with each assisted family. In addition, maintenance, replacement and redecoration must be in accordance with the standard practice for the building as established by the owner.

The PHA may elect to establish additional requirements for the quality, architecture, or design of PBV housing. Any such additional requirements must be specified in the Agreement to enter into a HAP contract and the HAP contract. These requirements must be in addition to, not in place of, compliance with NSPIRE standards.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will identify the need for any special features on a case-by-case basis, depending on the intended occupancy of the PBV project. Jacksonville Housing will specify any special design standards or additional requirements in the invitation for PBV proposals and the agreement to enter into the HAP contract.

### **Vacancy Payments [24 CFR 983.352(b)]**

At the discretion of the PHA, the HAP contract may provide for vacancy payments to the owner for a PHA-determined period of vacancy extending from the beginning of the first calendar month after the move-out month for a period not exceeding two full months following the move-out month. The amount of the vacancy payment will be determined by the PHA and cannot exceed the monthly rent to the owner under the assisted lease minus any portion of the rental payment received by the owner (including amounts available from the tenant's security deposit).

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will decide on a case-by-case basis if Jacksonville Housing will provide vacancy payments to the owner. The HAP contract with the owner will contain any such agreement, including the amount of the vacancy payment and the period for which the owner will qualify for these payments.

## **J. SELECTION OF PBV PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS**

### **OVERVIEW**

Many of the provisions of the tenant-based voucher regulations [24 CFR 982] also apply to the PBV program. This includes requirements related to determining eligibility and selecting applicants from the waiting list. Even with these similarities, there are requirements that are unique to the PBV program. This part describes the requirements and policies related to eligibility and admission to the PBV program.

### **ELIGIBILITY FOR PBV ASSISTANCE [24 CFR 983.251(a) and (b)]**

The PHA may select families for the PBV program from those who are participants in the PHA's tenant-based voucher program and from those who have applied for admission to the voucher program. For voucher participants, eligibility was determined at original admission to the voucher program and does not need to be redetermined at the commencement of PBV assistance. For all others, eligibility for admission must be determined at the commencement of PBV assistance.

Applicants for PBV assistance must meet the same eligibility requirements as applicants for the tenant-based voucher program. Applicants must qualify as a family as defined by HUD and the PHA, have income at or below HUD-specified income limits, and qualify on the basis of citizenship or the eligible immigration status of family members [24 CFR 982.201(a) and 24 CFR 983.2(a)]. In addition, an applicant's family must provide social security information for family members [24 CFR 5.216 and 5.218] and consent to the PHA's collection and use of family information regarding income, expenses, and family composition [24 CFR 5.230]. The PHA may also not approve a tenancy if the owner (including a principal or other interested party) of the unit is the parent, child, grandparent, grandchild, sister, or brother of any member of the family unless needed as a reasonable accommodation. An applicant's family must also meet HUD requirements related to current or past criminal activity.

#### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

Jacksonville Housing will determine an applicant's family's eligibility for the PBV program in accordance with the policies in Chapter 3.

### **In-Place Families [24 CFR 983.251(b)]**

An eligible family residing in a proposed PBV contract unit on the date the proposal is selected by the PHA is considered an "in-place family." These families are afforded protection from displacement under the PBV rule. If a unit to be placed under contract (either an existing unit or a unit requiring rehabilitation) is occupied by an eligible family on the date the proposal is selected, the in-place family must be placed on the PHA's waiting list. Once the family's continued eligibility is determined (the PHA may deny assistance to an in-place family for the grounds specified in 24 CFR 982.552 and 982.553), the family must be given an absolute selection preference and the PHA must refer these families to the project owner for an appropriately sized PBV unit in the project. Admission of eligible in-place families is not subject to income targeting requirements.

This regulatory protection from displacement does not apply to families that are not eligible to participate in the program on the proposal selection date.

## **ORGANIZATION OF THE WAITING LIST [24 CFR 983.251(c)]**

The PHA may establish a separate waiting list for PBV units, or it may use the same waiting list for both tenant-based and project-based assistance. The PHA may also merge the PBV waiting list with a waiting list for other assisted housing programs offered by the PHA. If the PHA chooses to offer a separate waiting list for PBV assistance, the PHA must offer to place applicants who are listed on the tenant-based waiting list on the waiting list for PBV assistance.

If a PHA decides to establish a separate PBV waiting list, the PHA may use a single waiting list for the PHA's whole PBV program, or it may establish separate waiting lists for PBV units in particular projects or buildings or for sets of such units.

### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

Jacksonville Housing will establish and manage separate waiting lists for individual projects or buildings that are receiving PBV assistance.

## **SELECTION FROM THE WAITING LIST [24 CFR 983.251(c)]**

Applicants who will occupy units with PBV assistance must be selected from the PHA's waiting list. The PHA may establish selection criteria or preferences for the occupancy of particular PBV units. The PHA may place families referred by the PBV owner on its PBV waiting list.

### **Income Targeting [24 CFR 983.251(c)(6)]**

At least 75 percent of the families admitted to the PHA's tenant-based and project-based voucher programs during the PHA fiscal year from the waiting list must be extremely low-income families. The income targeting requirement applies to the total of admissions to both programs.

### **Units with Accessibility Features [24 CFR 983.251(c)(7)]**

When selecting families to occupy PBV units that have special accessibility features for persons with disabilities, the PHA must first refer families who require such features to the owner.

### **Preferences [24 CFR 983.251(d), FR Notice 11/24/08]**

The PHA may use the same selection preferences that are used for the tenant-based voucher program, establish selection criteria or preferences for the PBV program as a whole, or for occupancy of particular PBV developments or units. The PHA must provide an absolute selection preference for eligible in-place families as described in Section 17-VI.B. above.

The PHA may establish a selection preference for families who qualify for voluntary services, including disability-specific services, offered in conjunction with assisted units, provided that preference is consistent with the PHA plan. The PHA may not, however, grant a preference to a person with a specific disability [FR Notice 1/18/17].

In advertising such a project, the owner may advertise the project as offering services for a particular type of disability; however, the project must be open to all otherwise eligible disabled persons who may benefit from services provided in the project. In these projects, disabled residents may not be required to accept the particular services offered as a condition of occupancy.

If the PHA has projects with "excepted units" for elderly families or supportive services, the PHA must give preference to such families when referring families to these units [24 CFR 983.261(b); FR Notice 1/18/17].



## Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will provide a selection preference when required by the regulation (e.g., eligible in-place families, elderly families or units with supportive services, or mobility impaired persons for accessible units). Jacksonville Housing will not offer any additional preferences for the PBV program or for particular PBV projects or units.

### **OFFER OF PBV ASSISTANCE**

#### **Refusal of Offer [24 CFR 983.251(e)(3)]**

The PHA is prohibited from taking any of the following actions against a family who has applied for, received, or refused an offer of PBV assistance:

- Refuse to list the applicant on the waiting list for tenant-based voucher assistance;
- Deny any admission preference for which the applicant qualifies;
- Change the applicant's place on the waiting list based on preference, date, and time of application, or other factors affecting selection under the PHA's selection policy;
- Remove the applicant from the tenant-based voucher waiting list.

#### **Disapproval by Landlord [24 CFR 983.251(e)(2)]**

If a PBV owner rejects a family for admission to the owner's units, such rejection may not affect the family's position on the tenant-based voucher waiting list.

#### **Acceptance of Offer [24 CFR 983.252]**

##### ***Family Briefing***

When a family accepts an offer for PBV assistance, the PHA must give the family an oral briefing. The briefing must include information on how the program works and the responsibilities of the family and owner. In addition to the oral briefing, the PHA must provide a briefing packet that explains how the PHA determines the total tenant payment for a family, the family obligations under the program, and applicable fair housing information.

##### ***Persons with Disabilities***

If an applicant's family's head or spouse is disabled, the PHA must ensure effective communication, in accordance with 24 CFR 8.6, in conducting the oral briefing and in providing the written information packet. This may include making alternative formats available (see Chapter 4). In addition, the PHA must have a mechanism for referring a family that includes a member with a mobility impairment to an appropriate accessible PBV unit.

##### ***Persons with Limited English Proficiency***

The PHA should take reasonable steps to assure meaningful access by persons with limited English proficiency in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Executive Order 13166 (see Chapter 4).

### **OWNER SELECTION OF TENANTS**

The owner is responsible for developing written tenant selection procedures that are consistent with the purpose of improving housing opportunities for very low-income families and

reasonably related to program eligibility and an applicant's ability to fulfill their obligations under the lease. An owner must promptly notify in writing any rejected applicant of the grounds for any rejection [24 CFR 983.253(a)(2) and (a)(3)].

### **Leasing [24 CFR 983.253(a)]**

During the term of the HAP contract, the owner must lease contract units to eligible families that are selected and referred by the PHA from the PHA's waiting list. The contract unit leased to the family must be the appropriate size unit for the size of the family, based on the PHA's subsidy standards.

### **Filling Vacancies [24 CFR 983.254(a)]**

The owner must promptly notify the PHA of any vacancy or expected vacancy in a contract unit. After receiving such notice, the PHA must make every reasonable effort to promptly refer a sufficient number of families for the owner to fill such vacancies. The PHA and the owner must make reasonable efforts to minimize the likelihood and length of any vacancy.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

The owner must notify Jacksonville Housing in writing (mail, fax, or email) within five business days of learning about any vacancy or expected vacancy.

Jacksonville Housing will make every reasonable effort to refer families to the owner within 10 business days of receiving such notice from the owner.

### **Reduction in HAP Contract Units Due to Vacancies [24 CFR 983.254(b)]**

If any contract units have been vacant for 120 or more days since the owner's notice of the vacancy, the PHA may give notice to the owner amending the HAP contract to reduce the number of contract units by subtracting the number of contract units (according to the bedroom size) that have been vacant for this period.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

If any contract units have been vacant for 120 days, Jacksonville Housing will give notice to the owner that the HAP contract will be amended to reduce the number of contract units that have been vacant for this period. Jacksonville Housing will provide the notice to the owner within 10 business days of the 120<sup>th</sup> day of the vacancy. The amendment to the HAP contract will be effective the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the month following the date of the PHA's notice.

### **TENANT SCREENING [24 CFR 983.255]**

#### **PHA Responsibility**

The PHA is not responsible or liable to the owner or any other person for the family's behavior or suitability for tenancy. However, the PHA may opt to screen applicants for family behavior or suitability for tenancy and may deny applicants based on such screening.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will not conduct screening to determine a PBV applicant's family's suitability for tenancy.

The PHA must provide the owner with an applicant's family's current and prior address (as shown in PHA records) and the name and address (if known by the PHA) of the family's current landlord and any prior landlords.

In addition, the PHA may offer the owner other information the PHA may have about a family, including information about family members' tenancy history or about drug trafficking and criminal activity by family members. The PHA must provide applicant families with a description of its policy on providing information to owners, and the PHA must give the same types of information to all owners.

The PHA may not disclose to the owner any confidential information provided in response to a request for documentation of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking except at the written request or with the written consent of the individual providing the documentation [24 CFR 5.2007(a)(4)].

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

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

#### **Owner Responsibility**

The owner is responsible for screening and selecting the family to occupy the owner's unit. When screening families, the owner may consider a family's background with respect to the following factors:

- Payment of rent and utility bills;
- Caring for a unit and premises;
- Respecting the rights of other residents to the peaceful enjoyment of their housing;
- Drug-related criminal activity or other criminal activity that is a threat to the health, safety, or property of others; and
- Compliance with other essential conditions of tenancy.

#### **K. OCCUPANCY**

##### **OVERVIEW**

After an applicant has been selected from the waiting list, determined eligible by the PHA, referred to an owner, and determined suitable by the owner, the family will sign the lease, and occupancy of the unit will begin.

##### **LEASE [24 CFR 983.256]**

Under state and local law, the tenant must have the legal capacity to enter a lease. Legal capacity means that the tenant is bound by the terms of the lease and may enforce them against the owner.

### **Form of Lease [24 CFR 983.256(b)]**

The tenant and the owner must enter into a written lease agreement that is signed by both parties. If an owner uses a standard lease form for rental units to unassisted tenants in the locality or premises, the same lease must be used for assisted tenants, except that the lease must include a HUD-required tenancy addendum. The tenancy addendum must include, word-for-word, all provisions required by HUD.

If the owner does not use a standard lease form for rental to unassisted tenants, the owner may use another form of lease, such as a PHA model lease.

The PHA may review the owner's lease form to determine if the lease complies with state and local law. If the PHA determines that the lease does not comply with state or local law, the PHA may decline to approve the tenancy.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will not review the owner's lease for compliance with state or local law.

### **Lease Requirements [24 CFR 983.256(c)]**

The lease for a PBV unit must specify all of the following information:

- The names of the owner and the tenant;
- The unit rented (address, apartment number, if any, and any other information needed to identify the leased contract unit);
- The term of the lease (initial term and any provision for renewal);
- The amount of the tenant rent to the owner, which is subject to change during the term of the lease in accordance with HUD requirements;
- A specification of the services, maintenance, equipment, and utilities that will be provided by the owner; and
- The amount of any charges for food, furniture, or supportive services.

### **Tenancy Addendum [24 CFR 983.256(d)]**

The tenancy addendum in the lease must state:

- The program tenancy requirements;
- The composition of the household as approved by the PHA (the names of family members and any PHA-approved live-in aide);
- All provisions in the HUD-required tenancy addendum must be included in the lease. The terms of the tenancy addendum prevail over other provisions of the lease.

### **Initial Term and Lease Renewal [24 CFR 983.256(f)]**

The initial lease term must be for at least one year. The lease must provide for automatic renewal after the initial term of the lease in either successive definitive terms (e.g. month-to-month or year-to-year) or an automatic indefinite extension of the lease term. For automatic indefinite extension of the lease term, the lease terminates if any of the following occur:

- The owner terminates the lease for good cause
- The tenant terminates the lease
- The owner and tenant agree to terminate the lease
- The PHA terminates the HAP contract
- The PHA terminates assistance for the family

### **Changes in the Lease [24 CFR 983.256(e)]**

If the tenant and owner agree to any change in the lease, the change must be in writing, and the owner must immediately give the PHA a copy of all changes.

The owner must notify the PHA in advance of any proposed change in the lease regarding the allocation of tenant and owner responsibilities for utilities. Such changes may only be made if approved by the PHA and in accordance with the terms of the lease relating to its amendment. The PHA must redetermine reasonable rent, in accordance with program requirements, based on any change in the allocation of the responsibility for utilities between the owner and the tenant. The redetermined reasonable rent will be used in the calculation of the rent to the owner from the effective date of the change.

### **Owner Termination of Tenancy [24 CFR 983.257]**

With two exceptions, the owner of a PBV unit may terminate tenancy for the same reasons an owner may in the tenant-based voucher program (see Section 12-III.B. and 24 CFR 982.310). In the PBV program, terminating tenancy for “good cause” does not include doing so for a business or economic reason, or a desire to use the unit for personal or family use or other non-residential purpose.

### ***Tenant Absence from the Unit [24 CFR 983.256(g) and 982.312(a)]***

The lease may specify a maximum period of family absence from the unit that may be shorter than the maximum period permitted by PHA policy. According to program requirements, the family’s assistance must be terminated if they are absent from the unit for more than 180 consecutive days. PHA termination of assistance actions due to family absence from the unit are subject to 24 CFR 981.312, except that the unit is not terminated from the HAP contract if the family is absent for longer than the maximum period permitted.

### **Continuation of Housing Assistance Payments [24 CFR 982.258]**

Housing assistance payments shall continue until the tenant's rent equals the rent to the owner. The cessation of housing assistance payments at such point will not affect the family's other rights under its lease, nor will such cessation preclude the resumption of payments as a result of later changes in income, rents, or other relevant circumstances if such changes occur within 180 days following the date of the last housing assistance payment by the PHA. After the 180-day period, the unit shall be removed from the HAP contract pursuant to 24 CFR 983.211.

#### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

If a participating family receiving zero assistance experiences a change in circumstances that would result in a HAP payment to the owner, the family must notify Jacksonville Housing of the change and request an interim reexamination before the 180-day period expires.

## **Security Deposits [24 CFR 983.259]**

The owner may collect a security deposit from the tenant. The PHA may prohibit security deposits in excess of private market practice, or in excess of amounts charged by the owner to unassisted tenants.

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will allow the owner to collect a security deposit amount the owner determines is appropriate.

When the tenant moves out of a contract unit, the owner, subject to state and local law, may use the security deposit, including any interest on the deposit, in accordance with the lease, as reimbursement for any unpaid tenant rent, damages to the unit, or other amounts owed by the tenant under the lease.

The owner must give the tenant a written list of all items charged against the security deposit and the amount of each item. After deducting the amount used to reimburse the owner, the owner must promptly refund the full amount of the balance to the tenant.

If the security deposit does not cover the amount owed by the tenant under the lease, the owner may seek to collect the balance from the tenant. The PHA has no liability or responsibility for payment of any amount owed by the family to the owner.

## **MOVES**

### **Overcrowded, Under-Occupied, and Accessible Units [24 CFR 983.260]**

If the PHA determines that a family is occupying a wrong size unit, based on the PHA's subsidy standards, or a unit with accessibility features that the family does not require, and the unit is needed by a family that does require the features, the PHA must promptly notify the family and the owner of this determination, and the PHA must offer the family the opportunity to receive continued housing assistance in another unit.

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will notify the family and the owner of the family's need to move based on the occupancy of a wrong-size or accessible unit within 10 business days of Jacksonville Housing's determination. Jacksonville Housing will offer the family the following types of continued assistance in the following order, based on the availability of assistance:

- PBV assistance in the same building or project;
- PBV assistance in another project; and
- Tenant-based voucher assistance.

If the PHA offers the family a tenant-based voucher, the PHA must terminate the housing assistance payments for a wrong-sized or accessible unit at the earlier of the expiration of the term of the family's voucher (including any extension granted by the PHA) or the date upon which the family vacates the unit. If the family does not move out of the wrong-sized unit or accessible unit by the expiration of the term of the family's voucher, the PHA must remove the unit from the HAP contract.

If the PHA offers the family another form of assistance that is not a tenant-based voucher, and the family does not accept the offer, does not move out of the PBV unit within a reasonable time as determined by the PHA, or both, the PHA must terminate the housing assistance payments for the unit at the expiration of a reasonable period as determined by the PHA and remove the unit from the HAP contract.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

When Jacksonville Housing offers a family another form of assistance that is not a tenant-based voucher, the family will be given 30 days from the date of the offer to accept the offer and move out of the PBV unit. If the family does not move out within this 30-day time frame, Jacksonville Housing will terminate the housing assistance payments at the expiration of this 30-day period.

Jacksonville Housing may make exceptions to this 30-day period if needed for reasons beyond the family's control such as death, serious illness, or other medical emergency of a family member.

#### **Family Right to Move [24 CFR 983.261]**

The family may terminate the lease at any time after the first year of occupancy. The family must give advance written notice to the owner in accordance with the lease and provide a copy of such notice to the PHA. If the family wishes to move with continued tenant-based assistance, the family must contact the PHA to request the rental assistance prior to providing notice to terminate the lease.

If the family terminates the lease in accordance with these requirements, the PHA is required to offer the family the opportunity for continued tenant-based assistance, in the form of a voucher or other comparable tenant-based rental assistance. If voucher or other comparable tenant-based assistance is not immediately available upon the termination of the family's lease in the PBV unit, the PHA must give the family priority to receive the next available opportunity for continued tenant-based assistance.

If the family terminates the assisted lease before the end of the first year, the family relinquishes the opportunity for continued tenant-based assistance.

#### **Emergency Transfers under VAWA [Notice PIH 2017-08]**

Except where special consideration is needed for the project-based voucher program, the PHA will follow VAWA policies as outlined in Chapter 16 Part IX of this administrative plan, including using the Emergency Transfer Plan as the basis for PBV transfers under VAWA (Exhibit 16-4).

HUD requires that the PHA include policies that address cases in which a victim has been living in a unit for less than a year or seeks to move sooner than a tenant-based voucher is available.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

When the victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking has lived in the unit for less than one year, Jacksonville Housing will provide several options for continued assistance.

The PHA will first try to transfer the participant to another PBV unit in the same development or transfer to a different development where the PHA has PBV units. The

PHA will expedite the administrative processes in this case in an effort to conduct the transfer as quickly as possible.

If no units are available for an internal transfer, or if there is reasonable cause to believe that such a transfer would put the victim in jeopardy, the participant may receive continued assistance through an external transfer to either tenant-based rental assistance (HCV) or assistance in the PHA's public housing program. Such a decision will be made by the PHA based on the availability of tenant-based vouchers and/or vacancies in public housing units. Such families must be selected from the waiting list for the applicable program. The PHA has adopted a waiting list preference for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking in both its HCV and public housing programs in order to expedite this process. See Section 4-III.C. of this administrative plan.

If a victim wishes to move after a year of occupancy in the unit, but no tenant-based vouchers are available, the PHA will offer the participant an internal transfer to another PBV unit in the same development or a transfer to a different development where the PHA has PBV units. The PHA will expedite the administrative processes in this case in an effort to conduct the transfer as quickly as possible.

If no units are available for an internal transfer, or if there is reasonable cause to believe that such a transfer would put the victim in jeopardy, the participant may receive continued assistance through an external transfer to the PHA's public housing program. The PHA has adopted a waiting list preference for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking as part of the public housing ACOP in order to expedite this process.

#### **EXCEPTIONS TO THE OCCUPANCY CAP [24 CFR 983.262]**

As of April 17, 2018, the PHA may not pay housing assistance under a PBV HAP contract for more than the greater of 25 units or 25 percent of the number of dwelling units in a project unless:

- The units are exclusively for elderly families
- The units are for households eligible for supportive services available to all families receiving PBV assistance in the project

If the project is located in a census tract with a poverty rate of 20 percent or less, as determined in the most recent American Community Survey Five-Year estimates, the project cap is the greater of 25 units or 40 percent (instead of 25 percent) of the units in the project [FR Notice 7/14/17].

If a family at the time of initial tenancy is receiving and while the resident of an excepted unit has received Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) supportive services or any other service as defined by the PHA and successfully completes the FSS contract of participation or the supportive services requirement, the unit continues to count as an excepted unit for as long as the family resides in the unit. However, if the FSS family fails to successfully complete the FSS contract of participation or supportive services objective and consequently is no longer eligible for the supportive services, the family must vacate the unit within a reasonable period of time established by the PHA, and the PHA shall cease paying HAP on behalf of the family.



Further, when a family (or remaining members of a family) residing in an excepted unit no longer meets the criteria for a “qualifying family” because the family is no longer an elderly family due to a change in family composition, the PHA has the discretion to allow the family to remain in the excepted unit. If the PHA does not exercise this discretion, the family must vacate the unit within a reasonable period of time established by the PHA, and the PHA must cease paying housing assistance payments on behalf of the non-qualifying family.

Individuals in units with supportive services who choose to no longer participate in a service or who no longer qualify for services they qualified for at the time of initial occupancy cannot subsequently be denied continued housing opportunity because of this changed circumstance. A PHA or owner cannot determine that a participant’s needs exceed the level of care offered by qualifying services or require that individuals be transitioned to different projects based on service needs.

If the family fails to vacate the unit within the established time, the unit must be removed from the HAP contract unless the project is partially assisted, and it is possible for the HAP contract to be amended to substitute a different unit in the building in accordance with program requirements; or the owner terminates the lease and evicts the family. The housing assistance payments for a family residing in an excepted unit that is not in compliance with its family obligations to comply with supportive services requirements must be terminated by the PHA.

The PHA may allow a family that initially qualified for occupancy of an excepted unit based on elderly family status to continue to reside in a unit, where through circumstances beyond the control of the family (e.g., death of the elderly family member or long-term or permanent hospitalization or nursing care), the elderly family member no longer resides in the unit. In this case, the unit may continue to be counted as an excepted unit for as long as the family resides in that unit. Once the family vacates the unit, in order to continue as an excepted unit under the HAP contract, the unit must be made available to and occupied by a qualified family.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will allow families who initially qualified to live in an excepted unit to remain when circumstances change due to circumstances beyond the remaining family members’ control.

In all other cases, Jacksonville Housing will provide written notice to the family and owner within 10 business days of making the determination. The family will be given 30 days from the date of the notice to move out of the PBV unit. If the family does not move out within this 30-day time frame, Jacksonville Housing will terminate the housing assistance payments at the expiration of this 30-day period.

Jacksonville Housing may make exceptions to this 30-day period if needed for reasons beyond the family’s control such as death, serious illness, or other medical emergency of a family member.

## **L. DETERMINING RENT TO OWNER**

### **OVERVIEW**

The amount of the initial rent to an owner of units receiving PBV assistance is established at the beginning of the HAP contract term. Although for rehabilitated or newly constructed housing,

the agreement to enter into a HAP Contract (Agreement) states the estimated amount of the initial rent to the owner, the actual amount of the initial rent to the owner is established at the beginning of the HAP contract term.

During the term of the HAP contract, the rent to the owner is redetermined at the owner's request in accordance with program requirements, and at such time that there is a ten percent or greater decrease in the published FMR.

### **RENT LIMITS [24 CFR 983.301]**

Except for certain tax credit units (discussed below), the rent to the owner must not exceed the lowest of the following amounts:

- An amount determined by the PHA, not to exceed 110 percent of the applicable fair market rent (or any HUD-approved exception payment standard) for the unit bedroom size minus any utility allowance;
- The reasonable rent; or
- The rent requested by the owner.

### **Certain Tax Credit Units [24 CFR 983.301(c)]**

For certain tax credit units, the rent limits are determined differently than for other PBV units. Different limits apply to contract units that meet all of the following criteria:

- The contract unit receives a low-income housing tax credit under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986;
- The contract unit is not located in a qualified census tract;
- There are comparable tax credit units of the same bedroom size as the contract unit in the same project, and the comparable tax credit units do not have any form of rental assistance other than the tax credit; and
- The tax credit rent exceeds 110 percent of the fair market rent or any approved exception payment standard;

For contract units that meet all of these criteria, the rent to the owner must not exceed the lowest of:

- The tax credit rent minus any utility allowance;
- The reasonable rent; or
- The rent requested by the owner.

### ***Definitions***

A *qualified census tract* is any census tract (or equivalent geographic area defined by the Bureau of the Census) in which at least 50 percent of households have an income of less than 60 percent of the Area Median Gross Income (AMGI), or where the poverty rate is at least 25 percent and where the census tract is designated as a qualified census tract by HUD.

*Tax credit rent* is the rent charged for comparable units of the same bedroom size in the project that also receive the low-income housing tax credit but do not have any additional rental assistance (e.g., tenant-based voucher assistance).

### **Reasonable Rent [24 CFR 983.301(e) and 983.302(c)(2)]**

The PHA must determine reasonable rent in accordance with 24 CFR 983.303. The rent to the owner for each contract unit may at no time exceed the reasonable rent, except in cases where the PHA has elected within the HAP contract not to reduce rents below the initial rent to the owner and, upon redetermination of the rent to the owner, the reasonable rent would result in a rent below the initial rent. However, the rent to the owner must be reduced in the following cases:

- To correct errors in calculations in accordance with HUD requirements
- If additional housing assistance has been combined with PBV assistance after the execution of the initial HAP contract and a rent decrease is required pursuant to 24 CFR 983.55
- If a decrease in rent to the owner is required based on changes in the allocation of the responsibility for utilities between the owner and tenant

If the PHA has not elected within the HAP contract to establish the initial rent to the owner as the rent floor, the rent to the owner shall not at any time exceed the reasonable rent.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will elect not to reduce rents below the initial level within the HAP contract, with the exception of circumstances listed in 24 CFR 983.302(c)(2). If, upon redetermination of the rent to the owner, the reasonable rent would result in a rent below the initial rent, Jacksonville Housing will use the higher initial rent to owner amount.

### **Use of FMRs, Exception Payment Standards, and Utility Allowances [24 CFR 983.301(f)]**

When determining the initial rent to the owner, the PHA must use the most recently published FMR in effect and the utility allowance schedule in effect at the execution of the HAP contract. When redetermining the rent to the owner, the PHA must use the most recently published FMR and the utility allowance schedule in effect at the time of redetermination. At its discretion, the PHA may for initial rent, use the amounts in effect at any time during the 30-day period immediately before the beginning date of the HAP contract, or for redeterminations of rent, the 30-day period immediately before the redetermination date.

Any HUD-approved exception payment standard amount under the tenant-based voucher program also applies to the project-based voucher program. HUD will not approve a different exception payment standard amount for use in the PBV program.

Likewise, the PHA may not establish or apply different utility allowance amounts for the PBV program. The same utility allowance schedule applies to both the tenant-based and project-based voucher programs.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Upon written request by the owner, Jacksonville Housing will consider using the FMR or utility allowances in effect during the 30-day period before the start date of the HAP or redetermining rent. The owner must explain the need to use the previous FMRs or utility

allowances and include documentation in support of the request. The PHA will review and make a decision based on the circumstances and merit of each request.

In addition to considering a written request from an owner, Jacksonville Housing may decide to use the FMR or utility allowances in effect during the 30-day period before the start date of the HAP, or redetermination of rent, if Jacksonville Housing determines it is necessary due to PHA budgetary constraints.

#### **Use of Small Area FMRs (SAFMRs) [24 CFR 888.113(h)]**

While small area FMRs (SAFMRs) do not apply to PBV projects, PHAs that operate a tenant-based program under SAFMRs may apply SAFMRs to all future PBV HAP contracts. If the PHA adopts this policy, it must apply to all future PBV projects and the PHA's entire jurisdiction. The PHA and owner may not subsequently choose to revert to the use of the FMRs once the SAFMRs have been adopted, even if the PHA subsequently changes its policy.

Further, the PHA may apply SAFMRs to current PBV projects where the notice of owner selection was made on or before the effective date of PHA implementation, provided the owner is willing to mutually agree to do so and the application is prospective. The PHA and owner may not subsequently choose to revert to the use of the FMRs once the SAFMRs have been adopted, even if the PHA subsequently changes its policy. If rents increase as a result of the use of SAFMRs, the rent increase may not be effective until the first anniversary of the HAP contract.

#### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

Jacksonville Housing will not apply SAFMRs to Jacksonville Housing's PBV program.

#### **Redetermination of Rent [24 CFR 983.302]**

The PHA must redetermine the rent to the owner upon the owner's request or when there is a 10 percent or greater decrease in the published FMR.

#### ***Rent Increase***

If an owner wishes to request an increase in the rent to the owner from Jacksonville Housing, it must be requested at the annual anniversary of the HAP contract. The request must be in writing and in the form and manner required by Jacksonville Housing. Jacksonville Housing may only make rent increases in accordance with the rent limits described previously. There are no provisions in the PBV program for special adjustments (e.g., adjustments that reflect increases in the actual and necessary expenses of owning and maintaining the units that have resulted from substantial general increases in real property taxes, utility rates, or similar costs).

#### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

An owner's request for a rent increase must be submitted to Jacksonville Housing 60 days prior to the anniversary date of the HAP contract and must include the new rent amount the owner is proposing.

The PHA may not approve and the owner may not receive any increase of rent to the owner until and unless the owner has complied with the requirements of the HAP contract, including compliance with NSPIRE inspection protocol. The owner may not receive any retroactive increase in rent for any period of noncompliance.

### ***Rent Decrease***

If there is a decrease in the rent to the owner, as established in accordance with program requirements such as a change in the FMR or exception payment standard, or reasonable rent amount, the rent to the owner must be decreased regardless of whether the owner requested a rent adjustment, except where the PHA has elected within the HAP contract to not reduce rents below the initial rent under the initial HAP contract.

### ***Notice of Rent Change***

The rent to the owner is redetermined by written notice by the PHA to the owner specifying the amount of the redetermined rent. The PHA notice of rent adjustment constitutes an amendment of the rent to the owner specified in the HAP contract. The adjusted amount of rent to the owner applies for the period of 12 calendar months from the annual anniversary of the HAP contract.

#### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

Jacksonville Housing will provide the owner with at least 30 days' written notice of any change in the amount of rent to the owner.

### **PHA-Owned Units [24 CFR 983.301(g)]**

For PHA-owned PBV units, the initial rent to the owner and the annual redetermination of rent at the anniversary of the HAP contract are determined by the independent entity approved by HUD. The PHA must use the rent to the owner established by the independent entity.

### **REASONABLE RENT [24 CFR 983.303]**

At the time the initial rent is established and all times during the term of the HAP contract, the rent to the owner for a contract unit may not exceed the reasonable rent for the unit as determined by the PHA, except where the PHA has elected within the HAP contract to not reduce rents below the initial rent under the initial HAP contract.

### **When Rent Reasonable Determinations Are Required**

The PHA must redetermine the reasonable rent for a unit receiving PBV assistance whenever any of the following occur:

- There is a 10 percent or greater decrease in the published FMR in effect 60 days before the contract anniversary (for the unit sizes specified in the HAP contract) as compared with the FMR that was in effect one year before the contract anniversary date;
- The PHA approves a change in the allocation of responsibility for utilities between the owner and the tenant;
- The HAP contract is amended to substitute a different contract unit in the same building or project; or
- There is any other change that may substantially affect the reasonable rent.

### **How to Determine Reasonable Rent**

The reasonable rent of a unit receiving PBV assistance must be determined by comparison to rent for other comparable unassisted units. When making this determination, the PHA must consider factors that affect market rent. Such factors include the location, quality, size, type and

age of the unit, as well as the amenities, housing services maintenance, and utilities to be provided by the owner.

### ***Comparability Analysis***

For each unit, the comparability analysis must use at least three comparable units in the private unassisted market. This may include units in the premises or project that is receiving project-based assistance. The analysis must show how the reasonable rent was determined, including major differences between the contract units and comparable unassisted units, and must be retained by the PHA. The comparability analysis may be performed by PHA staff or by another qualified person or entity. Those who conduct these analyses or are involved in determining the housing assistance payment based on the analyses may not have any direct or indirect interest in the property.

### **PHA-Owned Units**

For PHA-owned units, the amount of the reasonable rent must be determined by an independent agency approved by HUD in accordance with PBV program requirements. The independent entity must provide a copy of the determination of reasonable rent for PHA-owned units to the PHA and to the HUD field office where the project is located.

### **Owner Certification of Reasonable Rent**

By accepting each monthly housing assistance payment, the owner certifies that the rent to owner is not more than rent charged by the owner for other comparable unassisted units in the premises. At any time, the PHA may require the owner to submit information on rents charged by the owner for other units in the premises or elsewhere.

### **EFFECT OF OTHER SUBSIDY AND RENT CONTROL**

In addition to the rent limits discussed in this chapter, other restrictions may limit the amount of rent to the owner. In addition, certain types of subsidized housing are not even eligible to receive PBV assistance.

### **Other Subsidy [24 CFR 983.304]**

To comply with HUD subsidy layering requirements, at the discretion of HUD or its designee, a PHA shall reduce the rent to owner because of other governmental subsidies, including tax credits or tax exemptions, grants, or other subsidized funding.

For units receiving assistance under the HOME program, rents may not exceed rent limits as required by that program.

For units in any of the following types of federally subsidized projects, the rent to owner may not exceed the subsidized rent (basic rent) or tax credit rent as determined in accordance with requirements for the applicable federal program:

- An insured or non-insured Section 236 project;
- A formerly insured or non-insured Section 236 project that continues to receive Interest Reduction Payment following a decoupling action;
- A Section 221(d)(3) below market interest rate (BMIR) project;
- A Section 515 project of the Rural Housing Service;

- Any other type of federally subsidized project specified by HUD.

### ***Combining Subsidy***

Rent to owner may not exceed any limitation required to comply with HUD subsidy layering requirements.

### **Rent Control [24 CFR 983.305]**

In addition to the rent limits set by PBV program regulations, the amount of rent to owner may also be subject to rent control or other limits under local, state, or federal law.

## **M. PAYMENTS TO OWNER**

### **HOUSING ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS [24 CFR 983.351]**

During the term of the HAP contract, the PHA must make housing assistance payments to the owner in accordance with the terms of the HAP contract. During the term of the HAP contract, payments must be made for each month that a contract unit complies with NSPIRE standards and is leased to and occupied by an eligible family. The housing assistance payment must be paid to the owner on or about the first day of the month for which payment is due, unless the owner and the PHA agree on a later date.

Except for discretionary vacancy payments, the PHA may not make any housing assistance payment to the owner for any month after the month when the family moves out of the unit (even if household goods or property are left in the unit).

The amount of the housing assistance payment by the PHA is the rent to the owner minus the tenant rent (total tenant payment minus the utility allowance).

The owner must comply with all provisions of the HAP contract to receive housing assistance payments.

### **VACANCY PAYMENTS [24 CFR 983.352]**

If an assisted family moves out of the unit, the owner may keep the housing assistance payment for the calendar month when the family moves out. However, the owner may not keep the payment if the PHA determines that the vacancy is the owner's fault.

#### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

If Jacksonville Housing determines that the owner is responsible for a vacancy and, as a result, is not entitled to keep the housing assistance payment, Jacksonville Housing will notify the landlord of the amount of housing assistance payment that the owner must repay. Jacksonville Housing will require the owner to repay the amount owed in accordance with the policies in Chapter 16.B.

At the discretion of the PHA, the HAP contract may provide for vacancy payments to the owner. The PHA may only make vacancy payments if:

- The owner gives the PHA prompt, written notice certifying that the family has vacated the unit and identifies the date when the family moved out (to the best of the owner's knowledge);

- The owner certifies that the vacancy is not the fault of the owner and that the unit was vacant during the period for which payment is claimed;
- The owner certifies that it has taken every reasonable action to minimize the likelihood and length of vacancy; and
- The owner provides any additional information required and requested by the PHA to verify that the owner is entitled to the vacancy payment.

The owner must submit a request for vacancy payments in the form and manner required by the PHA and must provide any information or substantiation required by the PHA to determine the amount of any vacancy payment.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

If an owner's HAP contract calls for vacancy payments and the owner wishes to receive them, the owner must have properly notified Jacksonville Housing of the vacancy in accordance with the policy in this chapter regarding filling vacancies.

In order for a vacancy payment request to be considered, it must be made within 10 business days of the end of the period for which the owner is requesting the vacancy payment. The request must include the required owner certifications and the PHA may require the owner to provide documentation to support the request. If the owner does not provide the information requested by Jacksonville Housing within 10 business days of Jacksonville Housing's request, no vacancy payments will be made.

### **TENANT RENT TO OWNER [24 CFR 983.353]**

The tenant rent is the portion of the rent to the owner paid by the family. The amount of tenant rent is determined by the PHA in accordance with HUD requirements. Any changes in the amount of tenant rent will be effective on the date stated in the PHA notice to the family and owner.

The family is responsible for paying the tenant's rent (total tenant payment minus the utility allowance). The amount of the tenant rent determined by the PHA is the maximum amount the owner may charge the family for the rental of a contract unit. The tenant rent covers all housing services, maintenance, equipment, and utilities to be provided by the owner. The owner may not demand or accept any rent payment from the tenant in excess of the tenant's rent as determined by the PHA. The owner must immediately return any excess payment to the tenant.

#### **Tenant and PHA Responsibilities**

The family is not responsible for the portion of the rent to the owner that is covered by the housing assistance payment, and the owner may not terminate the tenancy of an assisted family for nonpayment by the PHA.

Likewise, the PHA is responsible only for making the housing assistance payment to the owner in accordance with the HAP contract. The PHA is not responsible for paying tenant rent, or any other claim by the owner, including damage to the unit. The PHA may not use housing assistance payments or other program funds (including administrative fee reserves) to pay any part of the tenant rent or other claims by the owner.



## **Utility Reimbursements**

If the amount of the utility allowance exceeds the total tenant payment, the PHA must pay the amount of such excess to the tenant as reimbursement for tenant-paid utilities, and the tenant's rent to the owner must be zero.

The PHA may pay the utility reimbursement directly to the family or to the utility supplier on behalf of the family. If the PHA chooses to pay the utility supplier directly, the PHA must notify the family of the amount paid to the utility supplier.

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will make utility reimbursements to the family.

## **OTHER FEES AND CHARGES [24 CFR 983.354]**

### **Meals and Supportive Services**

With the exception of PBV assistance in assisted living developments, the owner may not require the tenant to pay charges for meals or supportive services. Non-payment of such charges is not grounds for termination of tenancy.

In assisted living developments receiving PBV assistance, the owner may charge for meals or supportive services. These charges may not be included in the owner's rent, nor may the value of meals and supportive services be included in the calculation of the reasonable rent. However, non-payment of such charges is grounds for the owner to terminate the lease in an assisted living development.

### **Other Charges by Owner**

The owner may not charge extra amounts for items customarily included in rent in the locality or provided at no additional cost to unsubsidized tenants in the premises.

## EXHIBIT 17-1: PBV DEVELOPMENT INFORMATION

(Fill out one for each development)

**Date:** [Enter the date on which this form was completed]

### DEVELOPMENT INFORMATION

**Development Name:** [Insert name of PBV development]

**Address:** [Insert full address of PBV development]

**Owner Information:** [Insert PBV development owner name and contact information. If development is PHA-owned, enter “PHA-owned.”]

**Property Management Company:** [Insert property management company name and contact information, or enter “None”]

**PHA-Owned:** [Enter “Yes” or “No.” If yes, enter name of independent entity]

**Mixed Finance Development:** [Enter “Yes” or “No.” If yes, list other types of funding (i.e., LIHTC, HOME, etc.) and units to which other funding applies.]

### HAP CONTRACT

**Effective Date of Contract:** [Enter the start date of HAP contract]

**HOTMA Requirements:** [If the HAP contract was signed prior to April 18, 2017, enter “Pre-HOTMA.” If the HAP contract was signed on or after April 18, 2017, enter “Post-HOTMA.”]

**Term of HAP Contract:** [Enter a term from HAP contract]

**Expiration Date of Contract:** [Enter expiration date from HAP contract]

### PBV UNITS

	0 BR	1 BR	2 BR	3 BR	4 BR	5 BR	Total
# of Units							
Initial Contract Rent	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	

**Structure Type:** [Identify the structure type, i.e. Single Family Detached, Duplex or Two Family, Row House or Town House, Low Rise (3,4 Stories, including Garden Apartment), Highrise (5 or more stories)]

**Housing Type:** [Identify if the units are an Independent Group Residence or Single Room Occupancy]

## UTILITY RESPONSIBILITY

[Enter in Accordance with the HAP Exhibit C]

Utility	Fuel Type (Gas, Electric, Oil, Coal, Other)	Paid By (Tenant/Owner)	Provided By (Tenant/Owner)
Heating	Electric	Tenant	Owner
Cooking	Electric	Tenant	Owner
Water Heating	Electric	Tenant	Owner
Other Electric		Tenant	Owner
Water		Owner	Owner
Sewer		Owner	Owner
Trash Collection		Owner	Owner
Air Conditioning		Tenant	Owner
Refrigerator			
Range/Microwave			
Other (specify)			

**Accessible Units and Features:** [Identify which units are accessible and describe accessibility features or enter “None”]

**Target Population:** [Describe the targeted population in accordance with the HAP contract or enter “None”]

**Excepted Units:** [Identify excepted unit types below or enter “None”]

- **Supportive Services:** [Enter “Yes, see Exhibit D of HAP Contract” or enter “No”]
- **Elderly Units:** [Enter “Yes” or “No.” If yes, identify which units are elderly units.]
- **Disabled Units** (only for HAP contracts executed prior to April 18, 2017) [Enter “Yes” or “No.” If yes, identify which units are for persons with disabilities.]
- **FUPY/FYI Units:** [Enter “Yes” or “No.” If yes, identify which units are FUP units]
- **Are units excepted because they are located in a low-poverty census tract area?:** [Enter “Yes” or “No”]

## WAITING LIST AND SELECTION

**Waiting List Type:** [ Enter “Site-based waiting list,” “Combined with HCV,” “Waiting list for entire PBV program,” or “Merged with another assisted housing program”]

**Preferences:** [Enter “Same as HCV; see Chapter 4” or describe preferences offered. If different from HCV, also note in Section 17.1.B of this policy.]

**Preference Verification:** [Enter “Same as HCV; see Chapter 7” or describe for each preference listed above. If different from HCV, note in Section 17.1.B of this policy.]

**For the PBV program, is the income limit the same as the HCV program?** (Note: In mixed finance developments, other income limits may also apply.) [Enter “Same as HCV; see Chapter 3” or clearly describe. If different from HCV, note in Section 17.1.B of this policy.]

## OCCUPANCY

**Subsidy Standards:** [Enter “Same as HCV; see Chapter 5” or describe. If different from HCV, note in Section 17.1.B of this policy]

**Vacancy Payments:** [Enter in accordance with HAP contract Part 1, e, 2 and Chapter 17 within this chapter]

**EXHIBIT 17-2: Special Provisions Applying to TPVs Awarded as Part of a Voluntary Conversion of Public Housing Units in Projects that Include RAD PBV Units**

**[24 CFR Part 972.200; Notice PIH 2019-05; Notice PIH 2019-23]**

Under certain circumstances, HUD allows small PHAs to reposition a public housing project (or portion of a project) by voluntarily converting units to tenant-based housing choice voucher assistance. In order to preserve affordable housing for residents of the project, the PHA is given priority to receive replacement tenant protection vouchers (TPVs). As part of the voluntary conversion, the PHA has the option to continue to operate it as rental housing. If so, the PHA or subsequent owner must allow existing families to remain in their units using the TPV in the form of tenant-based assistance. In this situation, however, the PHA may choose to project-base these TPVs in the former public housing project. Families must still be provided with the option to remain in their unit using tenant-based assistance. In order for the PHA to project-base the assistance and include these units on the PBV HAP contract, the family must voluntarily consent in writing to PBV assistance following the requirements in Appendix A of Notice PIH 2019-05. If the family fails to consent to PBV assistance and chooses to remain using tenant-based assistance, the family's unit is excluded from the PBV HAP contract until the family moves out or consents to switching to PBV assistance. In general, all applicable program regulations and guidance for the standard PBV program apply to these units.

The PHA may also convert units in the same former public housing project to the PBV program under the rental assistance demonstration (RAD) program. The RAD statute authorizes HUD to waive certain statutory and regulatory provisions governing the standard PBV program and specify alternative requirements. In order to facilitate the uniform treatment of residents and units at the project, Notice PIH 2019-23 extended some of the alternative requirements to non-RAD PBV units in the converted project (i.e., the TPV units in the project). As such, while PBV TPV units in the converted project generally follow the requirements for the standard PBV program listed in this chapter, where HUD has specified alternative requirements for non-RAD PBV units in the project, PBV TPV units will instead follow the requirements outlined in Chapter 18 of this policy for the RAD PBV program.

**RAD Requirements Applicable to Non-RAD units in the Project**

<b>Alternative Requirement under RAD as Listed in Notice PIH 2019-23</b>	<b>Standard PBV Policy That Does Not Apply</b>	<b>Applicable Policy in Chapter 18</b>
1.6.A.4. Site Selection – Compliance with PBV Goals	17-II.G. SITE SELECTION STANDARDS applies with the exception of deconcentration of poverty and expanding housing and economic opportunity requirements.	18-II.F. SITE SELECTION STANDARDS

1.6.B.5.d. PBV Site-Specific Utility Allowances	Alternative requirement under RAD. No corresponding policy in Chapter 17.	18-VII.C. UTILITY ALLOWANCES
1.6.C.1. No Rescreening of Tenants upon Conversion	Policies contained in Chapter 3 relating to eligibility do not apply to existing tenants who receive TPVs.	18-V.B. PROHIBITED RESCREENING OF EXISTING TENANTS UPON CONVERSION
1.6.C.2. Right to Return	Alternative requirement under RAD. No corresponding policy in Chapter 17.	18-I.D. RELOCATION REQUIREMENTS
1.6.C.3. Phase-in of Tenant Rent Increases	Alternative requirements under RAD. No corresponding policy in Chapter 17.	18-VIII.D. PHASE-IN OF TENANT RENT INCREASES
1.6.C.4. Family Self Sufficiency (FSS) and Resident Opportunities and Self-Sufficiency Service Coordinator (ROSS-SC) Programs	Not covered in administrative plan.	18-VI.C. PUBLIC HOUSING FSS AND ROSS PARTICIPANTS
1.6.C.5. Resident Participation and Funding	Alternative requirement under RAD. No corresponding policy in Chapter 17.	18-VI.D. RESIDENT PARTICIPATION AND FUNDING
1.6.C.6. Resident Procedural Rights	Policies related to hearings in Chapter 16 apply, with added procedural rights and notice requirements as outlined in Chapter 18.	18-VI.H. RESIDENTS' PROCEDURAL RIGHTS
1.6.C.7. Earned Income Disregard (EID)	Alternative requirements under RAD for in-place residents.  New admissions follow policies in Chapter 6.	18-VI.G. EARNED INCOME DISALLOWANCE
1.6.C.8. Jobs Plus	Not covered in administrative plan.	No corresponding policy.

1.6.C.9. When Total Tenant Payment Exceeds Gross Rent	Alternative requirements under RAD for in-place residents.  New admissions follow policies in 17-VII.B. LEASE, Continuation of Housing Assistance Payments.	18-VI.B. LEASE, Continuation of Housing Assistance Payments
1.6.C.10. Under-Occupied Unit	Alternative requirements under RAD for in-place residents.  New admissions follow 17-VII.C. MOVES, Overcrowded, Under-Occupied, and Accessible Units	18-VI.E. MOVES, Overcrowded, Under-Occupied, and Accessible Units
1.6.D.4. Establishment of Waiting List	Alternative requirements under RAD for initial establishment of the waiting list.  Once waiting list is established, follow 17-VI.D. SELECTION FROM THE WAITING LIST	18-V.D. ORGANIZATION OF THE WAITING LIST
1.6.D.10. Initial Certifications and Tenant Rent Calculations	Alternative requirements under RAD for in-place residents. No corresponding policy in Chapter 17.	18-VIII.C. TENANT RENT TO OWNER, Initial Certifications

Note, while Notice PIH 2019-05 states that the PHA must screen families for eligibility for a tenant protection voucher and that families must be below the low-income limit (80 percent of AMI), Notice PIH 2019-23 waives these requirements for residents in projects that include RAD PBV units.

## **CHAPTER 18 PROJECT-BASED VOUCHERS UNDER THE RENTAL ASSISTANCE DEMONSTRATION (RAD) PROGRAM**

### **INTRODUCTION**

This chapter describes HUD regulations and PHA policies related to the Project-Based Voucher (PBV) program under the Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) program in eight parts:

General Requirements. This part describes the general provisions of the PBV program, including maximum budget authority requirements, relocation requirements, and equal opportunity requirements.

PBV Project Selection. This part describes the cap on assistance at projects receiving PBV assistance, ownership and control, and site selection standards.

Dwelling Units. This part describes requirements related to NSPIRE standards, the type and frequency of inspections, and housing accessibility for persons with disabilities.

Housing Assistance Payments Contract. This part discusses HAP contract requirements and policies including the execution and term of the HAP contract.

Selection of PBV Program Participants. This part describes the requirements and policies governing how the PHA and the owner will select a family to receive PBV assistance.

Occupancy. This part discusses occupancy requirements related to the lease and describes under what conditions families are allowed or required to move.

Determining Contract Rent. This part describes how the initial rent to the owner is determined and how the rent will be redetermined throughout the life of the HAP contract.

Payments to Owner. This part describes the types of payments owners may receive under this program.

### **A. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS**

#### **OVERVIEW AND HISTORY OF THE RAD PROGRAM**

The Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) program was authorized in 2012 in order to assess the effectiveness of converting public housing, moderate rehabilitation properties, and units under the rent supplement and rental assistance payments programs to long-term, project-based Section 8 rental assistance. The program's four primary objectives are to:

- Preserve and improve public and other assisted housing.
- Standardize the administration of the plethora of federally subsidized housing programs and rules. The conversions are intended to promote operating efficiency by using a Section 8 project-based assistance model that has proven successful and effective for over 30 years. In other words, RAD aligns eligible properties more closely with other affordable housing programs.



- Attract private market capital for property renovations. This model may allow properties to leverage private debt and equity to make capital repairs.
- Increase tenant mobility opportunities.

Under the first component, a PHA with public housing units may submit an application to HUD to convert some or all of their public housing units to long-term, project-based Section 8 HAP contracts under either:

- Project-based rental assistance (PBRA) under HUD’s Office of Multifamily Housing Programs.
- Project-based vouchers (PBVs) under HUD’s Office of Public and Indian Housing (PIH).

This chapter will focus on public housing conversions to the PBV program under RAD. We will refer to the standard PBV program and the RAD PBV program to distinguish between the requirements for public housing conversion under RAD and PBV units under the standard PBV program.

## **APPLICABLE REGULATIONS**

On the whole, the regulations for both the standard and RAD PBV programs generally follow the regulations for the tenant-based HCV program found in 24 CFR Part 982. However, important parts of the tenant-based regulations do not apply to the project-based program. 24 CFR Part 983 outlines the sections of 24 CFR Part 982 that are not applicable to the project-based program.

For the RAD PBV program, Congress authorized HUD to waive certain statutory and regulatory provisions or establish alternative requirements from the standard PBV program. These provisions are identified in Notice PIH 2019-23 (issued September 5, 2019). Any non-RAD PBV units located in the covered project are subject to the same waivers and alternative requirements where noted in Notice PIH 2019-23 and in this policy.

Otherwise, all regulatory and statutory requirements for the standard PBV program in 24 CFR Part 983 and Section 8(o)(13) of the Housing Act of 1937, and all applicable standing and subsequent Office of Public and Indian Housing (PIH) notices and guidance, including related handbooks, apply to RAD PBV. This includes environmental review, Davis-Bacon, and fair housing requirements.

RAD is authorized by the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-55, approved November 18, 2011), as amended by the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-76, approved January 17, 2014), the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act of 2015 (Public Law 113-235, approved December 6, 2014), the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2016 (Public Law 114-113, approved December 18, 2015), the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017 (Public Law 115-31, approved May 5, 2017), and section 237 of Title II, Division L, Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies, of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115-141, approved March 23, 2018) collectively, the “RAD Statute.”

Requirements specific to the RAD program may be found in the following:

- Generally, public housing projects converting assistance under RAD are bound by the terms of the notice in effect at the time of closing.

- Notice PIH 2019-23 was immediately applicable at the time of closing to all projects converting assistance (notwithstanding execution of a commitment for conversion). Notice PIH 2019-23 was published on September 5, 2019.
  - Except with respect to changes in the project eligibility and selection criteria, not included in this policy, which are effective after a 30-day comment period.
- Notice PIH 2012-32, REV-3, published on January 12, 2017, was applicable to projects seeking assistance conversion through RAD, including those for which a CHAP had already been issued.
  - Except with respect to changes in the project eligibility and selection criteria, not included in this policy, which were effective after a 30-day comment period.
- Notice PIH 2012-32, REV-2, was applicable to projects seeking assistance conversion through RAD, including those for which a CHAP had already been issued, when it was published on June 15, 2015.
  - Except with respect to changes in the project eligibility and selection criteria, not included in this policy, which are effective after a 30-day comment period.
- RAD Quick Reference Guide for Public Housing Converting to PBV Assistance (6/20)
- RAD Welcome Guide for New Awardees: RAD 1st Component (3/15)
- Notice PIH 2016-17, Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) Notice Regarding Fair Housing and Civil Rights Requirements and Relocation Requirements Applicable to RAD First Component – Public Housing Conversions.

This Notice applies to all projects that have applied for RAD conversion but have not yet converted as of November 10, 2016.

- Notice PIH 2014-17, Relocation Requirements under the RAD Program, Public Housing in the First Component.

This notice may apply to projects that have converted to RAD prior to November 10, 2016, AND who have requested and received approval from HUD to be governed by this notice. See PIH Notice 2016-17, Section 1, Paragraph 1.3 for applicability.

**NOTE: The policies in this chapter follow Notice PIH 2016-17. If your project falls under PIH 2014-17, applicable policies may be found in this chapter.**

- RAD FAQs (<http://www.radresource.net/search.cfm>)

#### PHA Policy

<u>Project</u>	<u>Closing Date</u>	<u>RAD Notice</u>

In other words, the standard PBV program follows many of the same regulations as the tenant-based HCV program, but not all of them, and the RAD PBV program follows many of the same regulations as the standard PBV program, but not all of them.

MTW agencies are able to apply activities impacting the PBV program that are approved in the MTW Plan to properties converting under RAD, provided they do not conflict with RAD requirements.

## **B. TENANT-BASED VS. PROJECT-BASED VOUCHER ASSISTANCE** **[24 CFR 983.2]**

Much of the tenant-based voucher program regulations also apply to the PBV program. Consequently, many of the PHA policies related to tenant-based assistance also apply to RAD PBV assistance. The provisions of the tenant-based voucher regulations that do not apply to the PBV program are listed at 24 CFR 983.2.

### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

Except as otherwise noted in this chapter, or unless specifically prohibited by PBV program regulations, Jacksonville Housing policies for the tenant-based voucher program contained in this administrative plan also apply to the RAD PBV program and its participants. This chapter is intended to address requirements specific to the RAD PBV program only.

See Exhibit 18-1 for information on projects to which the PHA has attached RAD PBV assistance.

## **C. RELOCATION REQUIREMENTS**

For projects that apply for conversion of assistance under the First Component of RAD and will convert on November 10, 2016, or later, the following applies [Notice PIH 2016-17]:

- In some developments, in-place residents may need to be relocated as a result of properties undergoing repairs, being demolished and rebuilt, or when assistance is transferred from one site to another. RAD program rules prohibit the permanent, involuntary relocation of residents as a result of conversion. Residents who are temporarily relocated retain the right to return to the project once it has been completed. Any non-RAD PBV units located in the same project are also subject to the right to return.
- Relocation assistance provided to residents will vary depending on the length of time relocation is required. Residents must be properly notified in advance of relocation requirements in accordance with RAD program rules and Uniform Relocation Act (URA) requirements, and other requirements that may be applicable such as Section 104(d) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended. Sample informing notices are provided in Appendices 2–5 of Notice PIH 2014-17. A written relocation plan is required if the RAD conversion involves permanent relocation (including a move in connection with a transfer of assistance) or temporary relocation anticipated to last longer than a year. While the PHA is not required to have a written relocation plan for temporary relocation lasting one year or less, HUD strongly encourages PHAs to prepare one. Appendix II of Notice PIH 2016-17 contains recommended contents for a relocation plan.
- In addition, PHAs must undertake a planning process that complies with the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, as amended (URA), although not all relocations under RAD will trigger requirements under URA. URA

statute and implementing regulations may be found at 49 CFR Part 24. The obligation due to relocating residents under RAD are broader than URA relocation assistance and payments.

- Any residents that may need to be temporarily relocated to facilitate rehabilitation or construction will have a right to return to either: a) a unit at the development once rehabilitation or construction is completed, provided the resident's household is not under-housed; or b) a unit in the development which provides the same major features as the resident's unit in the development prior to the implementation of the RAD conversion.
- Where the transfer of assistance to a new site is warranted and approved, residents of the converting development will have the right to reside in an assisted unit at the new site once rehabilitation or construction is complete.
- If the PHA's proposed plans for conversion would preclude a resident from returning to the development, the resident must be given an opportunity to comment and/or object to such plans. PHAs must alter the project plans to accommodate the resident's right to return to the development if the resident would be precluded from returning to the development.
- Examples of project plans that may preclude a resident from returning to the development include, but are not limited to:

Changes in the development's bedroom distribution that decrease the size of the units, resulting in the resident being under-housed;

The resident cannot be accommodated in the remaining assisted units due to a reduction in the number of assisted units at the development;

Income limit eligibility requirements associated with the LIHTC program or another program; and

Failure to provide a reasonable accommodation, in violation of applicable law, where reasonable accommodation may include installation of accessibility features that are needed by the resident.

- Residents of a development undergoing conversion that would be precluded from returning to the development may voluntarily accept a PHA or owner's offer to permanently relocate to alternative housing, and thereby waive their right to return to the development after rehabilitation or construction is completed. In this event, the PHA must secure the resident's written consent to a voluntary permanent relocation in lieu of returning to the development. PHAs are prohibited from employing any tactics to pressure residents into relinquishing their right to return or accepting other housing options. Additionally, a PHA may not terminate a resident's lease if the PHA fails to obtain the resident's consent and the resident seeks to exercise the right to return.
- In the case of multi-phase RAD transactions, the resident has a right to return to the development or to other converted phases of the development that are available for occupancy at the time the resident is eligible to exercise their right of return. Generally, the resident's right to return must be accommodated within the development associated with the resident's original unit, however, the PHA may treat multiple converted developments on the same site as one for purposes of right to return. Should the PHA seek to have the resident exercise the right to return at a future phase, the PHA must secure the resident's consent in writing.

- Alternative housing options may involve a variety of housing options, including but not limited to:

Transfers to public housing

Admission to other affordable housing properties subject to the applicable program rules

Housing choice voucher (HCV) assistance

Homeownership programs subject to the applicable program rules

Other options identified by the PHA

However, for projects that applied for conversion prior to November 10, 2016, the following applies [Notice PIH 2014-17]:

- In some developments, in-place residents may need to be relocated as a result of properties undergoing repairs, being demolished and rebuilt, or when assistance is transferred from one site to another. RAD program rules prohibit the permanent, involuntary relocation of residents as a result of conversion. Residents that are temporarily relocated retain the right to return to the project once it has been completed.
- Relocation assistance provided to residents will vary depending on the length of time relocation is required. Residents must be properly notified in advance of relocation requirements in accordance with RAD program rules and Uniform Relocation Act (URA) requirements. Sample informing notices are provided in Appendices 2–5 of Notice PIH 2014-17. While the PHA is not required to have a written relocation plan, HUD strongly encourages PHAs to prepare one. Appendix I of Notice PIH 2014-17 contains recommended contents for a relocation plan.
- In addition, PHAs must undertake a planning process that complies with the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, as amended (URA), although not all relocations under RAD will trigger requirements under URA. URA statute and implementing regulations may be found at 49 CFR Part 24.
- Any residents that may need to be temporarily relocated to facilitate rehabilitation or construction will have a right to return to an assisted unit at the development once rehabilitation or construction is completed. Where the transfer of assistance to a new site is warranted and approved, residents of the converting development will have the right to reside in an assisted unit at the new site once rehabilitation or construction is complete. Residents of a development undergoing conversion of assistance may voluntarily accept a PHA or owner's offer to permanently relocate to another assisted unit, and thereby waive their right to return to the development after rehabilitation or construction is completed.

## **EQUAL OPPORTUNITY REQUIREMENTS [24 CFR 983.8; 24 CFR 5.105; Notice PIH 2016-17]**

RAD conversions are governed by the same civil rights authorities that govern HUD-assisted activities in general. These authorities prohibit discrimination and impose affirmative obligations on HUD program participants. PHAs must comply with all applicable fair housing and civil rights laws, including but not limited to the Fair Housing Act, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, when conducting relocation planning

and providing relocation assistance. For example, persons with disabilities returning to the RAD project may not be turned away or placed on a waiting list due to a lack of accessible units. Their need for an accessible unit must be accommodated. See the *RAD Fair Housing, Civil Rights, and Relocation Notice* [Notice PIH 2016-17] for more information.

## **D. PBV PROJECT SELECTION**

### **OVERVIEW**

Unlike in the standard PBV program, where the PHA typically selects the property through an owner proposal selection process, projects selected for assistance under RAD PBV are selected in accordance with the provisions in Notice PIH 2019-23. Therefore, 24 CFR 983.51 does not apply since HUD selects RAD properties through a competitive selection process.

### **OWNERSHIP AND CONTROL [Notice PIH 2019-23]**

For projects governed by Notice PIH 2019-23, the following language applies:

- Under the PBV program, the contract administrator and the owner listed on the contract cannot be the same legal entity (i.e., the PHA cannot execute a contract with itself). To avoid this situation, the PHA may either: 1) Transfer the ownership of the project to a nonprofit affiliate or instrumentality of the PHA (including to a “single-purpose entity” that owns nothing other than the property, which will typically be a requirement of a lender or investor), or 2) The PHA can form a related entity that is responsible for management and leasing and can serve as the owner for purposes of the Section 8 HAP contract; in this scenario, the HAP is then executed between the PHA (as the contract administrator) and the PHA’s related entity (as the owner for HAP contract purposes). Note that in the second scenario, both the PHA and the entity serving as the owner for HAP contract purposes will be required to sign the RAD Use Agreement [RAD Resource Desk FAQ 01/24/19].
- Except where permitted to facilitate the use of low-income housing tax credits, during both the initial term and renewal terms of the HAP contract, ownership must be by a public or nonprofit entity. HUD may also allow ownership of the project to be transferred to a tax credit entity controlled by a for-profit entity to facilitate the use of tax credits for the project, but only if HUD determines that the PHA or a nonprofit entity preserves an interest in the profit. The requirement for a public or nonprofit entity, or preservation of an interest by a PHA or nonprofit in a property owned by a tax credit entity controlled by a for-profit entity, is satisfied if a public or nonprofit entity (or entities), directly or through a wholly owned affiliate (1) holds a fee simple interest in the property; (2) is the lessor under a ground lease with the property owner; (3) has the direct or indirect legal authority to direct the financial and legal interest of the property owner with respect to the RAD units, (4) owns 51 percent or more of the general partner interests in a limited partnership or 51 percent or more of the managing member interests in a limited liability company with all powers of a general partner or managing member, as applicable; (5) owns a lesser percentage of the general partner or managing member interests and holds certain control rights as approved by HUD; (6) owns 51 percent or more of all ownership interests in a limited partnership or limited liability company and holds certain control rights as approved by HUD; or (7) demonstrates other ownership and control arrangements approved by HUD.

- Control may be established through the terms of the project owner's governing documents or through a Control Agreement, provided that in either case, amendment of the terms of control requires consent from HUD.

For projects subject to the requirements of Notice PIH 2012-32, REV-3, the following language applies:

- Except where permitted to facilitate the use of low-income housing tax credits, during both the initial term and renewal terms of the HAP contract, ownership must be by a public or nonprofit entity. The requirement for a public or nonprofit entity is satisfied if a public or nonprofit entity (or entities), directly or through a wholly owned affiliate (1) holds a fee simple interest in the property; (2) is the lessor under a ground lease with the property owner; (3) has the direct or indirect legal authority to direct the financial and legal interest of the property owner with respect to the RAD units, (4) owns 51 percent or more of the general partner interests in a limited partnership or 51 percent or more of the managing member interests in a limited liability company with all powers of a general partner or managing member, as applicable; (5) owns a lesser percentage of the general partner or managing member interests and holds certain control rights as approved by HUD; (6) owns 51 percent or more of all ownership interests in a limited partnership or limited liability company and holds certain control rights as approved by HUD; or (7) other ownership and control arrangements approved by HUD.
- If low-income housing tax credits will be used, HUD may allow ownership of the property to be transferred to a tax credit entity controlled by a for-profit entity if HUD determines that the PHA preserves its interest in the property. Preservation of PHA interest in the property includes but is not limited to the following:

The PHA, or an affiliate under its sole control, is the general partner or managing member;

The PHA retains fee ownership and leases the real estate to the tax credit entity pursuant to a long-term ground lease;

The PHA retains control over leasing the property and determining program eligibility;

The PHA enters into a control agreement by which the PHA retains consent rights over certain acts of the project owner and retains certain rights over the project;

Other means that HUD finds acceptable

For projects that converted assistance prior to the implementation of Notice PIH 2012-32, REV-3, the following language applies:

- During both the initial term and renewal terms of the HAP contract, ownership must be either of the following:
  - A public or nonprofit entity that has legal title to the property. The entity must have the legal authority to direct the financial, legal, beneficial, and other interests of the property; or
  - A private entity, if the property has low-income tax credits. The PHA must maintain control via a ground lease.

## **PHA-OWNED UNITS [24 CFR 983.59, FR Notice 1/18/17, and Notice PIH 2017-21]**

If the project is PHA-owned, rent-setting and inspection functions set out in 24 CFR 983.59 must be conducted by an independent entity approved by HUD.

The definition of *ownership or control* provided under Notice PIH 2019-23 (listed above) is used specifically to determine whether a PHA retains control over a project for purposes of HUD's requirement for ownership or control of the covered project under RAD. For purposes of determining whether an independent entity will perform certain functions for the project, the definition of *PHA-owned* under Notice PIH 2017-21 is used. This is the same definition used for standard PBV units. In some cases, a project may meet the RAD definition of *ownership or control* but may not be considered PHA-owned for purposes of requiring an independent entity.

The independent entity that performs the program services may be the unit of general local government for the PHA jurisdiction (unless the PHA is itself the unit of general local government or an agency of such government), or another HUD-approved public or private independent entity.

The PHA may compensate the independent entity from PHA ongoing administrative fee income (including amounts credited to the administrative fee reserve). The PHA may not use other program receipts to compensate the independent entity for its services. The PHA, and the independent entity, may not charge the family any fee for the services provided by the independent entity.

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

If units converted to PBV under RAD are PHA-owned housing, Jacksonville Housing will use an independent entity as the HUD-approved independent entity.

## **E. SUBSIDY LAYERING REQUIREMENTS [Notice PIH 2019-23; Notice PIH 2012-32, REV-3; Notice PIH 2012-32, REV-2]**

For projects governed by Notice PIH 2019-23, the following language applies:

- In the case of a PHA that will no longer have ACC units as a result of the pending or simultaneous closing or have less than 50 units remaining and has initiated procedures to dispose of their final ACC units, there is no restriction on the amount of public housing funds that may be contributed to the covered project or projects through the conversion. However, the PHA must estimate and plan for outstanding liabilities and costs and must follow Notice PIH 2016-23 or successor notice regarding the administrative activities required to terminate the ACC if it has no plans to develop additional public housing.
- In the case where the PHA will continue to maintain other units in its inventory under a public housing ACC, a contribution of operating funds to the covered project that exceeds the average amount the project has held in operating reserves over the past three years will trigger a subsidy layering review under 24 CFR 4.13. Similarly, any contribution of capital funds, including Replacement Housing Factor (RHF) or Demolition Disposition Transitional Funding (DDTF), will trigger a subsidy layering review. Notwithstanding the subsidy layering review, PHAs should be mindful of how the capital funds or operating reserves used in the financing of its RAD properties may impact the physical and financial health of properties that will remain in its public housing inventory.



- Following execution of the HAP contract, PHAs are authorized to use operating and capital funds to make HAP payments for the remainder of the first calendar year in which the HAP contract is effective. Otherwise, a PHA may not contribute public housing program funds to the covered project unless those funds have been identified in the RCC and converted at closing for Section 8 RAD purposes.

For projects governed by Notice PIH 2012-32, REV-3, the following language applies:

- In the case of a PHA that is converting all of its ACC units, there is no restriction on the amount of public housing funds that may be contributed to the covered project at closing; the PHA may convey all program funds to the covered projects. In order to cover the cost of administrative activities required to terminate the ACC, once it no longer has units under the ACC and has no plans to develop additional public housing, the PHA may:

Designate that a reserve associated with the project be available to fund any public housing closeout costs (such as an operating deficit reserve or a specific PHA closeout reserve). Any funds not needed for public housing closeout costs would remain in such reserve or may be transferred to another reserve associated with the project (such as the replacement reserve). Thereafter, these funds may be used at the project pursuant to the authorized use of the applicable reserve; or

Retain funds under the public housing program for this purpose. However, HUD will recapture any public housing funds that a PHA does not expend for closeout costs.

- In the case where the PHA will continue to maintain other units in its inventory under a public housing ACC, a contribution of operating funds to the covered project that exceeds the average amount the project has held in operating reserves over the past three years will trigger a subsidy layering review under 24 CFR 4.13. Similarly, any contribution of capital funds, including Replacement Housing Factor (RHF) or Demolition Disposition Transitional Funding (DDTF), will trigger a subsidy layering review. Notwithstanding the subsidy layering review, PHAs should be mindful of how the capital funds or operating reserves used in the financing of its RAD properties may impact the physical and financial health of properties that will remain in its public housing inventory.
- In addition, following the execution of the HAP contract, PHAs are authorized to use operating and capital funds to make HAP payments for the remainder of the first calendar year in which the HAP contract is effective. Otherwise, a PHA may not contribute public housing program funds to the covered project unless such funding has been identified in the approved financing plan and included in the approved “sources and uses” attached to the RCC.

For projects governed by the requirements of Notice PIH 2012-32, REV-2, the following language applies:

- In the case of a PHA that is converting all of its ACC units, there is no restriction on the amount of public housing funds that may be contributed to the covered project at closing; the PHA may convey all program funds to the covered project. HUD will recapture any public housing funds that a PHA has not expended once it no longer has units under ACC. In the case where the PHA will continue to maintain other units in its inventory under a public housing ACC, a contribution of operating funds to the covered project that exceeds the average amount the project has held in operating reserves over the past three years will

trigger a subsidy layering review under 24 CFR 4.13. Similarly, any contribution of capital funds, including Replacement Housing Factor (RHF) or Demolition Disposition Transitional Funding (DDTF), will trigger a subsidy layering review. Notwithstanding the subsidy layering review, PHAs should be mindful of how the capital funds or operating reserves used in the financing of its RAD properties may impact the physical and financial health of properties that will remain in its public housing inventory.

## **F. PBV PERCENTAGE LIMITATION AND UNIT CAP [Notice PIH 2019-23]**

### **PBV Percentage Limitation**

Covered projects do not count against the maximum amount of assistance a PHA may utilize for the PBV program, which under the standard PBV program is set at 20 percent of the authorized units allocated to a PHA under the HCV program. To implement this provision, HUD is waiving section 8(o)(13)(B) of the 1937 Act as well as 24 CFR 983.6.

### **Unit Cap Limitation**

When HUD published REV-3 of Notice PIH 2012-32, the cap on the number of assisted units in each project was eliminated. Under the standard PBV program the cap is set at the greater of 25 units or 25 percent of the units in the project. HUD is waiving this requirement, and projects governed by Notice PIH 2019-23 and Notice PIH 2012-32, REV-3 have no cap on the number of units that may receive PBV assistance in a project.

However, for projects that are governed by REV-2 of Notice PIH 2012-32, the cap on the number of PBV units in the project is increased to 50 percent. In these projects, however, provided units met certain exception criteria, the PHA may have converted a larger number of units to RAD PBV. For projects governed by the requirements of Notice PIH 2012-32, REV-2 **only**, the following language applies:

- In general, the PHA may not provide PBV assistance for units in a project if the total number of dwelling units in the project that will receive PBV assistance during the term of the PBV HAP contract is more than 50 percent of the number of dwelling units (assisted or unassisted) in the project. However, PHAs may exceed the 50 percent limitation when units in the project are occupied by elderly and/or disabled families or families that will receive supportive services. These units are known as “excepted units” and do not count toward the project cap.
- For projects governed by the requirements of Notice PIH 2012-32, REV-2 choosing to include excepted units, additional policy decisions may be required.

#### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

For projects governed by Notice PIH 2012-32, REV-2, the PHA will not provide RAD PBV assistance for any excepted units.

## **SITE SELECTION STANDARDS [Notice PIH 2019-23; Notice PIH 2016-17]**

Site selection requirements set forth in 24 CFR 983.57 apply to RAD PBV, with the exception of 983.57(b)(1) and (c)(2). HUD waives the provisions regarding deconcentration of poverty and expanding housing and economic opportunities for existing housing sites.

To facilitate the uniform treatment of residents and units, any non-RAD PBV units located in the same project are subject to the terms of this provision.

HUD will conduct a front-end civil rights review of the PHA's proposed site in certain circumstances. For RAD PBV conversions that involve new construction located in an area of minority concentration (whether on the existing public housing site or on a new site) HUD will determine whether it meets one of the exceptions that would allow for new construction in an area of minority concentration.

The PHA must ensure that its RAD PBV conversion, including any associated new construction, is consistent with its certification to affirmatively further fair housing and complies with civil rights laws.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW [Notice PIH 2019-23; *Environmental Review Requirements for RAD Conversions*, March 2019]**

HUD cannot approve an applicant's financing plan submission unless and until the required environmental review has been completed for the applicant's proposed conversion project and found to meet environmental review requirements. Environmental documents must be submitted no later than the applicant's financing plan. HUD will not issue a RAD Conversion Commitment (RCC) if the project plan does not meet the environmental review requirements described in Attachment 1A of Notice PIH 2019-23. Once an awardee has submitted an application for a specific project, they may not make any choice limiting actions before the completion of the environmental review.

## **G. DWELLING UNITS**

### **OVERVIEW**

This part identifies the special housing quality standards that apply to the RAD PBV program, housing accessibility for persons with disabilities, and special procedures for conducting housing NSPIRE inspections.

### **NATIONAL STANDARDS FOR THE PHYSICAL INSPECTION OF REAL ESTATE (NSPIRE) [24 CFR 983.101 and 24 CFR 5.703]**

NSPIRE standards for the tenant-based program generally apply to the PBV program. NSPIRE requirements for shared housing, manufactured home space rental, and the homeownership option do not apply because these housing types are not assisted under the PBV program.

### **Lead-based Paint [24 CFR 983.101(c); Notice PIH 2019-23]**

The lead-based paint requirements for the tenant-based voucher program do not apply to the PBV program. Instead, The Lead-based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act (42 U.S.C. 4821-4846), the Residential Lead-based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 4851-4856), and implementing regulations at 24 CFR part 35, subparts A, B, H, and R, and 40 CFR 745.227, apply to the PBV program.

## **HOUSING ACCESSIBILITY FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES [Notice PIH 2016-17]**

Federal accessibility requirements apply to all conversions, whether they entail new construction, alternations, or existing facilities. The housing must comply with program accessibility requirements of section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794) and implementing regulations at 24 CFR part 8. The PHA must ensure that the percentage of accessible dwelling units complies with the requirements of section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794), as implemented by HUD's regulations at 24 CFR 8, subpart C.

Housing first occupied after March 13, 1991, must comply with design and construction requirements of the Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988 and implementing regulations at 24 CFR 100.205, as applicable. (24 CFR 983.102)

## **INSPECTING UNITS**

### **Initial Inspection [RAD Quick Reference Guide, Notice PIH 2019-23, and Notice PIH 2023-19]**

Under standard PBV regulations at 24 CFR 983.103(b), a PHA may not enter into a HAP contract until the PHA has determined all units comply with NSPIRE standards. It is the responsibility of the contract administrator to perform this initial inspection (unless units are PHA-owned). In order to accommodate projects in which repairs are conducted, however, HUD has waived this requirement when units are undergoing rehabilitation. In this case, units must meet NSPIRE standards by the date indicated in the RAD Conversion Commitment (RCC). To place the unit under HAP contract and commence making payments, the PHA may rely on the owner's certification that the owner has no reasonable basis to have knowledge that life-threatening conditions exist in the unit or units to be added to the HAP contract instead of conducting an initial inspection. During the period of the work, NSPIRE requirements apply. The PHA must enforce the project owner's obligations and conduct inspections when needed, (for example in response to tenant complaints or other information coming to its attention), and the owner must correct any deficiencies in accordance with NSPIRE requirements (i.e., no more than 24 hours for a life-threatening deficiency, and within no more than 30 calendar days or any PHA-approved extension for other defects, but no later than the date of the completion of the work as indicated in the RCC).

### **Turnover Inspections [24 CFR 983.103(c), FR Notice 1/18/17, and Notice PIH 2017-20]**

Before providing assistance to a new family in a contract unit, the PHA must inspect the unit. The PHA may not provide assistance on behalf of the family until the unit fully complies with NSPIRE.

### **Annual/Biennial Inspections [24 CFR 983.103(d); FR Notice 6/25/14]**

At least once every 24 months (or once every 36 months for small rural PHAs) during the term of the HAP contract, the PHA must inspect a random sample consisting of at least 20 percent of the contract units in each building, to determine if the contract units and the premises are maintained in accordance with NSPIRE. Turnover inspections are not counted toward meeting this inspection requirement.

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will inspect on an annual basis a random sample consisting of at least 20 percent of the contract units in each building to determine if the contract units and the premises are maintained in accordance with NSPIRE.

If more than 20 percent of the sample of inspected contract units in a building fail the initial inspection, the PHA must reinspect 100 percent of the contract units in the building.

### **Alternative Inspections [24 CFR 983.103(g); Notice PIH 2016-05]**

In the case of mixed-finance properties that are subject to alternative inspections, the PHA may rely upon an alternative inspection conducted at least triennially to demonstrate compliance with inspection requirements.

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will not rely on alternative inspection standards.

### **Other Inspections [24 CFR 983.103(e)]**

The PHA must inspect contract units whenever needed to determine that the contract units comply with NSPIRE and that the owner is providing maintenance, utilities, and other services in accordance with the HAP contract. The PHA must take into account complaints and any other information coming to its attention in scheduling inspections.

The PHA must conduct follow-up inspections needed to determine if the owner (or, if applicable, the family) has corrected an NSPIRE deficiency and must conduct inspections to determine the basis for exercise of contractual and other remedies for owner or family violation of NSPIRE standards.

In conducting PHA supervisory quality control inspections, the PHA should include a representative sample of both tenant-based and project-based units.

### **Inspecting PHA-Owned Units [24 CFR 983.103(f); Notice PIH 2017-21]**

In the case of PHA-owned units, all required inspections must be performed by an independent entity designated by the PHA and approved by HUD. The independent entity must furnish a copy of each inspection report to the PHA and to the HUD field office where the project is located. The PHA must take all necessary actions in response to inspection reports from the independent agency, including exercise of contractual remedies for violation of the HAP contract by the PHA-owner.

## **H. HOUSING ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS (HAP) CONTRACT**

### **OVERVIEW [RAD PBV Quick Reference Guide 6/20]**

Public housing projects converting under RAD do not employ the PBV Agreement to Enter into a Housing Assistance Payments (AHAP) contract. Instead, following the execution of all requirements contained in the Commitment to Enter into a HAP (CHAP) contract and the RAD Conversion Commitment (RCC), a project is converted immediately to the RAD PBV HAP contract following the closing of any construction financing. Owners of public housing projects converted to PBV assistance via RAD enter into a HAP contract with the PHA that will

administer the PBV assistance. Units assisted under a RAD PBV HAP contract must be subject to long-term, renewable use and affordability restrictions.

## **HAP CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS**

### **Contract Information [*RAD PBV Quick Reference Guide 6/20*; Notice PIH 2019-23]**

The RAD PBV program uses the PBV HAP contract for new construction or rehabilitated housing (Form HUD-52530A), as modified by the RAD rider (Form HUD-52621). For closings on or after January 1, 2018, HUD incorporated the RAD rider directly into the standard PBV HAP contract. For closing that occurred prior to January 1, 2018, the RAD rider must be attached to the PBV HAP contract.

The distinction between “existing housing” and “rehabilitated and newly constructed housing” is overridden by RAD requirements. The project must also have an initial RAD use agreement. All public housing RAD conversion properties financed with LIHTC are also required to include an LIHTC rider.

### **Execution and Effective date of the HAP Contract [*RAD Blast! 7/11/16*]**

RAD PBV projects do not employ an Agreement to Enter into a Housing Assistance Payments (AHAP) contract like in the standard PBV program. Rather, when the conditions of the CHAP and the RCC are met and the conversion has closed, the PHA executes the HAP contract. Project owners may select the effective date of the HAP contract as the first day of either of the two months following the completed closing.

### **Term of HAP Contract [Notice PIH 2019-23]**

The initial term of the HAP contract may not be for less than 15 years and may be for a term of up to 20 years upon request of the owner and with the approval of the administering voucher agency. Upon expiration of the initial term of the contract, and upon each renewal term of the contract, the owner must accept each offer to renew the contract, for the prescribed number and mix of units, either on the site of the project subject to the expiring contract or, upon request of the project owner and subject to PHA and HUD approval, at another site through a future transfer of assistance. Contracts are subject to the terms and conditions applicable at the time of each offer and further subject to the availability of appropriations for each year of each such renewal. To implement this provision, HUD is waiving section 8(o)(13)(F) of The United States Housing Act of 1937, which permits a minimum term of one year, as well as 24 CFR 983.205(a), which governs the contract term.

### **Agreement to Enter into a HAP (AHAP) Contract [Notice PIH 2019-23]**

For public housing conversions to PBV, there will be no agreement to enter into a Housing Assistance Payments (AHAP) contract. Therefore, all regulatory references to the Agreement (AHAP), including regulations under 24 CFR Part 983 Subpart D, are waived. The definitions for proposal selection date, new construction, rehabilitation, and existing housing are not applicable.

### **Mandatory Contract Renewal [Notice PIH 2019-23]**

By statute, upon contract expiration, the agency administering the vouchers will offer, and the PHA will accept, renewal of the contract for the prescribed number and mix of units, either on the site of the project subject to the expiring contract or, upon request of the project owner and

subject to PHA and HUD approval, at another site through a future transfer of assistance. The contract is subject to the terms and conditions applicable at the time of renewal and the availability of appropriations each year for such renewal. Consequently, 24 CFR 983.205(b), governing the PHA discretion to renew the contract, will not apply.

In the event that the HAP contract is removed due to breach, non-compliance, or insufficiency of appropriations, for all units previously covered under the HAP contract, new tenants must have incomes at or below 80 percent of the area median income at the time of admission and rents may not exceed 30 percent of 80 percent of median income for an appropriate size unit for the remainder of the term of the RAD use agreement.

### **Remedies for NSPIRE Deficiencies [24 CFR 983.208(b)]**

The PHA may not make any HAP payment to the owner for a contract unit during any period in which the unit does not comply with NSPIRE. If the PHA determines that a contract unit does not comply with NSPIRE standards, the PHA may exercise any of its remedies under the HAP contract, for any or all of the contract units. Available remedies include termination of housing assistance payments, abatement or reduction of housing assistance payments, reduction of contract units, and termination of the HAP contract.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will abate and terminate PBV HAP contracts for noncompliance with NSPIRE in accordance with the policies used in the tenant-based voucher program. These policies are contained in Chapter 8, Enforcing Owner Compliance.

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE HAP CONTRACT**

### **Floating Units [Notice PIH 2019-23]**

Upon the owner's request to the voucher agency that will administer the project, HUD will permit assistance to float among units within the project that are the same bedroom size. The unit to which assistance is floated must be comparable to the unit being replaced in quality and amenities.

If the PHA chooses to float units, they are not specifically identified on the HAP contract; rather, the HAP contract must specify the number and type of RAD PBV units in the property. The property must maintain the same number and type of RAD units from the time of the initial HAP contract execution forward.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will float assistance among unoccupied units within the project. Tracking of the number and type of units at the property, as well as identification of comparable units when assistance is floated, will be maintained by each property.

### **Reduction in HAP Contract Units [Notice PIH 2019-23]**

Project owners are required to make the number of assisted units under the HAP contract available for occupancy by eligible tenants.

The PHA may not reduce the number of assisted units without written HUD approval. Any HUD approval of a PHA's request to reduce the number of assisted units under contract is subject to conditions that HUD may impose. MTW agencies may not alter this requirement.

If units are removed from the HAP contract because a new admission's TTP equals or exceeds the gross rent for the unit, and if the project is fully assisted, the PHA must reinstate the unit after the family has vacated the property. If the project is partially assisted, the PHA may substitute a different unit for the unit on the HAP contract in accordance with 24 CFR 983.207 or where the development has "floating" units.

#### **HAP CONTRACT YEAR AND ANNIVERSARY DATES [24 CFR 983.302(e)]**

The HAP contract year is the period of 12 calendar months preceding each annual anniversary of the HAP contract during the HAP contract term. The initial contract year is calculated from the first day of the first calendar month of the HAP contract term.

The annual anniversary of the HAP contract is the first day of the first calendar month after the end of the preceding contract year. There is a single annual anniversary date for all units under a particular HAP contract.

#### **OWNER RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THE HAP CONTRACT [24 CFR 983.210]**

When the owner executes the HAP contract, they certify that at such execution and at all times during the term of the HAP contract:

- All contract units are in good condition, and the owner is maintaining the premises and contract units in accordance with NSPIRE;
- The owner is providing all services, maintenance, equipment, and utilities as agreed to under the HAP contract and the leases;
- Each contract unit for which the owner is receiving HAP is leased to an eligible family referred by the PHA, and the lease is in accordance with the HAP contract and HUD requirements;
- To the best of the owner's knowledge, the family resides in the contract unit for which the owner is receiving HAP, and the unit is the family's only residence;
- The owner (including a principal or other interested party) is not the spouse, parent, child, grandparent, grandchild, sister, or brother of any member of a family residing in a contract unit;
- The amount of the HAP the owner is receiving is correct under the HAP contract;
- The rent for contract units does not exceed rents charged by the owner for comparable unassisted units;
- Except for HAP and tenant rent, the owner has not received and will not receive any other payment or consideration for the rental of the contract unit;
- The family does not own or have any interest in the contract unit (this does not apply to the family's membership in a cooperative); and
- Repair work on the project selected as an existing project performed after HAP contract execution within such post-execution period as specified by HUD may constitute



development activity. If determined to be a development activity, the repair work undertaken shall be in compliance with Davis-Bacon wage requirements.

### **VACANCY PAYMENTS [24 CFR 983.352(b)]**

At the discretion of the PHA, the HAP contract may provide for vacancy payments to the owner for a PHA-determined period of vacancy extending from the beginning of the first calendar month after the move-out month for a period not exceeding two full months following the move-out month. The amount of the vacancy payment will be determined by the PHA and cannot exceed the monthly rent to the owner under the assisted lease, minus any portion of the rental payment received by the owner, including amounts available from the tenant's security deposit.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will provide vacancy payments to the owner. The HAP contract with the owner will contain the amount of the vacancy payment and the period for which the owner will qualify for these payments.

## **I. SELECTION OF PBV PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS**

### **OVERVIEW**

Many of the provisions of the tenant-based voucher regulations [24 CFR 982] also apply to the PBV program. This includes requirements related to determining eligibility and selecting applicants from the waiting list. Even with these similarities, there are requirements that are unique to the PBV program. This part describes the requirements and policies related to eligibility and admission to the PBV program.

### **PROHIBITED RESCREENING OF EXISTING TENANTS UPON CONVERSION [Notice PIH 2019-23]**

Current households cannot be excluded from occupancy at the covered project based on any rescreening, income eligibility, or income targeting provisions. Consequently, current households will be grandfathered for the application of any eligibility criteria to conditions that occurred prior to conversion but will be subject to any ongoing eligibility requirements for actions that occur after conversion. Post-conversion, the tenure of all residents of the covered project is protected pursuant to PBV requirements regarding continued occupancy unless explicitly modified by Notice PIH 2019-23 (e.g., rent phase-in provisions). For example, a unit with a household that was over-income at the time of conversion would continue to be treated as an assisted unit. Thus, 24 CFR 982.201, concerning eligibility and targeting, will not apply to the current households. Once that remaining household moves out, the unit must be leased to an eligible family. Existing residents at the time of conversion may not be rescreened for citizenship status or have their social security numbers reverified.

Further, so as to facilitate the right to return to the assisted property, this provision must apply to current public housing residents of the converting project that will reside in non-RAD PBV units placed in a project that contains RAD PBV units. Such families and such contract units will otherwise be subject to all requirements of the applicable program, specifically 24 CFR 983 for non-RAD PBV. Any non-RAD PBV units located in the same project are also subject to the right to return.

For the RAD PBV program, *in-place family* means a family who lived in a pre-conversion property at the time assistance was converted from public housing to PBV under RAD.

### **ELIGIBILITY FOR PBV ASSISTANCE [24 CFR 983.251(a) and (b)]**

Applicants for PBV assistance must meet the same eligibility requirements as applicants for the tenant-based voucher program. Applicants must qualify as a family as defined by HUD and the PHA, have income at or below HUD-specified income limits, and qualify on the basis of citizenship or the eligible immigration status of family members [24 CFR 982.201(a) and 24 CFR 983.2(a)]. In addition, an applicant's family must provide social security information for family members [24 CFR 5.216 and 5.218] and consent to the PHA's collection and use of family information regarding income, expenses, and family composition [24 CFR 5.230]. The PHA may also not approve a tenancy if the owner (including a principal or other interested party) of the unit is the parent, child, grandparent, grandchild, sister, or brother of any member of the family unless needed as a reasonable accommodation. An applicant's family must also meet HUD requirements related to current or past criminal activity.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will determine an applicant's family's eligibility for the RAD PBV program in accordance with the policies in Chapter 3.

### **ORGANIZATION OF THE WAITING LIST [24 CFR 983.251(c); Notice PIH 2019-23]**

The standard PBV regulations at 24 CFR 983.251 set out program requirements related to establishing and maintaining a voucher-wide, PBV program-wide, or site-based waiting list from which residents will be admitted. These provisions will apply unless the project is covered by a remedial order or agreement that specifies the type of waiting list and other waiting list policies. Any non-RAD PBV units located in the same project are also subject to these requirements.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will establish and manage separate waiting lists for individual projects or buildings receiving RAD PBV assistance. It currently has waiting lists for some of its RAD PBV projects.

For any applicants on the public housing waiting list who are likely to be ineligible for admission to a covered project converting to PBV because the household's TTP is likely to exceed the RAD gross rent, Jacksonville Housing will consider transferring such household, consistent with program requirements for the administration of waiting lists, to the PHA's remaining public housing waiting lists or to another voucher waiting list, in addition to transferring such household to the waiting list for the covered project.

To the extent any waitlist relies on the date and time of application, the applicants shall have priority on the wait lists to which their application was transferred in accordance with the date and time of their application to the original waiting list.

Jacksonville Housing will maintain the project-specific waiting list in accordance with all applicable civil rights and fair housing regulations found at 24 CFR 903.7(b)(2)(ii)-(iv). Jacksonville Housing will provide applicants with full information about each development, including an estimate of the wait time, location, occupancy, number and size of accessible units, and amenities like daycare, security, transportation, and training

programs at each development with a site-based waiting list. The system for selection will be consistent with all applicable civil rights and fair housing laws and regulations and may not be in conflict with any imposed or pending court order, settlement agreement, or complaint brought by HUD.

Jacksonville Housing will give priority to participants moving under a VAWA emergency transfer from one PBV development to another in accordance with Chapter 18.

### **SELECTION FROM THE WAITING LIST [24 CFR 983.251(c)]**

After conversion to RAD PBV, applicants who will occupy units with RAD PBV assistance must be selected from the PHA's waiting list. The PHA may establish selection criteria or preferences for occupancy of particular PBV units.

#### **Income Targeting [24 CFR 983.251(c)(6); Notice PIH 2019-23]**

At least 75 percent of the families admitted to the PHA's tenant-based and project-based voucher programs during the PHA fiscal year from the waiting list must be extremely low-income families. The income targeting requirement applies to the total of admissions to both programs.

Families in place at the time of the conversion are exempt from income targeting requirements. New admissions follow standard PBV requirements. Any non-RAD PBV units located in the same project are also subject to these requirements.

#### **Units with Accessibility Features [24 CFR 983.251(c)(7)]**

When selecting families to occupy PBV units that have special accessibility features for persons with disabilities, the PHA must first refer families who require such features to the owner.

#### **Preferences [24 CFR 983.251(d); FR Notice 11/24/08; Notice PIH 2019-23]**

The PHA may use the same selection preferences that are used for the tenant-based voucher program, establish selection criteria or preferences for the PBV program as a whole, or for occupancy of particular PBV developments or units.

#### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

Jacksonville Housing will not offer any preferences for the RAD PBV program. However, in accordance with this chapter, Jacksonville Housing will give priority to participants moving under a VAWA emergency transfer from one PBV development to another.

### **OFFER OF PBV ASSISTANCE**

#### **Refusal of Offer [24 CFR 983.251(e)(3)]**

The PHA is prohibited from taking any of the following actions against a family who has applied for, received, or refused an offer of PBV assistance:

- Refusing to list the applicant on the waiting list for tenant-based voucher assistance
- Denying any admission preference for which the applicant qualifies
- Changing the applicant's place on the waiting list based on preference, date, and time of application, or other factors affecting selection under the PHA's selection policy

- Removing the applicant from the tenant-based voucher waiting list

### **Disapproval by Landlord [24 CFR 983.251(e)(2)]**

If a PBV owner rejects a family for admission to the owner's units, such rejection may not affect the family's position on the tenant-based voucher waiting list.

### **Acceptance of Offer [24 CFR 983.252]**

#### ***Family Briefing***

When a family accepts an offer for PBV assistance, the PHA must give the family an oral briefing. The briefing must include information on how the program works and the responsibilities of the family and owner. In addition to the oral briefing, the PHA must provide a briefing packet that explains how the PHA determines the total tenant payment for a family, the family obligations under the program, and applicable fair housing information.

#### ***Persons with Disabilities***

If an applicant's family's head or spouse is disabled, the PHA must ensure effective communication, in accordance with 24 CFR 8.6, in conducting the oral briefing and in providing the written information packet. This may include making alternative formats available (see Chapter 4). In addition, the PHA must have a mechanism for referring a family that includes a member with a mobility impairment to an appropriate accessible PBV unit.

#### ***Persons with Limited English Proficiency***

The PHA should take reasonable steps to assure meaningful access by persons with limited English proficiency in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Executive Order 13166 (see Chapter 4).

### **OWNER SELECTION OF TENANTS [24 CFR 983.253]**

The owner is responsible for developing written tenant selection procedures that are consistent with the purpose of improving housing opportunities for very low-income families and reasonably related to program eligibility and an applicant's ability to fulfill their obligations under the lease. An owner must promptly notify in writing any rejected applicant of the grounds for any rejection.

#### **Leasing [24 CFR 983.253(a)]**

During the term of the HAP contract, the owner must lease contract units to eligible families that are selected and referred by the PHA from the PHA's waiting list. The contract unit leased to the family must be the appropriate size unit for the size of the family, based on the PHA's subsidy standards.

#### **Filling Vacancies [24 CFR 983.254(a)]**

The owner must promptly notify the PHA of any vacancy or expected vacancy in a contract unit. After receiving such notice, the PHA must make every reasonable effort to promptly refer a sufficient number of families for the owner to fill such vacancies. The PHA and the owner must make reasonable efforts to minimize the likelihood and length of any vacancy.

#### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

The owner must notify Jacksonville Housing in writing (mail, fax, or email) within five business days of learning about any vacancy or expected vacancy.

Jacksonville Housing will make every reasonable effort to refer families to the owner within 10 business days of receiving such notice from the owner.

## **TENANT SCREENING [24 CFR 983.255]**

### **PHA Responsibility**

The PHA is not responsible or liable to the owner or any other person for the family's behavior or suitability for tenancy. However, the PHA may opt to screen applicants for family behavior or suitability for tenancy and may deny applicants based on such screening.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will not conduct screening to determine a PBV applicant's family's suitability for tenancy.

The PHA must provide the owner with an applicant's family's current and prior address (as shown in PHA records) and the name and address (if known by the PHA) of the family's current landlord and any prior landlords.

In addition, the PHA may offer the owner other information the PHA may have about a family, including information about family members' tenancy history or about drug trafficking and criminal activity by family members. The PHA must provide applicant families with a description of its policy on providing information to owners, and the PHA must give the same types of information to all owners.

The PHA may not disclose to the owner any confidential information provided in response to a request for documentation of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, except at the written request or with the written consent of the individual providing the documentation [24 CFR 5.2007(c)].

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

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

### **Owner Responsibility**

The owner is responsible for screening and selecting the family to occupy the owner's unit. When screening families, the owner may consider a family's background with respect to the following factors:

- Payment of rent and utility bills
- Caring for a unit and premises
- Respecting the rights of other residents to the peaceful enjoyment of their housing
- Drug-related criminal activity or other criminal activity that is a threat to the health, safety, or property of others

- Compliance with other essential conditions of tenancy

## **J. OCCUPANCY**

### **OVERVIEW**

After an applicant has been selected from the waiting list, determined eligible by the PHA, referred to an owner, and determined suitable by the owner, the family will sign the lease and occupancy of the unit will begin.

### **LEASE [24 CFR 983.256]**

The tenant must have the legal capacity to enter into a lease under state and local law. *Legal capacity* means that the tenant is bound by the terms of the lease and may enforce the terms of the lease against the owner.

The tenant and the owner must enter into a written lease agreement that is signed by both parties. The tenancy addendum must include, word-for-word, all provisions required by HUD.

### **Lease Requirements [24 CFR 983.256(c); Notice PIH 2019-23]**

The lease for a PBV unit must specify all of the following information:

- The names of the owner and the tenant;
- The unit rented (address, apartment number, if any, and any other information needed to identify the leased contract unit);
- The term of the lease (initial term and any provision for renewal);
- The amount of the tenant rent to the owner, which is subject to change during the term of the lease in accordance with HUD requirements;
- A specification of the services, maintenance, equipment, and utilities that will be provided by the owner;
- The amount of any charges for food, furniture, or supportive services; and
- For any family admitted following conversion, the lease must specify what will happen if the family elects to remain in its unit after increasing its income such that it requires zero HAP. Specifically, the lease must make clear how the tenant's rent will be calculated, and it must address the transition to a new lease. The PHA must include resident procedural rights for termination notification and grievance procedures in the owner's lease. These requirements are not part of the regular PBV program but are required under RAD.

### **Tenancy Addendum [24 CFR 983.256(d)]**

The tenancy addendum in the lease must state:

- The program tenancy requirements
- The composition of the household as approved by the PHA (the names of family members and any PHA-approved live-in aide)

All provisions in the HUD-required tenancy addendum must be included in the lease. The terms of the tenancy addendum prevail over other provisions of the lease.

### **Initial Term and Lease Renewal [24 CFR 983.256(f); *RAD PBV Quick Reference Guide* 6/20]**

Leases for residents who will remain in place (i.e., who will not be relocated solely as a result of the conversion) must have an effective date that coincides with—and must be signed on or before—the effective date of the RAD PBV HAP contract.

The initial lease term must be for at least one year. The lease must provide for automatic renewal after the initial term of the lease in either successive definitive terms (e.g., month-to-month or year-to-year) or an automatic indefinite extension of the lease term. For automatic indefinite extension of the lease term, the lease terminates if any of the following occur:

- The owner terminates the lease for good cause
- The tenant terminates the lease
- The owner and tenant agree to terminate the lease
- The PHA terminates the HAP contract
- The PHA terminates assistance for the family

### **Changes in the Lease [24 CFR 983.256(e)]**

If the tenant and owner agree to any change in the lease, the change must be in writing, and the owner must immediately give the PHA a copy of all changes.

The owner must notify the PHA in advance of any proposed change in the lease regarding the allocation of tenant and owner responsibilities for utilities. Such changes may only be made if approved by the PHA and in accordance with the terms of the lease relating to its amendment. The PHA must redetermine reasonable rent, in accordance with program requirements, based on any change in the allocation of the responsibility for utilities between the owner and the tenant. The redetermined reasonable rent will be used in the calculation of the rent to the owner from the effective date of the change.

### **Owner Termination of Tenancy [24 CFR 983.257; Notice PIH 2019-23]**

With two exceptions, the owner of a PBV unit may terminate tenancy for the same reasons an owner may in the tenant-based voucher program (see Section 12-III.B. and 24 CFR 982.310). In the PBV program, terminating tenancy for “good cause” does not include doing so for a business or economic reason, or a desire to use the unit for personal or family use or other non-residential purpose.

Projects converting from public housing to PBV under RAD have additional procedural rights that do not apply to the standard PBV program. These procedural rights must be included in the owner’s lease as well as the PHA’s administrative plan. In addition to the regulations at 24 CFR 983.257 related to project owner termination of tenancy and eviction (which MTW agencies may not alter) the termination procedure for RAD conversions to PBV will require that PHAs provide adequate written notice of termination of the lease, which may not be less than:

- A reasonable period of time, but not to exceed 30 days:
  - If the health or safety of other tenants, PHA employees, or persons residing in the immediate vicinity of the premises is threatened; or

- In the event of any drug-related or violent criminal activity or any felony conviction
- Not less than 14 days in the case of nonpayment of rent
- Not less than 30 days in any other case, except that if a state or local law provides for a shorter period of time, such shorter period will apply

These provisions apply to non-RAD PBV units located in the project as well.

***Tenant Absence from the Unit [24 CFR 983.256(g) and 982.312(a)]***

The lease may specify a maximum period of family absence from the unit that may be shorter than the maximum period permitted by PHA policy. According to program requirements, the family's assistance must be terminated if they are absent from the unit for more than 180 consecutive days. PHA termination of assistance actions due to family absence from the unit are subject to 24 CFR 982.312, except that the unit is not terminated from the HAP contract if the family is absent for longer than the maximum period permitted.

***Continuation of Housing Assistance Payments [24 CFR 983.258; Notice PIH 2019-23; RAD PBV Quick Reference Guide 6/20]***

***Pre-Conversion Residents***

The unit for a family with a TTP that equals or exceeds the gross rent (which is defined as the contract rent plus any utility allowance for the unit) must be placed on the PBV HAP contract and the family must be admitted to the PBV program. In this case, and until such time as the family's TTP falls below the gross rent, the family will pay the owner the alternate rent which is defined as the lesser of:

- The family's TTP minus the utility allowance (subject to any required phase-in); or
- The Zero HAP Rent Cap, which is the lower of:
  - 110 percent for the applicable FMR minus the utility allowance; or
  - In the event the units are subject to more restrictive rent setting requirement under the LIHTC or HOME programs (or other programs approved by HUD on a project-specific basis, the rent to owner set to comply with such requirements.

The family will continue to pay this amount until/if circumstances change, and HAP is paid on their behalf. In other words, assistance may subsequently be reinstated if the tenant becomes eligible for assistance in which case normal PBV rent requirements will apply to the family. In such cases, the resident is still considered a program participant. All of the family obligations and protections under RAD and standard PBV apply to the resident. Likewise, all requirements with respect to the unit, such as compliance with the NSPIRE standards, apply as long as the unit is under HAP contract or added back to the HAP Contract. Any non-RAD PBV units located in the same project are also subject to these requirements.

After a family has paid the Zero HAP Rent Cap for a period of 180 days, the PHA must remove the unit from the HAP Contract and the family's participating in the PBV program ends. If the Covered Project is fully assisted and the family subsequently leaves the property, the PHA must reinstate the unit back onto the HAP contract and admit an eligible family. If the Covered Project is partially assisted and the family subsequently leaves the property, the unit must be reinstated



back onto the HAP contract unless the PHA previously substituted a different unit on the HAP contract in accordance with 24 CFR § 983.207 or, where “floating units” have been permitted.

Additionally, if the family continues to reside in the project after the family’s unit was removed from the HAP contract, the family may request to return to the PBV program if the family’s income subsequently decreases to the extent that the family’s TTP is less than the Zero-HAP Rent Cap, and the family is otherwise eligible for PBV assistance. The PHA must, at the earliest opportunity, reinstate the family’s unit back onto the HAP contract to provide rental assistance to the family. If the project was partially assisted and the PHA previously substituted a different unit on the HAP contract, the PHA must substitute the family’s unit for a vacant unit on the HAP contract if there is a vacant unit at the time of the request, or by doing so as soon as a unit on the HAP contract becomes vacant if there are no vacant units on the HAP contract at the time of the family request.

### ***New Admission Families***

Unless a waiver is requested and approved, following conversion, 24 CFR 983.53(d) applies, and any new admission referred to the RAD PBV project must be initially eligible for a HAP payment at admission to the program. This means a family’s TTP may not equal or exceed the gross rent for the unit at admission. The PHA may request a waiver from HUD in order to admit otherwise eligible families whose TTP exceeds gross rent and to allow the units those families occupy to remain under the HAP contract even if the PHA has not paid HAP for the family in 180 days.

Further, for any new families admitted after the conversion, assistance will be terminated 180 days after the last housing assistance payment on their behalf. The cessation of housing assistance payments does not affect the family’s other rights under its lease, nor does it preclude the resumption of payments as a result of later changes in income, rents, or other relevant circumstances if such changes occur within the 180-day window. If a family’s assistance is terminated as a result of their zero HAP status, the PHA must remove the unit from the HAP contract. If the project is fully assisted and the family subsequently leaves the property, the PHA must reinstate the unit after the family has vacated the property and admit an eligible family. If the project is partially assisted, the PHA may substitute a different unit for the unit on the HAP contract in accordance with 24 CFR 983.207 or where floating units have been permitted.

Per the RAD Use Agreement, the owner may charge the family a rent that does not exceed 30 percent of 80 percent of the area median income. If a unit is removed from the RAD PBV HAP contract, then the lease terminates automatically, as stated in the tenancy addendum, as though the RAD PBV HAP contract had been terminated. The tenant must be offered a new lease, which must reflect the new tenant rent. A tenant in this circumstance is no longer a program participant and therefore no longer benefits from any of the rights or protections specific to RAD, or to the PBV program. Should the family subsequently lose employment, the owner may choose to reduce the family’s rent, but if the family wishes to be admitted to the HCV/PBV program, then it must be admitted through the waiting list like any other applicant.

In circumstances where low RAD PBV rents may prohibit a significant number of otherwise eligible families on the waiting list from being admitted to the project because they do not require subsidy, and which could consequently create an undue concentration of poverty at the project compared to non-RAD PBV projects, a PHA may request a waiver from HUD for the

covered project. The waiver will apply the alternative requirements applicable to the pre-conversion residents to new admission families.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will not request waivers from HUD to apply the alternative requirements applicable to pre-conversion residents to new admission families.

If a participating family who was admitted after the RAD conversion receive zero assistance and subsequently experiences a change in circumstances that would result in a HAP payment to the owner, the family must notify Jacksonville Housing of the change and request an interim reexamination before the expiration of the 180-day period.

#### **Security Deposits [24 CFR 983.259; *RAD PBV Quick Reference Guide* 6/20]**

Owners are permitted to recognize security deposit amounts that have been previously provided by tenants who are in-place at the time of the RAD conversion. If a tenant residing in a converting project has not previously provided a security deposit, then the owner may collect a security deposit at the time of initial lease execution. Otherwise, the security deposit requirements for standard PBV apply.

The owner may collect a security deposit from the tenant. The PHA may prohibit security deposits in excess of private market practice, or in excess of amounts charged by the owner to unassisted tenants.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will allow the owner to collect a security deposit amount the owner determines is appropriate.

When the tenant moves out of a contract unit, the owner, subject to state and local law, may use the security deposit, including any interest on the deposit, in accordance with the lease, as reimbursement for any unpaid tenant rent, damages to the unit, or other amounts owed by the tenant under the lease.

The owner must give the tenant a written list of all items charged against the security deposit and the amount of each item. After deducting the amount used to reimburse the owner, the owner must promptly refund the full amount of the balance to the tenant.

If the security deposit does not cover the amount owed by the tenant under the lease, the owner may seek to collect the balance from the tenant. The PHA has no liability or responsibility for payment of any amount owed by the family to the owner.

#### **PUBLIC HOUSING FSS AND ROSS PARTICIPANTS [Notice PIH 2019-23]**

Current PH FSS participants will continue to participate in the PHA's FSS program, and PHAs will be allowed to use any PH FSS funds granted previously or pursuant to the current fiscal year (FY) PH FSS notice of funding availability (NOFA) to serve those FSS participants who live in units converted to RAD and who will as a result be moving to the HCV FSS program. A PHA must convert the PH FSS program participants at the covered project to their HCV FSS program.

Residents who were converted from the PH FSS program to the HCV FSS program through RAD may not be terminated from the HCV FSS program or have HCV assistance withheld due

to the participant's failure to comply with the contract of participation. Consequently, 24 CFR 984.303(b)(5)(iii) does not apply to FSS participants in converted properties.

At the completion of the FSS grant, PHAs should follow the normal closeout procedures outlined in the grant agreement. If the PHA continues to run an FSS program that serves PH and/or HCV participants, the PHA will continue to be eligible (subject to NOFA requirements) to apply for FSS funding.

Current Resident Opportunities and Self-Sufficiency–Service Coordinators (ROSS–SC) program grantees will be able to finish out their current ROSS–SC grants once their housing is converted under RAD. However, once the property is converted, it will no longer be eligible to be counted towards the unit count for future public housing ROSS–SC grants.

At the completion of the ROSS-SC grant, PHAs should follow the normal closeout procedures outlined in the grant agreement. Please note that ROSS-SC grantees may be a nonprofit or local resident association and this consequence of a RAD conversion may impact those entities.

Any non-RAD PBV units located in the same project are also subject to these requirements.

## **RESIDENT PARTICIPATION AND FUNDING [Notice PIH 2019-23]**

Residents of covered projects converting assistance to PBVs will have the right to establish and operate a resident organization for the purpose of addressing issues related to their living environment and be eligible for resident participation funding.

## **MOVES**

### **Overcrowded, Under-Occupied, and Accessible Units [24 CFR 983.260; Notice PIH 2019-23]**

All in-place tenants at the time of conversion are eligible to remain in the project. Over-housed families should be moved into appropriately sized units if such units are available in the new or rehabbed project. If appropriately sized units are not available, the existing tenants may continue to be over-housed until an appropriately sized unit becomes available or until the tenant leaves the project. Once the unit turns over, it must be leased to an appropriately sized family. Any non-RAD PBV units located in the same project are also subject to these requirements.

Following conversion, the standard PBV regulations apply. If the PHA determines that a family is occupying a wrong-size unit, based on the PHA's subsidy standards, or a unit with accessibility features that the family does not require, and the unit is needed by a family that does require the features, the PHA must promptly notify the family and the owner of this determination, and the PHA must offer the family the opportunity to receive continued housing assistance in another unit.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will notify the family and the owner of the family's need to move based on the occupancy of a wrong-size or accessible unit within 10 business days of the PHA's determination. The PHA will offer the family the following types of continued assistance in the following order, based on the availability of assistance:

- PBV assistance in the same building or project
- PBV assistance in another project

- Tenant-based voucher assistance

If the PHA offers the family a tenant-based voucher, the PHA must terminate the housing assistance payments for a wrong-size or accessible unit at the earlier of the expiration of the term of the family's voucher, including any extension granted by the PHA, or the date upon which the family vacates the unit. If the family does not move out of the wrong-size unit or accessible unit by the expiration of the term of the family's voucher, the PHA must remove the unit from the HAP contract.

If the PHA offers the family another form of assistance that is not a tenant-based voucher, and the family does not accept the offer, does not move out of the PBV unit within a reasonable time as determined by the PHA, or both, the PHA must terminate the housing assistance payments for the unit at the expiration of a reasonable period as determined by the PHA and remove the unit from the HAP contract.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

When Jacksonville Housing offers a family another form of assistance that is not a tenant-based voucher, the family will be given 30 days from the date of the offer to accept the offer and move out of the PBV unit. If the family does not move out within this 30-day time frame, Jacksonville Housing will terminate the housing assistance payments at the expiration of this 30-day period.

Jacksonville Housing may make exceptions to this 30-day period if needed for reasons beyond the family's control such as death, serious illness, or other medical emergency of a family member.

#### **Family Right to Move [24 CFR 983.261]**

The family may terminate the lease at any time after the first year of occupancy. The family must give advance written notice to the owner in accordance with the lease and provide a copy of such notice to the PHA.

#### **Choice Mobility [Notice PIH 2019-23; PRRAC Choice Mobility Implementation Guidance, 8/20]**

##### ***Family's Right to Choice Mobility***

Under RAD PBV, the choice mobility option provides families with the opportunity to move with continued assistance any time after 12 months of occupancy. All residents in converted properties should be aware of their housing mobility rights and of their options in a range of neighborhoods.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

To ensure that residents are fully aware of and understand their rights under choice mobility, Jacksonville Housing will inform families of their rights under the choice mobility option and the benefits to moving to lower poverty areas and provide a summary of the steps necessary to exercise this option, at the time the family signs the lease for the RAD PBV unit and during their annual recertification.

Information on choice mobility will be made accessible to persons with disabilities, ensuring any information, electronic or otherwise, is accessible for persons with vision, hearing, and other disabilities. This information will also be made available in accordance

with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) requirements, including document translation and user of interpretation services. See Chapter 4 for a more thorough discussion of accessibility and LEP requirements.

### ***Moving with Continued Assistance under Choice Mobility***

If the family wishes to move with continued tenant-based assistance under choice mobility, the family must contact the PHA to request rental assistance prior to providing notice to terminate the lease. If the family terminates the lease in accordance with lease requirements, the PHA is required to offer the family the opportunity for continued tenant-based assistance, in the form of a voucher or other comparable tenant-based rental assistance. If a voucher or other comparable tenant-based assistance is not immediately available, the PHA must give the family priority to receive the next available opportunity for continued tenant-based assistance.

Families are eligible to move with continued assistance under choice mobility after 12 months of occupancy. If the family terminates the assisted lease before the end of the first year, the family relinquishes the opportunity for continued tenant-based assistance.

#### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

Prior to providing notice to the owner to terminate the lease, the family may submit a written request to Jacksonville Housing for a choice mobility voucher at any time after completing the 12-month occupancy requirement.

The family will remain eligible to request a choice mobility voucher as long as they continue living at the same covered project. If a family moves from one covered project to another covered project prior to completing their 12-month occupancy requirement, their 12-month clock will reset. The family must wait 12 months from the date of move at the new property before they may request another choice mobility voucher. If a family transfers to a different unit within the same covered project, the 12-month clock does not reset.

Jacksonville Housing will maintain a combined, agency-wide waiting list for all standard PBV and RAD PBV families wishing to exercise mobility after one year of tenancy. This list will be maintained separately from the tenant-based HCV list. Families on the choice mobility waiting list will be given priority over families on the tenant-based waiting list. The choice mobility waiting list will be organized by date and time of the family's written request to exercise choice mobility. The list will also identify whether families live in standard or RAD PBV units.

Jacksonville Housing will not subject RAD PBV families applying for choice mobility vouchers to any additional rescreening requirements in order to receive a tenant-based voucher.

Families exercising choice mobility will not be required to vacate their units before a lease has been entered into using their tenant-based voucher. At the time Jacksonville Housing issues a choice mobility voucher, Jacksonville Housing will notify the family of

their right to remain in their unit if they are unable to find a rental unit using the tenant-based voucher.

### ***Turnover Cap***

If as a result of RAD, the total number of PBV units (including RAD PBV units) administered by the PHA exceeds 20 percent of the PHA's authorized units under its HCV ACC with HUD, the PHA may establish a turnover cap. The PHA is not required to provide more than three-quarters of its turnover vouchers in any single year to the residents of covered projects. If the PHA chooses to establish a turnover cap and the cap is implemented, the PHA must create and maintain a waiting list in the order requests from eligible households are received.

#### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

As a result of RAD, the total number of PBV units (including RAD PBV units) administered by the PHA exceeds 20 percent of the PHA's authorized units under its HCV ACC with HUD. Therefore, Jacksonville Housing will establish a choice mobility cap. Jacksonville Housing will not provide more than three-quarters of its turnover vouchers in a single year to residents of covered projects.

Families who requested a choice mobility voucher and are denied due to the cap will be given priority the following year when choice mobility vouchers are again issued since the choice mobility list will be organized by the date and time of the family's request.

### **Emergency Transfers under VAWA [Notice PIH 2017-08]**

Except where special consideration is needed for the project-based voucher program, the PHA will follow VAWA policies as outlined in Chapter 16 of this administrative plan, including using the Emergency Transfer Plan as the basis for PBV transfers under VAWA (Exhibit 16-4).

HUD requires that the PHA include policies that address cases in which a victim has been living in a unit for less than a year or seeks to move sooner than a tenant-based voucher is available.

#### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

When the victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking has lived in the unit for less than one year, Jacksonville Housing will provide several options for continued assistance.

Jacksonville Housing will first try to transfer the participant to another PBV unit in the same development or to a different development where Jacksonville Housing has PBV units. In this case, Jacksonville Housing will expedite the administrative processes to conduct the transfer as quickly as possible. If assistance is transferred to another development, Jacksonville Housing will give priority to the participant on the other development's waiting list.

If no units are available for an internal transfer to a PBV development or if there is reasonable cause to believe that such a transfer would put the victim in jeopardy, the participant may receive continued assistance through an external transfer to either tenant-based rental assistance (HCV) or assistance in Jacksonville Housing's public housing program. Such a decision will be made by Jacksonville Housing based on the availability of tenant-based vouchers and/or vacancies in public housing units. Such families must be selected from the waiting list for the applicable program. Jacksonville Housing has

adopted a waiting list preference for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking in both its HCV and public housing programs in order to expedite this process. See Chapter 4.C. of this administrative plan.

If a victim wishes to move after a year of occupancy in the unit, but no tenant-based vouchers are available, Jacksonville Housing will offer the participant an internal transfer to another PBV unit in the same development or a transfer to a different development where the PHA has PBV units. Jacksonville Housing will expedite the administrative processes in this case in an effort to conduct the transfer as quickly as possible.

If no units are available for an internal transfer, or if there is reasonable cause to believe that such a transfer would put the victim in jeopardy, the participant may receive continued assistance through an external transfer to Jacksonville Housing's public housing program. Jacksonville Housing has adopted a waiting list preference for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking as part of the public housing ACOP in order to expedite this process.

### **REEXAMINATIONS [*RAD PBV Quick Reference Guide 6/20*]**

A family living in a unit converted from public housing to RAD PBV may retain its certification date. Unless a family's annual reexamination is due at the same time as the effective date of the RAD PBV HAP contract, the PHA does not need to recertify tenants at the point of conversion. For each family residing in a unit undergoing conversion of assistance under RAD, the administering PHA will have to submit a form HUD-50058 reflecting the family's admission to the voucher program. The effective date of the new admission will be the same as the effective date of the RAD PBV HAP contract. The form should include the same information previously found on the public housing form 50058, including the next annual reexamination date.

### **EARNED INCOME DISALLOWANCE [Notice PIH 2019-23]**

Tenants who are employed and are currently receiving the EID exclusion at the time of conversion will continue to receive the EID after conversion, in accordance with regulations at 24 CFR 5.617. Upon the expiration of the EID for such families, the rent adjustment will not be subject to rent phase-in; instead, the rent will automatically rise to the appropriate rent level based upon tenant income at that time. Any non-RAD PBV units located in the same project are also subject to these requirements.

Under the HCV program, the EID exclusion is limited to only persons with disabilities [24 CFR 5.617(b)]. In order to allow all tenants (including non-disabled persons) who are employed and currently receiving the EID at the time of conversion to continue to benefit from this exclusion in the PBV project, the provision in section 5.617(b) limiting EID to only persons with disabilities is waived. The waiver and resulting alternative requirement only apply to tenants receiving the EID at the time of conversion. No other tenant, such as tenants who at one time received the EID but are not receiving the EID exclusion at the time of conversion (e.g., due to loss of employment), tenants that move into the property following conversion, etc., is covered by this waiver.

## **RESIDENTS' PROCEDURAL RIGHTS [Notice PIH 2019-23]**

HUD is incorporating additional termination notification requirements for public housing projects that convert assistance under RAD to PBV and to non-RAD PBV units located in the same project beyond those for the standard PBV program. In addition to the regulations at 24 CFR 983.257 related to owner termination of tenancy and eviction (which MTW agencies may not alter), the termination procedure for RAD conversions to PBV requires that PHAs provide adequate written notice of termination of the lease, which is:

- A reasonable period of time, but not to exceed 30 days:
  - If the health or safety of other tenants, project owner-employees, or persons residing in the immediate vicinity of the premises is threatened; or
  - In the event of any drug-related or violent criminal activity or any felony conviction.
- Not less than 14 days in the case of nonpayment of rent
- Not less than 30 days in any other case, except that if a state or local law provides for a shorter period of time, such shorter period will apply

## **INFORMAL REVIEWS AND HEARINGS [Notice PIH 2019-23]**

In addition to reasons for an informal hearing listed at 24 CFR 982.555(a)(1)(i)–(v) (See 16-C. Informal Hearings for Participants), residents must be given an opportunity for an informal hearing for any dispute that a resident may have with respect to an owner action in accordance with the individual's lease or the contract administrator in accordance with RAD PBV requirements that adversely affect the resident's rights, obligations, welfare, or status.

- For any hearing required under 24 CFR 982.555(a)(1)(i)–(v), the contract administrator will perform the hearing in accordance with Chapter 16 Part III: Informal Reviews and Hearings, as is the current standard in the program.
- For any additional hearings required under RAD, the PHA (as owner) will perform the hearing.

An informal hearing will not be required for class grievances or for disputes between residents not involving the PHA (as owner) or contract administrator. This hearing requirement does not apply to and is not intended as a forum for initiating or negotiating policy changes between a group or groups of residents and the PHA (as owner) or contract administrator.

The owner must give residents notice of their ability to request an informal hearing as outlined in 24 CFR 982.555(c)(1) for informal hearings that will address circumstances that fall outside of the scope of 24 CFR 982.555(a)(1)(i)–(v). (See Chapter 16)

The owner must provide an opportunity for an informal hearing before an eviction.

## **K. DETERMINING CONTRACT RENT**

### **INITIAL CONTRACT RENTS [Notice PIH 2019-23]**

RAD conversions are intended to be cost-neutral, and therefore, should not exceed current public housing funding as adjusted for unit size. Since public housing units do not currently have contract rents, HUD provides an estimate of current contract rents for each PHA's public



housing unit based on current funding as adjusted by bedroom size. Current funding includes operating subsidies, tenant rents, capital funds, replacement housing factor funds (RHF), and demolition disposition transitional funding (DDTF). The funding may limit the amount of initial rent for a property. A detailed explanation of the determination of current funding may be found in Attachment 1C of Notice PIH 2019-23. Once the current funding amount is calculated, the amount is adjusted by bedroom size to determine the current funding rent. HUD uses the same bedroom adjustment factors as in the metropolitan FMR schedules where the project is located.

PHAs may adjust subsidies (and contract rents) across multiple projects as long as the PHA does not exceed the aggregate subsidy for all of the projects the PHA has submitted for conversion under RAD.

Notwithstanding HUD's calculation of the initial contract rent based on the project's subsidy under the public housing program and any modifications made to the initial contract rent, the initial rents are set at the lower of:

- An amount determined by the PHA, not to exceed 110 percent of the fair market rent (FMR) or the PHA's exception payment standard approved by HUD, or the alternate rent cap in a PHA's MTW agreement minus any utility allowance
- The reasonable rent
- The rent requested by the owner

#### **ADJUSTING CONTRACT RENTS [Notice PIH 2019-23; *RAD PBV Quick Reference Guide* 6/20; PHA Asset Repositioning "How to Apply OCAF for RAD PBV" Webinar]**

RAD PBV contract rents are adjusted differently than contract rents in the standard PBV program. At each annual anniversary of the HAP contract, contract rents will be adjusted only by HUD's operating cost adjustment factor (OCAF) that is applied to the current contract rent, less the portion of the rent paid for debt service, subject to the availability of appropriations for each year of the contract term. As such, section 8(o)(13)(I) of the 1937 Act, and 24 CFR 983.301 and 983.302, concerning rent determinations, do not apply when adjusting rents. The rent to owner may at no time exceed the reasonable rent charged for comparable unassisted units in the private market, as determined by the contract administrator in accordance with 24 CFR 983.303.

Contract rents may not exceed the reasonable rent (as determined by the PHA that administers the contract or the independent entity, as applicable), with the exception that the contract rent for each unit may not be reduced below the initial contract rent under the initial HAP contract.

However, the rent to the owner may fall below the initial contract rent in the following situations:

- To correct errors in calculations in accordance with HUD requirements
- If additional housing assistance has been combined with PBV assistance after the execution of the initial HAP contract and a rent decrease is required pursuant to 983.55 (prohibition of excess public assistance)
- If a decrease in rent to the owner is required based on changes in the allocation of responsibility for utilities between the owner and the tenant

The contract rent adjustment will be the lesser of:

- The current contract rent is increased by the operating cost adjustment factor (OCAF), which is published annually in the *Federal Register*; or
- The reasonable rent

The administering PHA (or independent entity, if the project is PHA-owned) is responsible for processing rent adjustments at each contract anniversary date in accordance with the prevailing OCAF. The PHA who administers the contract (directly or via an independent entity) must maintain records to demonstrate how OCAF amounts were determined and how rent adjustments were calculated. HUD approval of rent adjustments is not required.

Properties are eligible to receive prior years' OCAF adjustments for years in which the OCAF was not taken. If the OCAF was missed, it must be applied retroactively. The PHA administering the contract (or the independent entity) must ensure that all OCAFs have been applied correctly since the RAD closing and calculate the current rents accordingly, including ensuring that the RAD PBV contract rents do not exceed the PBV program caps.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

The owner will request a contract rent adjustment from Jacksonville Housing which administers the contract within 120 days, but no less than 60 days, prior to the HAP contract anniversary date by submitting a completed OCAF rent adjustment worksheet (Form HUD-9624). The independent entity will validate the data on the form and determine whether the rent exceeds the reasonable rent charged for comparable unassisted units in the private market, in accordance with 24 CFR 983.303. If rents would be unreasonable following the application of the requested OCAF, then the rent will only be increased up to the reasonable rent. The independent entity will notify Jacksonville Housing, who administers the contract in writing, of the results of its review of the rent adjustment request. Jacksonville Housing, who administers the contract will retain a copy of the worksheet and any other records necessary to demonstrate how the OCAF was used to make rent adjustments for audit purposes. The approved rent adjustment will go into effect via written notice from Jacksonville Housing which administers the project to the owner. This notice will constitute an amendment to the rents specified in Exhibit A of the RAD PBV HAP contract. The new rent to the owner will take effect on the date of the contract anniversary.

#### **Rent Decrease**

Rents must not be reduced below the initial rent except to correct errors, for an additional subsidy to the property, or to realign utility responsibilities.

#### **UTILITY ALLOWANCES [Notice PIH 2019-23; *RAD PBV Quick Reference Guide 6/20*]**

When contract rent amounts are set initially, the amount does not include a utility allowance. In general, the utility allowances that are used on the initial HAP contract at closing are the public housing utility allowances that are in effect prior to conversion. The CHAP must be updated prior to conversion to reflect current public housing utility allowances. At its discretion, a PHA may use the FMRs and utility allowances in effect during the 30-day period immediately before the beginning date of the HAP contract.

After conversion, the PHA that administers the contract must maintain the utility allowance schedule. The PHA may either maintain a utility allowance schedule for tenant-paid utilities in accordance with standard PBV and HCV utility allowance regulations at 24 CFR 983.301(f)(2)(ii) and 24 CFR 982.517, respectively, or the PHA may instead apply for site-specific utility allowances. HUD waived the requirement for the standard PBV program that the HCV utility allowance be used. If a site-specific utility allowance is used, the utility allowance is applicable to non-RAD PBV units in the project and is calculated consistent with Notice H 2015-04.

Each family transitions to the new utility allowance at their first recertification following conversion.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will use the HCV utility allowance schedule for the RAD PBV developments.

### **REASONABLE RENT [24 CFR 983.303]**

At the time the initial rent is established, and at all times during the term of the HAP contract, the rent to the owner for a contract unit may not exceed the reasonable rent for the unit as determined by the PHA. Rents must not be reduced below the initial rent except to correct errors, provide additional subsidy to the property, or realign utility responsibilities.

#### **How to Determine Reasonable Rent**

The reasonable rent of a unit receiving PBV assistance must be determined by comparing it to rent for other comparable unassisted units. When making this determination, the PHA must consider factors that affect market rent. Such factors include the location, quality, size, type, and age of the unit, as well as the amenities, housing services, maintenance, and utilities to be provided by the owner.

#### ***Comparability Analysis***

For each unit, the comparability analysis must use at least three comparable units in the private unassisted market. This may include units in the premises or projects that are receiving project-based assistance. The analysis must show how the reasonable rent was determined, including major differences between the contract units and comparable unassisted units, and must be retained by the PHA. The comparability analysis may be performed by PHA staff or by another qualified person or entity. Those who conduct these analyses or are involved in determining the housing assistance payment based on the analyses may not have any direct or indirect interest in the property.

#### **PHA-Owned Units**

For PHA-owned units, the amount of the reasonable rent must be determined by an independent entity approved by HUD in accordance with PBV program requirements. The independent entity must provide a copy of the determination of reasonable rent for PHA-owned units to the PHA and to the HUD field office where the project is located.

### **L. PAYMENTS TO OWNER**

#### **HOUSING ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS**

During the term of the HAP contract, the PHA must make housing assistance payments to the owner in accordance with the terms of the HAP contract. Payments must be made for each month that a contract unit complies with NSPIRE standards and is leased to and occupied by an eligible family. The housing assistance payment must be paid to the owner on or about the first day of the month for which payment is due unless the owner and the PHA agree on a later date.

Except for discretionary vacancy payments, the PHA may not make any housing assistance payment to the owner for any month after the month when the family moves out of the unit (even if household goods or property are left in the unit).

The amount of the housing assistance payment by the PHA is the rent to the owner minus the tenant rent (total tenant payment minus the utility allowance).

The owner must comply with all provisions of the HAP contract to receive housing assistance payments.

### **VACANCY PAYMENTS [24 CFR 983.352]**

If an assisted family moves out of the unit, the owner may keep the housing assistance payment for the calendar month when the family moves out. However, the owner may not keep the payment if the PHA determines that the vacancy is the owner's fault.

#### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

If Jacksonville Housing determines that the owner is responsible for a vacancy and, as a result, is not entitled to keep the housing assistance payment, Jacksonville Housing will notify the landlord of the amount of the housing assistance payment that the owner must repay. Jacksonville Housing will require the owner to repay the amount owed in accordance with the policies in Chapter 16. B.

At the discretion of the PHA, the HAP contract may provide for vacancy payments to the owner. The PHA may only make vacancy payments if:

- The owner gives the PHA prompt, written notice certifying that the family has vacated the unit and identifies the date when the family moved out (to the best of the owner's knowledge);
- The owner certifies that the vacancy is not the fault of the owner and that the unit was vacant during the period for which payment is claimed;
- The owner certifies that it has taken every reasonable action to minimize the likelihood and length of vacancy; and
- The owner provides any additional information required and requested by the PHA to verify that the owner is entitled to the vacancy payment.

The owner must submit a request for vacancy payments in the form and manner required by the PHA and must provide any information or substantiation required by the PHA to determine the amount of any vacancy payment.

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

If an owner's HAP contract calls for vacancy payments and the owner wishes to receive them, the owner must have properly notified Jacksonville Housing of the vacancy in accordance with the policy in this chapter regarding filling vacancies.

In order for a vacancy payment request to be considered, it must be made within 10 business days of the end of the period for which the owner is requesting the vacancy payment. The request must include the required owner certifications and Jacksonville Housing may require the owner to provide documentation to support the request. If the owner does not provide the information requested by Jacksonville Housing within 10 business days of Jacksonville Housing's request, no vacancy payments will be made.

### **TENANT RENT TO OWNER [24 CFR 983.353; Notice PIH 2019-23]**

The tenant rent is the portion of the rent to the owner paid by the family. The amount of tenant rent is determined by the PHA in accordance with HUD requirements. Any changes in the amount of tenant rent will be effective on the date stated in the PHA notice to the family and owner.

The family is responsible for paying the tenant's rent (total tenant payment minus the utility allowance). The amount of the tenant rent determined by the PHA is the maximum amount the owner may charge the family for the rental of a contract unit. The tenant rent covers all housing services, maintenance, equipment, and utilities to be provided by the owner. The owner may not demand or accept any rent payment from the tenant in excess of the tenant's rent as determined by the PHA. The owner must immediately return any excess payment to the tenant.

### **Initial Certifications [Notice PIH 2019-23]**

For the initial certification, the PHA will use the family's public housing tenant rent (reflected on line 10f of the family's most recent 50058) at the date of conversion to calculate HAP and tenant rent for the PBV program. The PHA will use this amount until the effective date of the earlier of the family's first regular or interim recertification following the conversion. At that point, the PHA will use the family's TTP based on the recertification and the applicable utility allowance (HCV or RAD PBV site-based, as applicable) to determine PBV HAP and tenant rent. Any non-RAD PBV units located in the same project are subject to the same requirements.

### **Tenant and PHA Responsibilities**

The family is not responsible for the portion of rent to the owner that is covered by the housing assistance payment and the owner may not terminate the tenancy of an assisted family for nonpayment by the PHA.

Likewise, the PHA is responsible only for making the housing assistance payment to the owner in accordance with the HAP contract. The PHA is not responsible for paying tenant rent, or any other claim by the owner, including damage to the unit. The PHA may not use housing assistance payments or other program funds (including administrative fee reserves) to pay any part of the tenant rent or other claims by the owner.

## Utility Reimbursements

If the amount of the utility allowance exceeds the total tenant payment, the PHA must pay the amount of such excess to the tenant as reimbursement for tenant-paid utilities, and the tenant's rent to the owner must be zero.

The PHA may pay the utility reimbursement directly to the family or to the utility supplier on behalf of the family. If the PHA chooses to pay the utility supplier directly, the PHA must notify the family of the amount paid to the utility supplier.

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will make utility reimbursements directly to the family.

## **PHASE-IN OF TENANT RENT INCREASES [Notice PIH 2019-23; PHA Asset Repositioning “Phase-in of Tenant Rents” Webinar]**

For in-place tenants, if the amount the tenant would pay for rent and utilities (TTP) would increase by more than the greater of 10 percent or \$25 purely as a result of the conversion, the rent increase will be phased in over three years. To implement this provision, HUD is waiving section 3(a)(1) of the 1937 Act, as well as 24 CFR 983.3 (definition of *total tenant payment (TTP)*) only to the extent necessary to allow for the phase-in of tenant rent increases. For families who were on EID at the time of conversion to RAD PBV, upon the expiration of the EID, the rent adjustment is not subject to rent phase-in.

The PHA must communicate this policy in writing to affected residents. Any non-RAD PBV units located in the same covered project are subject to the terms of the phase-in provisions.

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will use the family's public housing tenant rent (reflected on line 10f of the family's most recent 50058) at the date of conversion to calculate the family's tenant rent in PBV. The PHA will implement a three-year phase-in for in-place families whose TTP increases by more than the greater of 10 percent or \$25 purely as a result of the conversion as follows:

Year 1: Any recertification (interim or annual) performed prior to the second annual recertification after conversion: 33 percent of the difference between the most recently paid TTP and the currently calculated PBV TTP. (If the family was paying flat rent immediately prior to conversion, the PHA will use the flat rent amount to calculate the phase-in for Year 1.)

Year 2: Year 2 annual recertification and any interim recertification: 50 percent of the difference between the most recently paid TTP and the currently calculated PBV TTP

Year 3: Year 3 annual recertification and all subsequent recertifications: Full calculated TTP

Once the standard TTP is equal to or less than the previous TTP, the phase-in ends, and tenants will pay full TTP from that point forward.

If the family's income falls during the phase-in period such that the currently calculated PBV TTP falls below the amount that would otherwise be the phased-in rent, the family pays the currently calculated PBV TTP and the phase-in ends.

The PHA will communicate its phase-in policy in writing to the family when it first determines that the family qualifies for a rent phase-in. Any non-RAD PBV units located in the same project are also subject to rent phase-in requirements.

## **OTHER FEES AND CHARGES [24 CFR 983.354]**

### **Meals and Supportive Services**

With the exception of PBV assistance in assisted living developments, the owner may not require the tenant to pay charges for meals or supportive services. Non-payment of such charges is not grounds for termination of tenancy.

In assisted living developments receiving PBV assistance, the owner may charge for meals or supportive services. These charges may not be included in the rent to the owner, nor may the value of meals and supportive services be included in the calculation of the reasonable rent. However, non-payment of such charges is grounds for termination of the lease by the owner in an assisted living development.

### **Other Charges by Owner**

The owner may not charge extra amounts for items customarily included in rent in the locality or provided at no additional cost to unsubsidized tenants in the premises.

## EXHIBIT 18-1: PBV DEVELOPMENT INFORMATION

(Fill out one for each development)

**Date:** [Enter the date on which this form was completed]

### DEVELOPMENT INFORMATION

**Development Name:** [Insert name of PBV development]

**Address:** [Insert full address of PBV development]

**Owner Information:** [Insert PBV development owner name and contact information. If development is PHA-owned, enter “PHA-owned.”]

**Property Management Company:** [Insert property management company name and contact information, or enter “None”]

**PHA-Owned:** [Enter “Yes” or “No.” If yes, enter name of independent entity.]

**Mixed-Finance Development:** [Enter “Yes” or “No.” If yes, list other types of funding and units to which other funding applies.]

### HAP CONTRACT

**Closing Date:** [Enter closing date of RAD conversion]

**List Which RAD Notice Applies to the Project:** [Enter “PIH 2012-32, REV-2,” “PIH 2012-32, REV-3,” or “PIH 2019-23”]

**Effective Date of Contract:** [Enter start date of HAP contract]

**HOTMA Requirements:** [If HAP contract was signed prior to April 18, 2017, enter “Pre-HOTMA.” If HAP contract was signed on or after April 18, 2017, enter “Post-HOTMA.”]

**Term of HAP Contract:** [Enter term from HAP contract]

**Expiration Date of Contract:** [Enter expiration date from HAP contract]

### PBV UNITS

	0 BR	1 BR	2 BR	3 BR	4 BR	5 BR	Total
# of Units							
Initial Contract Rent	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	

**Unit Designation:** [Enter “Fixed” or “Floating”]

**Accessible Units and Features:** [Identify which units are accessible and describe accessibility features or enter “None”]



**Target Population:** [Describe targeted population in accordance with HAP contract or enter “None”]

**Excepted Units (Notice PIH 2012-32, REV-2 Developments Only):** [Identify excepted unit types below or enter “None”]

**Supportive Services:** [Enter “Yes, see Exhibit D of HAP contract” or enter “No”]

**Elderly Units:** [Enter “Yes” or “No.” If yes, identify which units are elderly units.]

**Disabled Units** [Enter “Yes” or “No.” If yes, identify which units are for persons with disabilities.]

### **WAITING LIST AND SELECTION**

**Waiting List Type:** [Enter “Site-based waiting list,” “Combined with HCV,” “Waiting list for entire PBV program,” or “Merged with another assisted housing program”]

**Preferences:** [Enter “Same as HCV; see Chapter 4” or describe preferences offered. If different from HCV, note in Section 18.1.C. of this policy.]

**Preference Verification:** [Enter “Same as HCV; see Chapter 7” or describe for each preference listed above. If different from HCV, note in Section 18.1.C. of this policy.]

**For the PBV program, is the income limit the same as the HCV program?** (Note: In mixed-finance developments, other income limits may also apply.) [Enter “Same as HCV; see Chapter 3” or clearly describe]

### **OCCUPANCY**

**Subsidy Standards:** [Enter “Same as HCV; see Chapter 5” or describe. If different from HCV, note in Section 18.1.C. of this policy.]

**Utilities:** [Enter in accordance with HAP contract Exhibit C]

**Vacancy Payments:** [Enter in accordance with HAP contract Part 1, e, 2 and Section 18-IV.F. within this chapter]

## **CHAPTER 19 SPECIAL PURPOSE VOUCHERS**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Special purpose vouchers are specifically funded by Congress in separate appropriations from regular HCV program funding in order to target specific populations. Special purpose vouchers include vouchers for the following programs:

- Family Unification Program (FUP)
- Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) program
- Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH)
- Mainstream
- Non-Elderly Disabled (NED)
- Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV)

#### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

Jacksonville Housing will administer the following types of special-purpose vouchers:

- Family Unification Program (FUP)
- Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) program
- Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH)
- Mainstream
- Non-Elderly Disabled (NED)
- Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV)

This chapter describes HUD regulations and PHA policies for administering special-purpose vouchers.

Except as addressed by this chapter and as required under federal statute and HUD requirements, the general requirements of the HCV program apply to special-purpose vouchers.

### **A. FAMILY UNIFICATION PROGRAM (FUP)**

#### **PROGRAM OVERVIEW [Fact Sheet, Housing Choice Voucher Program Family Unification Program (FUP)]**

##### **Overview**

The Family Unification Program (FUP) was authorized by Congress in 1990 to help preserve and reunify families. PHAs that administer the program provide vouchers to two different populations—FUP families and FUP youth.

Families eligible for FUP are families for whom the lack of adequate housing is a primary factor in:

- The imminent placement of the family's child or children in out-of-home care; or
- The delay in the discharge of the child or children to the family from out-of-home care.

There is no time limitation on FUP family vouchers, and the family retains their voucher as long as they are HCV-eligible. There is no requirement for the provision of supportive services for FUP family vouchers.

Youth eligible for FUP are those who:

- Are at least 18 years old and not more than 24 years of age;
- Have left foster care or will leave foster care within 90 days, in accordance with a transition plan described in section 475(5)(H) of the Social Security Act at age 16 and older; and
- Are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

FUP youth vouchers are limited by statute to a period between 36 and 60 months of housing assistance. Supportive services must also be provided to FUP-eligible youth by the Public Child Welfare Agency (PCWA) or by another agency or organization under contract with the PCWA for the period of time defined in the notice or Notice of Funding Availability/Opportunity (NOFA/O) for which funding was made available.

PHAs that wish to administer FUP vouchers must apply to HUD by submitting an application under an active Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). While the FUP program is administered in accordance with HCV regulations, the FUP NOFOs issued by HUD provide specific program information and requirements.

In order to administer the program, the PHA must also form a partnership with a local PCWA who is responsible for determining the family or youth meets FUP eligibility requirements and referring them to the PHA. Once the referral is received, the PHA is responsible for placing the FUP family or youth on the PHA's waiting list and determining whether they are eligible to receive assistance under the PHA's HCV program.

### **Assigning Vouchers [FUP FAQs]**

The PHA may, but is not required to, assign a specific number or percentage of FUP vouchers for FUP youths and FUP families. Unless the PHA assigns a specific number or percentage of FUP vouchers to a designated FUP population, the PHA must serve any referrals (youths or families) that meet all program eligibility requirements up to the PHA's designated FUP program size.

#### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

Jacksonville Housing has not designated any specific number or percentage of FUP vouchers for youths or families. Jacksonville Housing will serve all referrals that meet program eligibility requirements up to the PHA's FUP voucher allocation.

### **PUBLIC CHILD WELFARE AGENCY (PCWA)**

Families and youth do not apply directly to the PHA for FUP vouchers. They are instead referred by a PCWA with whom the PHA has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The partnering PCWA initially determines whether the family or youth meets the FUP program eligibility requirements listed in this chapter and then refers those families or youths to the PHA.

HUD strongly encourages PHAs and PCWAs to make decisions collaboratively on the administration of the program and to maintain open and continuous communication. The PCWA

must have a system for identifying FUP-eligible youth within the agency's caseload and for reviewing referrals from a Continuum of Care (COC) if applicable.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing has entered into an MOU with a partnering organization, Family Support Services.

### **Supportive Services**

The PCWA must provide supportive services for the period of time defined in the notice or NOFA/O for which the funding was made available to all FUP-eligible youth, regardless of their age. The MOU between the PHA and the PCWA should identify the period of time in which supportive services will be provided.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

The PCWA will provide supportive services for all FUP youth for a period of 36 months. Supportive services may be provided to FUP-eligible youth by the PCWA or by another agency or organization under agreement or contract with the PCWA, including the PHA. The organization providing the services and resources must be identified in the MOU. The following services must be offered:

- Basic life skills information or counseling on money management, use of credit, housekeeping, proper nutrition or meal preparation, and access to health care (e.g., doctors, medication, and mental and behavioral health services);
- Counseling on compliance with rental lease requirements and with HCV program participant requirements, including assistance or referrals for assistance on security deposits, utility hook-up fees, and utility deposits;
- Providing such assurances to owners of rental property as are reasonable and necessary to assist a FUP-eligible youth to rent a unit with a FUP voucher;
- Job preparation and attainment counseling (where to look and how to apply, dress, grooming, relationships with supervisory personnel, etc.); and
- Educational and career advancement counseling regarding attainment of general equivalency diploma (GED), or attendance or financing of education at a technical school, trade school, or college, including successful work ethic and attitude models.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Additional supportive services will not be offered.

A FUP-eligible youth cannot be required to participate in these services as a condition of receipt of the FUP voucher.

### **FUP FAMILY VOUCHER ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

FUP family assistance is reserved for eligible families that the PCWA has certified as a family for whom a lack of adequate housing is a primary factor in:

- The imminent placement of the family's child or children in out-of-home care, or

- The delay in the discharge of the child or children to the family from out-of-home care.

*Lack of adequate housing* means the family meets any one of the following conditions:

- Living in substandard housing, which refers to a unit that meets any one of the following conditions:
  - Does not have operable indoor plumbing
  - Does not have a usable flush toilet inside the unit for the exclusive use of a family or youth
  - Does not have a usable bathtub or shower inside the unit for the exclusive use of a family or youth
  - Does not have electricity or has inadequate or unsafe electrical service
  - Does not have a safe or adequate source of heat
  - Should, but does not, have a kitchen
  - Has been declared unfit for habitation by an agency or unit of government, or in its present condition otherwise endangers the health, safety, or well-being of the family or youth
  - Has one or more critical defects, or a combination of intermediate defects in sufficient number or to the extent that it requires considerable repair or rebuilding. The defects may result from the original construction, from continued neglect or lack of repair, or from serious damage to the structure
- Being homeless as defined in 24 CFR 578.3
- Living in a unit where the presence of a household member with certain characteristics (i.e., a conviction for certain criminal activities) would result in the imminent placement of the family's child or children in out-of-home care, or the delay in the discharge of the child or children to the family from out-of-home care
- Living in housing not accessible to the family's disabled child or children due to the nature of the disability
- Living in an overcrowded unit, which is defined as living in a unit where one of the following conditions has been met:
  - The family is separated from its child or children and the parents are living in an otherwise standard housing unit, but, after the family is reunited, the parents' housing unit would be overcrowded for the entire family and would be considered substandard; or
  - The family is living with its child or children in a unit that is overcrowded for the entire family and this overcrowded condition may result, in addition to other factors, in the imminent placement of its child or children in out-of-home care.
  - For purposes of this definition, the determination as to whether the unit is overcrowded is made in accordance with the PHA subsidy standards in Chapter 5, Part III of this policy.

Since HUD does not define *imminent placement*, the partnering PCWA may use its discretion to determine whether the potential out-of-home placement of the family's child or children is imminent [FUP FAQs].

## **FUP YOUTH VOUCHER ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

While FUP family vouchers operate as regular HCVs after the family is referred from the PCWA, there are several aspects of the FUP youth vouchers that make them distinct from the FUP family vouchers and from regular HCVs.

### **Eligibility Criteria**

A FUP-eligible youth is a youth the PCWA has certified:

- Is at least 18 years old and not more than 24 years of age (has not yet reached their 25<sup>th</sup> birthday);
  - The FUP youth must be no more than 24 years old at the time the PCWA certifies them as eligible and at the time of HAP contract execution.
- Has left foster care or will leave foster care within 90 days, in accordance with a transition plan described in section 475(5)(H) of the Social Security Act;
  - Foster care placement can include, but is not limited to, placements in foster family homes, foster homes of relatives, group homes, emergency shelters, residential facilities, child care institutions, and pre-adoptive homes in accordance with 24 CFR 5.576.
- Is homeless or at risk of becoming homeless at age 16 or older;
  - *At risk of being homeless* is fully defined at 24 CFR 576.2.
    - o This includes a person that is exiting a publicly funded institution, or system of care (such as a healthcare facility, a mental health facility, foster care or other youth facility, or correction program or institution).
    - o Therefore, youth being discharged from an institution may be eligible for a FUP voucher [FUP FAQs].
- Has an annual income at or below 30 percent of area median income; and
- Does not have sufficient resources or support networks (e.g., family, friends, faith-based or other social networks) immediately available to prevent them from moving to a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living arrangements.

## **ASSISTANCE PERIOD [FR Notice 1/24/22]**

### **Maximum Assistance Period**

Although there is no time limit on FUP family vouchers, FUP youth vouchers are limited by statute. Unless the FUP youth meets an exception outlined below, after 36 months of assistance, the FUP youth voucher must be terminated. However, any period of time for which no subsidy (HAP) is being paid on behalf of the youth does not count toward the 36-month limitation.

If the FUP youth does meet the requirements outlined below, the statutory limit on FUP assistance is a total of 60 months of FUP voucher assistance [FR Notice 1/24/22].

## Extension of Assistance

FUP youth who first leased or lease a unit after December 27, 2020, may be eligible for an extension of assistance up to 24 months beyond the 36-month time limit (for a total of 60 months of assistance).

While FUP youth cannot be required to participate in the Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) program as a condition of receipt of assistance, an eligible youth who participates in the FSS program and is in compliance with the applicable terms and conditions of the program is entitled to receive assistance for up to an additional 24 months. A FUP youth must accept an FSS slot if it is offered to them prior to the 36-month mark in order to receive an extension of assistance (unless the youth meets one of the statutory exceptions described below).

## Statutory Exceptions

A FUP youth will be entitled to receive an extension of assistance for up to 24 months beyond the 36-month time limit without participating in the PHA's FSS program if they certify that they meet one of the exceptions below:

- The FUP youth is a parent or other household member responsible for the care of a dependent child under the age of six or for the care of an incapacitated person.

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will apply this exception in a manner that provides extensions of FUP youth assistance to the broadest population possible consistent with the statutory requirements.

The FUP youth will be required to self-certify that they meet this exception on a Jacksonville Housing-provided form. This certification is the only documentation that the FUP youth must submit.

The child or incapacitated person is not required to reside in the household in order for the youth to certify they meet this exception. For example, a child in a joint custody arrangement under the age of six who resides in the household only part-time may qualify the youth for this exception.

- The FUP youth is a person who is regularly and actively participating in a drug addiction or alcohol treatment and rehabilitation program.

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will define *regular and active participation* in a manner that provides extensions of FUP youth assistance to the broadest population possible consistent with the statutory requirements.

The FUP youth will be required to self-certify that they meet this exception on a Jacksonville Housing-provided form. This certification is the only documentation that the FUP youth must submit.

- The FUP youth is a person who is incapable of complying with the requirement to participate in a FSS program as described above or engage in education, workforce development, or employment activities as described below, as applicable, due to a documented medical condition.

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will apply this requirement in a manner that provides extensions of FUP youth assistance to the broadest population possible consistent with statutory requirements.

The FUP youth will be required to self-certify that they meet this exception on a Jacksonville Housing -provided form. This certification is the only documentation that the FUP youth must submit.

A FUP youth that meets one of the above exceptions must still be offered an opportunity to enroll in the PHA's FSS program (if it is available to them) and receive any supportive services available to FUP youth. A FUP youth may choose to participate in an FSS program or engage in education, workforce development, or employment activities, even if they meet one of the above statutory exceptions.

### **Education, Workforce Development, or Employment Activities**

If a PHA that carries out an FSS program is unable to offer a FUP youth an FSS slot during their first 36 months of receiving FUP youth assistance, the youth is considered to have been "unable to enroll" in the program and may have their voucher extended by meeting the education, workforce development, or employment criteria described below:

- The youth was engaged in obtaining a recognized postsecondary credential or a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent.

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will use the definitions of *recognized postsecondary credential* and *secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent* under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). WIOA defines a *recognized postsecondary credential* as a credential consisting of an industry-recognized certificate or certification, a certificate of completion of an apprenticeship, a license recognized by the state involved or federal government, or an associate or baccalaureate degree (29 U.S.C. 3102). Examples of a recognized postsecondary credential include, but are not limited to, an associate's degree, bachelor's degree, occupational licensure, or occupational certification (see U.S. Department of Labor, Training and Employment Guidance Letter No. 10-16, Change 1). For the purpose of WIOA, the U.S. Department of Labor defines a *secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent* as a secondary school diploma (or alternate diploma) that is recognized by a state and that is included for accountability purposes under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). A secondary school equivalency certification signifies that a student has completed the requirement for a high school education. Examples of a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent include, but are not limited to, obtaining certification of attaining passing scores on a state-recognized high school equivalency test, earning a secondary school diploma or state-recognized equivalent, or obtaining certification of passing a state-recognized competency-based assessment.

- The youth was enrolled in an *institution of higher education*, as such term is defined in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)) or an institution that



meets the definition of a *proprietary institution of higher education* or a *postsecondary vocational institution* under sections 102(b)(1) and (c)(1) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002(b)(1) and (c)(1)), respectively.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Youth must be enrolled in education activities on at least a half-time basis, as defined by the institution that they attend. However, Jacksonville Housing may make exceptions to this requirement if the youth is unable to enroll in a sufficient number of classes due to a lack of course offerings by the educational institution where the youth is enrolled.

- The youth was participating in a career pathway, as such term is defined in Section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3102). The term *career pathway* means a combination of rigorous and high-quality education, training, and other services that:
  - Aligns with the skill needs of industries in the economy of the state or regional economy involved;
  - Prepares an individual to be successful in any of a full range of secondary or postsecondary education options, including apprenticeships registered under the Act of August 16, 1937 (commonly known as the “National Apprenticeship Act”; 50 Stat. 664, chapter 663; 29 U.S.C. 50 et seq.) (referred to individually in this Act as an *apprenticeship*, except in section 3226 of this title);
  - Includes counseling to support an individual in achieving the individual’s education and career goals;
  - Includes, as appropriate, education offered concurrently with and in the same context as workforce preparation activities and training for a specific occupation or occupational cluster;
  - Organizes education, training, and other services to meet the particular needs of an individual in a manner that accelerates the educational and career advancement of the individual to the extent practicable;
  - Enables an individual to attain a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent, and at least one recognized postsecondary credential; and
  - Helps an individual enter or advance within a specific occupation or occupational cluster.
- The youth was employed.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will consider the youth to be employed if they work a minimum of 20 hours per week. Jacksonville Housing may make exceptions to this requirement if the youth’s hours are reduced due to circumstances beyond their control or the youth must temporarily reduce their work hours due to a verified family emergency.

#### **FSS Enrollment at 24 Months**

If the FUP youth has not been provided an opportunity to enroll in the FSS program during the first 24 months of FUP assistance, HUD encourages the PHA to remind the youth at the 24-month reexamination of the education, workforce development, and employment requirements

described above so that the youth has enough time to meet these requirements prior to the expiration of the 36-month time period for FUP assistance.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

If the FUP youth has not been provided an opportunity to enroll in the FSS program during the first 24 months of FUP assistance, Jacksonville Housing will remind the youth at their second regular reexam of the education, workforce development, and employment requirements described above.

#### **FSS Enrollment Between 36 and 48 Months**

If an FSS slot becomes available between the 36-month and 48-month mark:

- The PHA must offer the slot to a FUP youth who had their voucher extended based on meeting the education, workforce development, or employment requirement listed above, or one of the statutory exceptions listed above (even if the youth previously declined an FSS slot because they met one of the statutory exceptions).
- The PHA must work with the youth to determine whether enrollment in FSS is feasible and in their best interest given any education, workforce development, or employment activities that the youth is engaged in and any statutory exceptions that apply to the youth, as well as the remaining time on their voucher.
- If the FUP youth accepts the FSS slot, the PHA must work with the youth to establish Contract of Participation goals and an Individual Training and Services Plan (ITSP) that can be accomplished within the time period left on the voucher.

If the FUP youth is offered an FSS slot prior to the 36-month mark, the youth:

- Will be required to enroll in the FSS program in order to receive an extension of assistance at the end of the 36-month time period (unless they meet one of the statutory exceptions described above).
- Will not be considered to have been “unable to enroll” in the FSS program as described above, and as a result, will not be eligible to receive an extension of assistance based on meeting the education, workforce development, or employment requirements described above.

#### **FSS Enrollment After 48 Months**

The PHA may, but is not required to, offer a FUP youth an FSS slot that becomes available between the 48-month mark and the 60-month mark, since the youth will have already received their second and final extension.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

If an FSS slot becomes available between the 48 and 60-month marks, Jacksonville Housing will not offer the FSS slot to a FUP youth.

#### **Extensions of Assistance**

At the 36-month and 48-month reexamination, the PHA must extend FUP youth assistance if the youth is participating in and in compliance with the FSS program as long as the youth is still eligible for the HCV program.

In any case, the FUP youth cannot receive more than a total of 60 months of FUP youth voucher assistance, even if the FSS Contract of Participation time period extends beyond the voucher 60-month mark.

### **No FSS Program or Unable to Enroll in FSS**

If a PHA does not carry out an FSS program or the FUP youth has been unable to enroll in the program during the first 36 months of receiving FUP assistance, the FUP youth is entitled to receive an extension of assistance for up to two successive 12-month periods beyond the 36-month time limit provided that the youth engaged in at least one of the education, workforce development, or employment activities described above for not less than nine months of the 12-month period preceding each extension. In order to meet the nine months out of the preceding 12 months requirement, the youth may have engaged in one of the education, workforce development, or employment activities described above or a combination of these activities.

### **Verification Prior to Annual Reexam**

In order to provide an extension of assistance, the PHA must verify compliance with the above requirements at the end of the 36-month time period and the 48-month time periods. The PHA does not need to verify compliance with these requirements at the end of the 60-month time period since the maximum length of assistance is 60 months.

To verify compliance with the education, workforce development, or employment requirement or one of the statutory exceptions, the PHA must provide the FUP youth written notification informing them that they may receive an extension of their FUP assistance and providing instructions on how the youth may demonstrate that they meet one of these conditions. This notification must be provided sufficiently in advance of the end of the 36-month or 48-month time periods, as applicable, to allow the FUP youth to demonstrate that they meet the education, workforce development, or employment requirement, or one of the statutory exceptions, and for the PHA to conduct an annual reexamination prior to the expiration of the FUP assistance.

#### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

Jacksonville Housing will verify compliance with the education, workforce development, or employment requirement, or one of the statutory exceptions, at the end of the 36-month and 48-month time periods prior to the FUP youth's scheduled annual reexamination. Jacksonville Housing will not verify compliance at the end of the 60-month time period.

Jacksonville Housing will provide each FUP youth on the PHA's program with a written notification informing them that they may receive an extension of their FUP assistance if they meet conditions outlined in this chapter and providing them with instructions on how they may demonstrate compliance at least 60 days prior to their scheduled annual reexam date. When necessary, Jacksonville Housing will provide this notification in a format accessible to FUP youth with disabilities and in a translated format for FUP youth with limited English proficiency in accordance with Chapter 4.

The PHA will use the following verification methods to verify a FUP youth's eligibility for voucher extensions:

To verify compliance with the FSS requirement, the PHA will examine its records to confirm, or obtain confirmation from the PHA's FSS program staff, that the FUP youth participant is in compliance with FSS program requirements and has not been terminated from the FSS program.

To meet the education, workforce development, or employment requirement, the PHA will verify that the FUP youth was engaged in at least one education, workforce development, or employment activity for at least nine months of the 12-month period immediately preceding the end of 36-month or 48-month time period, as applicable.

Due to the timing of when the PHA verifies compliance and conducts the annual reexamination, the FUP youth may have not yet met the nine-month requirement but may be able to demonstrate that they will meet the nine-month requirement as of the end of the 36-month or 48-month time period. In such cases, the FUP/FYI youth will still be considered to have met the requirements.

In order for the FUP youth to meet one of the statutory exceptions described above, the youth must submit a certification to the PHA that they meet one of these exceptions. This certification is the only documentation that the FUP youth must submit in order to demonstrate that they meet one of the statutory exceptions.

A FUP youth who received an extension of voucher assistance at the end of the 36-month time period based on meeting one of the conditions described in this chapter does not have to meet the same conditions when they reach the end of the 48-month time period. The FUP youth may demonstrate that they meet a different condition in order to receive an extension of their assistance.

If the PHA determines that the youth meets one of the statutory conditions, the PHA would then conduct an annual reexamination. If the annual reexamination determines that the youth is still eligible for the HCV program, the PHA must provide the FUP youth the extension of voucher assistance.

### **Termination of Assistance for Failure to Meet Conditions**

Failure of the FUP youth to meet one of the above conditions will only impact their ability to receive subsequent extensions of assistance. It will not serve as a basis for terminating the FUP assistance prior to the annual reexam.

If the FUP youth does not meet any of the conditions described in in this chapter, the youth is subject to the statutory time limit of 36 months or the time limit of any extension that the youth has already received, and the FUP youth voucher must be terminated once the youth reaches this time limit. The calculation of the time limit begins from the date the first HAP contract is signed (for tenant-based vouchers) or from the date the youth entered into the initial lease agreement (for project-based vouchers). The number of months is calculated based on the number of months that HAP subsidy is being paid on behalf of the youth, not the number of months that the

youth is in the FUP youth program. Prior to termination, the PHA must offer the FUP youth the opportunity to request an informal hearing, in accordance with Chapter 16.

## **REFERRALS AND WAITING LIST MANAGEMENT**

### **Referrals**

The PCWA must establish and implement a system to identify FUP-eligible families and youths within the agency's caseload and make referrals to the PHA. The PCWA must certify that the FUP applicants they refer to the PHA meet FUP eligibility requirements. The PHA is not required to maintain full documentation that demonstrates the family's or youth's FUP eligibility as determined by the PCWA but should keep the referral or certification from the PCWA.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

As part of the MOU, Jacksonville Housing and PCWA have identified staff positions to serve as lead FUP liaisons. These positions will be responsible for transmission and acceptance of FUP referrals. The PCWA must commit sufficient staff and resources to ensure eligible families and youths are identified and determined eligible in a timely manner.

When FUP vouchers are available, Jacksonville Housing liaison responsible for acceptance of referrals will contact the PCWA FUP liaison via email indicating the number of vouchers available and requesting an appropriate number of referrals. No more than 10 business days from the date the PCWA receives this notification, the PCWA liaison will provide Jacksonville Housing with a list of eligible referrals include the name, address, and contact phone number for each adult individual who is being referred; a completed release form for each adult family member; and a written certification for each referral indicating the youth or family is FUP-eligible.

Jacksonville Housing will maintain a copy of the referral or certification from the PCWA in the participant's file along with other eligibility paperwork.

A PHA must serve any referrals (youths or families) that meet all program eligibility requirements. If a PHA determines that it has received a sufficient number of referrals from the PCWA so that the PHA will be able to lease all FUP vouchers awarded, the PHA may request that the PCWA suspend transmission of referrals. If the PHA determines that additional referrals will be needed after it has made such a request, the PHA may request that the PCWA resume transmission of referrals [Notice PIH 2011-52].

### **Waiting List Placement**

A family that is already participating in the regular HCV program cannot be transferred to a FUP voucher.

Once a referral is made, the PHA must compare the list of PCWA referrals to its HCV waiting list to determine if any applicants on the PCWA's referral list are already on the PHA's HCV waiting list. Applicants already on the PHA's HCV waiting list retain the order of their position on the list. Applicants not already on the PHA's HCV waiting list must be placed on the HCV waiting list.

If the PHA's HCV waiting list is closed, the PHA must open its HCV waiting list in order to accept new FUP applicants. If necessary, the PHA may open its waiting list solely for FUP applicants, but this information must be included in the PHA's notice of opening its waiting list (see section 4-II.C., Opening and Closing the Waiting List of this administrative plan).

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Within 10 business days of receiving the referral from the PCWA, Jacksonville Housing will review the HCV waiting list and will send the PCWA a list confirming whether or not referrals are on the waiting list.

Referrals who are already on the list will retain their position and the list will be notated to indicate the family or youth is FUP-eligible.

For those referrals not already on the waiting list, Jacksonville Housing will work with the PCWA to ensure they receive and successfully complete a pre-application or application, as applicable. Once the pre-application or application has been completed, Jacksonville Housing will place the referral on the HCV waiting list with the date and time of the original referral and an indication that the referral is FUP-eligible.

#### **Waiting List Selection**

The PHA selects FUP-eligible families or youths based on the PHA's regular HCV waiting list selection policies in Chapter 4, including any preferences that may apply.

#### **PHA HCV ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION**

Once an FUP-eligible family or youth is selected from the HCV waiting list, the PHA must determine whether the family or youth meets HCV program eligibility requirements. Applicants must be eligible under both FUP family or youth eligibility requirements, as applicable, and HCV eligibility requirements as outlined in Chapter 3 of this policy.

The PCWA may, but is not obligated to, provide information to the PHA on the family's criminal history.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Subject to privacy laws, the PCWA will provide any available information regarding the applicant's criminal history to Jacksonville Housing.

The PHA will consider the information in making its eligibility determination in accordance with the PHA's policies in Chapter 3.

#### **Additional FUP Eligibility Factors [FUP FAQs]**

For FUP family vouchers, the family must remain FUP-eligible through lease-up.

- If, after a family is referred by the PCWA but prior to issuing a family FUP voucher, the PHA discovers that the lack of adequate housing is no longer a primary factor for the family not reunifying, the FUP voucher may not be issued to the family.
- Similarly, if the FUP voucher has already been issued before the PHA discovers that the reunification will not happen, but the family has not yet leased up under the voucher, the PHA must not execute the HAP contract, as the family is no longer FUP-eligible.

FUP-eligible youth must be no more than 24 years old both at the time of PCWA certification and at the time of the HAP execution. If a FUP youth is 24 at the time of PCWA certification but will turn 25 before the HAP contract is executed, the youth is no longer eligible for a FUP youth voucher.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Any applicant that does not meet the eligibility criteria for the HCV program listed in Chapter 3 or any eligibility criteria listed in this section will be notified by Jacksonville Housing in writing following policies in Chapter 3, including stating the reasons the applicant was found ineligible and providing an opportunity for an informal review.

#### **LEASE UP [FR Notice 1/24/22]**

Once the PHA determines that the family or youth meets HCV eligibility requirements, the family or youth will be issued a FUP voucher in accordance with PHA policies.

During the family briefing, PHAs must inform the FUP youth of:

- The extension of assistance provisions and requirements;
- The availability of the FSS program and offer them an FSS slot, if available, or offer to place them on the FSS waiting list (provided the PHA has an FSS program); and
- Supportive services available to them, the existence of any other programs or services, and their eligibility for such programs and services. However, participation in supportive services cannot be required as a condition of receiving FUP youth assistance.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Eligible applicants will be notified by Jacksonville Housing in writing following policies in Chapter 3. of this administrative plan. FUP families will attend a standard HCV briefing in accordance with Jacksonville Housing policies in Chapter 5 of this administrative plan. FUP youth will be briefed individually. Jacksonville Housing will provide all aspects of the written and oral briefing as outlined of Chapter 5 but will also provide an explanation of the required items listed above, as well as discussing supportive services offered by the PCWA.

For both FUP youth and FUP families, vouchers will be issued in accordance with Jacksonville Housing policies in Chapter 5, except that Jacksonville Housing will consider one additional 30-day extension beyond the first automatic extension for any reason, not just those listed in the policy in Chapter 5.

Once the family or youth locate a unit, the PHA conducts all other processes relating to voucher issuance and administration per HCV program regulations and the PHA's policies (including, but not limited to: inspection, determination of rent reasonableness, etc.).

#### **TERMINATION OF ASSISTANCE**

##### **General Requirements**

With the exception of terminations of assistance for FUP youth after the statutorily required time period, terminations of FUP assistance are handled in the same way as the regular HCV program.

Termination of a FUP voucher must be consistent with regulations for termination in 24 CFR Part 982, Subpart L and be in compliance with PHA policies (Chapter 12).

If the person who qualifies for the FUP voucher passes away, the family retains the FUP voucher. In the case of a FUP-youth voucher, assistance will terminate after the statutorily required time period, even if the FUP-eligible youth is no longer included in the household.

If the person who qualifies for the FUP voucher moves, the remaining family members may keep the FUP voucher based on PHA policy (see administrative plan, Section 3-I.C., Family Breakup and Remaining Member of Tenant Family).

### **FUP Family Vouchers**

If parents lose their parental rights or are separated from their children after voucher lease-up (or their children reach adulthood), the family is still eligible to keep their FUP assistance, as the regulations do not permit HCV termination for a family losing parental rights or the children reaching adulthood. However, the PHA may transfer the assistance of an FUP family voucher holder to regular HCV assistance if there are no longer children in the household.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will transfer the assistance of an FUP family voucher holder to regular HCV assistance if there are no longer children in the household and there is no prospect of any minor child being returned to the household.

If Jacksonville Housing has no regular HCV vouchers available at the time this determination is made, including if no vouchers are available due to lack of funding, Jacksonville Housing will issue the family the next available regular HCV voucher after those being issued to families residing in PBV units claiming Choice Mobility.

### **FUP Youth Vouchers**

A PHA cannot terminate a FUP youth's assistance for noncompliance with PCWA case management, nor may the PHA terminate assistance for a FUP youth for not accepting services from the PCWA.

The PHA may not transfer the assistance of a FUP youth voucher holder to regular HCV assistance upon the expiration of the statutorily required time period. However, the PHA may issue a regular HCV to FUP youth if they were selected from the waiting list in accordance with PHA policies and may also adopt a preference for FUP youth voucher holders who are being terminated for this reason.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will not provide a selection preference on the PHA's HCV waiting list for FUP youth who are terminated due to the time limit on assistance.

Upon the expiration of the statutorily required time period, a FUP youth voucher holder who has children and who lacks adequate housing may qualify for a FUP family voucher provided they are referred by the PCWA as an eligible family and meet the eligibility requirements for the PHA's HCV program.



## **FUP PORTABILITY**

Portability for a FUP family or youth is handled in the same way as for a regular HCV family. A PHA may not restrict or deny portability for a FUP family or youth for reasons other than those specified in the HCV program regulations, as reflected in Chapter 10 of the administrative plan.

A FUP family or youth does not have to port to a jurisdiction that administers FUP.

If the receiving PHA administers the FUP voucher on behalf of the initial PHA, the voucher is still considered a FUP voucher regardless of whether the receiving PHA has a FUP program.

If the receiving PHA absorbs the voucher, the receiving PHA may absorb the incoming port into its FUP program (if it has one) or into its regular HCV program (if the receiving PHA has vouchers available to do so) and the family or youth become regular HCV participants. In either case, when the receiving PHA absorbs the voucher, a FUP voucher becomes available to the initial PHA.

### **Considerations for FUP Youth Vouchers**

If the voucher is a FUP youth voucher and remains such upon lease-up in the receiving PHA's jurisdiction, termination of assistance must still take place once the youth has received assistance for the statutorily required time period. If the receiving PHA is administering the FUP youth voucher on behalf of the initial PHA, the two PHAs must work together to initiate termination upon expiration of the statutorily required time period.

## **PROJECT-BASING FUP VOUCHERS [Notice PIH 2017-21; FR Notice 1/24/22]**

The PHA may project-base FUP vouchers without HUD approval in accordance with Notice PIH 2017-21, FR Notice 1/24/22, and all statutory and regulatory requirements for the PBV program. Project-based FUP vouchers are subject to the PBV program percentage limitation discussed in Section 17-I.A.

The PHA may limit PBVs to one category of FUP-eligible participants (families or youth) or a combination of the two.

While FUP vouchers can be used for either families or youth, a PBV unit may only be counted towards the PHA's 10 percent exception authority under the program cap and the project's income-mixing requirement if the FUP PBV assistance is provided on behalf of an eligible youth. The PHA must amend its administrative plan to include the limitation of these FUP PBV units to eligible youth.

### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

Jacksonville Housing will not project-based FUP vouchers. All FUP vouchers will be used to provide tenant-based assistance.

## **B. FOSTER YOUTH TO INDEPENDENCE INITIATIVE**

### **PROGRAM OVERVIEW [Notice PIH 2020-28; Notice PIH 2021-26; FR Notice 1/24/22]**

The Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) initiative was announced in 2019. The FYI initiative allows PHAs who partner with a Public Child Welfare Agency (PCWA) to request targeted HCVs to serve eligible youth with a history of child welfare involvement that are homeless or at risk of being homeless. Rental assistance and supportive services are provided to qualified youth

for a period of between 36 and 60 months.

Funding is available either competitively through an FYI NOFA or noncompetitively on a rolling basis in accordance with the application requirements outlined in Notice PIH 2020-28 or Notice PIH 2021-26, as applicable. Under the noncompetitive process, PHAs are limited to 25 vouchers in a fiscal year with the ability to request additional vouchers for those PHAs with 90 percent or greater utilization or utilization of its FUP and/or FYI vouchers, as applicable. For competitive awards, the number of vouchers is dependent on PHA program size and need.

## **PARTNERING AGENCIES [Notice PIH 2021-26; FYI Updates and Partnering Opportunities Webinar]**

### **Public Child Welfare Agency (PCWA)**

The PHA must enter into a partnership agreement with a PCWA in the PHA's jurisdiction in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or letter of intent. The PCWA is responsible for identifying and referring eligible youth to the PHA and providing or securing a commitment for the provision of supportive services once youth are admitted to the program.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will implement a Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) program in partnership with supportive services of PCWA(s).

The PCWA is responsible for:

- Identifying FYI-eligible youth;
- Developing a system of prioritization based on the level of need of the youth and the appropriateness of intervention;
- Providing a written certification to the PHA that the youth is eligible; and
- Providing or securing supportive services for 36 months.

### **Continuum of Care (CoC) and Other Partners**

HUD strongly encourages PHAs to add other partners into the partnership agreement with the PCWA such as state, local, philanthropic, faith-based organizations, and the CoC, or a CoC recipient it designates.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

In addition to the PCWA, Jacksonville Housing will implement the FYI program in partnership with CoC.

## **YOUTH ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA [Notice PIH 2021-26; FYI Q&As; FYI FAQs]**

The PCWA is responsible for certifying that the youth has prior qualifying foster care involvement. As determined by the PCWA, eligible youth:

- Are at least 18 years of age and not more than 24 years of age (have not yet reached their 25<sup>th</sup> birthday);
  - Youth must be no more than 24 years of age at the time the PCWA certifies them as eligible and at the time of HAP contract execution.

- Have left foster care or will leave foster care within 90 days, in accordance with a transition plan described in section 475(5)(H) of the Social Security Act;
  - Placements can include, but are not limited to, placements in foster family homes, foster homes of relatives, group homes, emergency shelters, residential facilities, child care institutions, and pre-adoptive homes in accordance with 24 CFR 5.576;
- Are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless at age 16 and older;
  - *At risk of being homeless* is fully defined at 24 CFR 576.2.
    - o This includes a person that is exiting a publicly funded institution, or system of care (such as a healthcare facility, a mental health facility, foster care or other youth facility, or correction program or institution). Therefore, youth being discharged from an institution may be eligible for an FYI voucher [FYI FAQs].

Eligibility is not limited to single persons. For example, pregnant and/or parenting youth are eligible to receive assistance, assuming they otherwise meet eligibility requirements.

### **SUPPORTIVE SERVICES [Notice PIH 2021-26; FYI Updates and Partnering Opportunities Webinar; FYI Q&As]**

Supportive services may be provided by the PHA, PCWA or a third party. The PCWA must provide or secure a commitment to provide supportive services for participating youth for the period of time defined in the NOFA/O for which the funding was made available. At a minimum, the following supportive services must be offered:

- Basic life skills information/counseling on money management, use of credit, housekeeping, proper nutrition/meal preparation, and access to health care (e.g., doctors, medication, and mental and behavioral health services);
- Counseling on compliance with rental lease requirements and with HCV program participant requirements, including assistance/referrals for assistance on security deposits, utility hook-up fees, and utility deposits;
- Providing such assurances to owners of rental property as are reasonable and necessary to assist eligible youth to rent a unit with a voucher;
- Job preparation and attainment counseling (where to look/how to apply, dress, grooming, relationships with supervisory personnel, etc.); and
- Educational and career advancement counseling regarding attainment of general equivalency diploma (GED) or attendance/financing of education at a technical school, trade school, or college, including successful work ethic and attitude models.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Additional supportive services will not be offered.

Since participation in supportive services is optional but strongly encouraged, an FYI participant may decline supportive service.

### **REFERRALS AND WAITING LIST MANAGEMENT [Notice PIH 2021-26; FYI Updates and Partnering Opportunities Webinar FYI FAQs]**

## **Referrals**

The PCWA is responsible for certifying that the youth has prior qualifying foster care involvement. Once the PCWA sends the PHA the referral certifying the youth is program-eligible, the PHA determines HCV eligibility.

The PCWA must have a system for identifying eligible youth within the agency's caseload and reviewing referrals from other partners, as applicable. The PCWA must also have a system for prioritization of referrals to ensure that youth are prioritized for an FYI voucher based on their level of need and the appropriateness of the intervention.

Referrals may come from other organizations in the community who work with the population, but the PCWA must certify that the youth meets eligibility requirements, unless the PCWA has vested another organization with this authority.

The PHA is not required to maintain full documentation that demonstrates the youth's eligibility as determined by the PCWA but should keep the referral or certification from the PCWA. The PCWA is not required to provide the PHA with HCV eligibility documents.

### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

Jacksonville Housing and PCWA have identified staff positions to serve as lead FYI liaisons. These positions will be responsible for transmission and acceptance of referrals. The PCWA must commit sufficient staff and resources to ensure eligible youths are identified, prioritized, and determined eligible in a timely manner.

When vouchers are available, Jacksonville Housing liaison responsible for acceptance of referrals will contact the PCWA liaison via email indicating the number of vouchers available and requesting an appropriate number of referrals. No more than 10 business days from the date the PCWA receives this notification, the PCWA liaison must provide Jacksonville Housing with a list of eligible referrals, a completed release form, and a written certification for each referral indicating the referral is eligible. The list will include the name, address, and contact phone number for each adult individual who is being referred.

Jacksonville Housing will maintain a copy of each certification from the PCWA in the participant's file along with other eligibility paperwork.

### **Waiting List Placement [Notice PIH 2021-26 and FYI FAQs]**

The PHA must use the HCV waiting list for the FYI program. Youth already on the HCV program may not be transferred to an FYI voucher since they are not homeless or at-risk of homelessness.

Once a referral is made, the PHA must compare the list of PCWA referrals to its HCV waiting list to determine if any applicants on the PCWA's referral list are already on the PHA's HCV waiting list. Applicants already on the PHA's HCV waiting list retain the order of their position on the list. Applicants not already on the PHA's HCV waiting list must be placed on the HCV waiting list.

If the PHA's HCV waiting list is closed, the PHA must open its HCV waiting list in order to accept new referrals. The PHA may reopen the waiting list to accept an FYI eligible youth without opening the waiting list for other applicants; however, the requirements at 24 CFR

982.206 for giving public notice when opening and closing the waiting list apply (see section 4-II.C., Opening and Closing the Waiting List of this administrative plan).

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Within 10 business days of receiving the referral from the PCWA, Jacksonville Housing will review the HCV waiting list and will send the PCWA a list confirming whether or not referrals are on the waiting list.

Referrals who are already on the list will retain their position and the list will be notated to indicate the applicant is FYI-eligible.

For those referrals not already on the waiting list, Jacksonville Housing will work with the PCWA to ensure they receive and successfully complete a pre-application or application, as applicable. Once the pre-application or application has been completed, Jacksonville Housing will place the referral on the HCV waiting list with the date and time of the original referral and an indication that the referral is FYI-eligible.

#### **Waiting List Selection**

The PHA selects eligible youths based on the PHA's regular HCV waiting list selection policies in Chapter 4, including any preferences that may apply.

#### **PHA HCV ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION [FYI FAQs]**

Once an eligible youth is selected from the HCV waiting list, the PHA must determine whether the youth meets HCV program eligibility requirements. Applicants must be eligible under both FYI eligibility requirements and HCV eligibility requirements as outlined in Chapter 3 of this policy.

The PCWA may, but is not obligated to, provide information to the PHA on the youth's criminal history.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Subject to privacy laws, the PCWA will provide any available information regarding the applicant's criminal history to Jacksonville Housing.

Jacksonville Housing will consider the information in making its eligibility determination in accordance with Jacksonville Housing's policies in Chapter 3.

#### **Additional Eligibility Factors**

Youth must be no more than 24 years old both at the time of PCWA certification and at the time of the HAP execution. If a youth is 24 at the time of PCWA certification but will turn 25 before the HAP contract is executed, the youth is no longer eligible for a FYI voucher.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Any applicant that does not meet the eligibility criteria for the HCV program listed in Chapter 3 or any eligibility criteria listed in this section will be notified by Jacksonville Housing in writing following policies in Chapter 3, including stating the reasons the applicant was found ineligible and providing an opportunity for an informal review.

## **LEASE UP [FR Notice 1/24/22]**

Once the PHA determines that the family or youth meets HCV eligibility requirements, the youth will be issued an FYI voucher in accordance with PHA policies.

During the family briefing, PHAs must inform the FYI voucher holder of:

- The extension of assistance provisions and requirements;
- The availability of the FSS program and offer them an FSS slot, if available, or offer to place them on the FSS waiting list (provided the PHA has an FSS program); and
- The supportive services available to them, the existence of any other programs or services, and their eligibility for such programs and services. However, participation in supportive services cannot be required as a condition of receiving FYI assistance.

### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

Eligible applicants will be notified by Jacksonville Housing in writing following policies in Chapter 3 of this policy. FYI youth will be briefed individually. Jacksonville Housing will provide all aspects of the written and oral briefing as outlined in Chapter 5.

Vouchers will be issued in accordance with PHA policies in Chapter 5, except that Jacksonville Housing will consider one additional 30-day extension beyond the first automatic extension for any reason, not just those listed in the policy in Chapter 5.

Once the youth locates a unit, the PHA conducts all other processes relating to voucher issuance and administration per HCV program regulations and the PHA policy in Chapter 9.

Should a youth fail to use the voucher, the PHA may issue the voucher to another eligible youth if one has been identified [Notice PIH 2021-26].

## **Turnover [FYI FAQs]**

For PHAs awarded FYI Tenant Protection Vouchers (TPVs) under Notice PIH 2019-20 where the recipient of the FYI TPV leaves the program, the PHA may request an FYI voucher under the requirements of Notice PIH 2021-26.

For PHAs awarded FYI vouchers under Notices PIH 2020-28 and PIH 2021-26, where the recipient of the FYI voucher leaves the program, the PHA must continue to use the FYI voucher for eligible youth upon turnover. Where there are more eligible youth than available FYI turnover vouchers, the PHA may request an FYI voucher under the requirements of Notice PIH 2021-26. If another eligible youth is not available, the PHA must notify HUD, and HUD will reduce the PHA's HCV assistance to account for the removal of the FYI assistance from the PHA's HCV baseline.

## **MAXIMUM ASSISTANCE PERIOD [Notice PIH 2021-26 and FYI FAQs; FR Notice 1/24/22]**

Vouchers are limited by statute to a total of between 36 months and 60 months of housing assistance. At the end of the statutory time period, assistance must be terminated. However, any period of time for which no subsidy (HAP) is being paid on behalf of the youth does not count toward the limitation. It is not permissible to reissue another FYI TPV to the same youth upon expiration of their FYI assistance.

Participants do not “age out” of the program. A participant may continue with the program until they have received the period of assistance for which they are eligible. Age limits are only applied for entry into the program.

### **Extension of Assistance**

FYI voucher holders who first leased or lease a unit after December 27, 2020, may be eligible for an extension of assistance up to 24 months beyond the 36-month time limit (for a total of 60 months of assistance).

While FYI voucher holders cannot be required to participate in the Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) program as a condition of receipt of assistance, an eligible youth who participates in the FSS program and is in compliance with the applicable terms and conditions of the program is entitled to receive assistance for up to an additional 24 months. A FYI voucher holders must accept an FSS slot if it is offered to them prior to the 36-month mark in order to receive an extension of assistance (unless the youth meets one of the statutory exceptions described below).

### **Statutory Exceptions**

FYI voucher holders will be entitled to receive an extension of assistance for up to 24 months beyond the 36-month time limit without participating in the PHA’s FSS program if they certify that they meet one of the exceptions below:

- The FYI voucher holder is a parent or other household member responsible for the care of a dependent child under the age of six or for the care of an incapacitated person.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will apply this exception in a manner that provides extensions of FYI assistance to the broadest population possible consistent with the statutory requirements.

The FYI voucher holder will be required to self-certify that they meet this exception on a PHA-provided form. This certification is the only documentation that the FYI voucher holder must submit.

The child or incapacitated person is not required to reside in the household in order for the FYI voucher holder to certify they meet this exception. For example, a child in a joint custody arrangement under the age of six who resides in the household only part time may qualify the FYI voucher holder for this exception.

- The FYI voucher holder is a person who is regularly and actively participating in a drug addiction or alcohol treatment and rehabilitation program.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will define *regular and active participation* in a manner that provides extensions of FYI voucher holder assistance to the broadest population possible consistent with the statutory requirements.

The FYI voucher holder will be required to self-certify that they meet this exception on a PHA-provided form. This certification is the only documentation that the FYI voucher holder must submit.

- The FYI voucher holder is a person who is incapable of complying with the requirement to participate in a FSS program as described above or engage in education, workforce development, or employment activities as described below, as applicable, due to a documented medical condition.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will apply this requirement in a manner that provides extensions of FYI voucher holder assistance to the broadest population possible consistent with statutory requirements.

The FYI voucher holder will be required to self-certify that they meet this exception on a Jacksonville Housing -provided form. This certification is the only documentation that the FYI voucher holder must submit.

An FYI voucher holder that meets one of the above exceptions must still be offered an opportunity to enroll in the PHA's FSS program (if it is available to them) and receive any supportive services available to FYI voucher holders. An FYI voucher holder may choose to participate in an FSS program or engage in education, workforce development, or employment activities, even if they meet one of the above statutory exceptions.

#### **Education, Workforce Development, or Employment Activities**

If a PHA that carries out an FSS program is unable to offer a FYI voucher holder an FSS slot during their first 36 months of receiving FYI assistance, the FYI voucher holder is considered to have been "unable to enroll" in the program and may have their voucher extended by meeting the education, workforce development, or employment criteria described below:

- The FYI voucher holder was engaged in obtaining a recognized postsecondary credential or a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will use the definitions of *recognized postsecondary credential* and *secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent* under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). WIOA defines a *recognized postsecondary credential* as a credential consisting of an industry-recognized certificate or certification, a certificate of completion of an apprenticeship, a license recognized by the state involved or federal government, or an associate or baccalaureate degree (29 U.S.C. 3102). Examples of a recognized postsecondary credential include, but are not limited to, an associate's degree, bachelor's degree, occupational licensure, or occupational certification (see U.S. Department of Labor, Training and Employment Guidance Letter No. 10-16, Change 1). For the purpose of WIOA, the U.S. Department of Labor defines a *secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent* as a secondary school diploma (or alternate diploma) that is recognized by a state and that is included for accountability purposes under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). A secondary school equivalency certification signifies that a student has completed the requirement for a high school education. Examples of a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent include, but are not limited to, obtaining certification of attaining passing scores on a state-recognized high school equivalency test, earning a secondary school diploma or state-recognized



equivalent, or obtaining certification of passing a state-recognized competency-based assessment.

- The FYI voucher holder was enrolled in an *institution of higher education*, as such term is defined in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)) or an institution that meets the definition of a *proprietary institution of higher education* or a *postsecondary vocational institution* under sections 102(b)(1) and (c)(1) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002(b)(1) and (c)(1)), respectively.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

The FYI voucher holder must be enrolled in education activities on at least a half-time basis, as defined by the institution which they attend. However, Jacksonville Housing may make exceptions to this requirement if the FYI voucher holder is unable to enroll in a sufficient number of classes due to a lack of course offerings by the educational institution where they are enrolled.

- The FYI voucher holder was participating in a career pathway, as such term is defined in Section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3102).
- The FYI voucher holder was employed.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will consider the FYI voucher holder to be employed if they work a minimum of 20 hours per week. Jacksonville Housing may make exceptions to this requirement if the FYI voucher holder's hours are reduced due to circumstances beyond their control or the FYI voucher holder must temporarily reduce their work hours due to a verified family emergency.

### **FSS Enrollment at 24 Months**

If the FYI voucher holder has not been provided an opportunity to enroll in the FSS program during the first 24 months of FYI assistance, HUD encourages the PHA to remind the FYI voucher holder at the 24-month reexamination of the education, workforce development, and employment requirements described above so that they have enough time to meet these requirements prior to the expiration of the 36-month time period for FYI assistance.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

If the FYI voucher holder has not been provided an opportunity to enroll in the FSS program during the first 24 months of FYI assistance, Jacksonville Housing will remind the FYI voucher holder at their second regular reexam of the education, workforce development and employment requirements described above.

### **FSS Enrollment Between 36 and 48 Months**

If an FSS slot becomes available between the 36-month and 48-month mark:

- The PHA must offer the slot to an FYI voucher holder who had their voucher extended based on meeting the education, workforce development, or employment requirement listed above, or one of the statutory exceptions listed above (even if the FYI voucher holder previously declined an FSS slot because they met one of the statutory exceptions).

- The PHA must work with the FYI voucher holder to determine whether enrollment in FSS is feasible and in their best interest given any education, workforce development, or employment activities that the FYI voucher holder is engaged in and any statutory exceptions that apply to the FYI voucher holder, as well as the remaining time on their voucher.
- If the FYI voucher holder accepts the FSS slot, the PHA must work with them to establish Contract of Participation goals and an Individual Training and Services Plan (ITSP) that can be accomplished within the time period left on the voucher.

If the FYI voucher holder is offered an FSS slot prior to the 36-month mark, the FYI voucher holder:

- Will be required to enroll in the FSS program in order to receive an extension of assistance at the end of the 36-month time period (unless they meet one of the statutory exceptions described above).
- Will not be considered to have been “unable to enroll” in the FSS program, and as a result, will not be eligible to receive an extension of assistance based on meeting the education, workforce development, or employment requirements described above.

### **FSS Enrollment After 48 Months**

The PHA may, but is not required, to offer an FYI voucher holder an FSS slot that becomes available between the 48-month mark and the 60-month mark, since the FYI voucher holder will have already received their second and final extension.

#### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

If an FSS slot becomes available between the 48 and 60-month marks, Jacksonville Housing will not offer the FSS slot to an FYI voucher holder.

### **Extensions of Assistance**

At the 36-month and 48-month reexamination, the PHA must extend FYI assistance if the FYI voucher holder is participating in and in compliance with the FSS program as long as the FYI voucher holder is still eligible for the HCV program.

In any case, the FYI voucher holder cannot receive more than a total of 60 months of FYI assistance even if the FSS Contract of Participation time period extends beyond the voucher 60-month mark.

### **No FSS Program or Unable to Enroll in FSS**

If a PHA does not carry out an FSS program or the FYI voucher holder has been unable to enroll in the program during the first 36 months of receiving FYI assistance, the FYI voucher holder is entitled to receive an extension of assistance for up to two successive 12-month periods beyond the 36-month time limit provided that the FYI voucher holder engaged in at least one of the education, workforce development, or employment activities described above for not less than nine months of the 12-month period preceding each extension. In order to meet the nine months out of the preceding 12 months requirement, the FYI voucher holder may have engaged in one of the education, workforce development, or employment activities described above or a combination of these activities.

## **Verification Prior to Annual Reexam**

In order to provide an extension of assistance, the PHA must verify compliance with the above requirements at the end of the 36-month time period and the 48-month time periods. The PHA does not need to verify compliance with these requirements at the end of the 60-month time period since the maximum length of assistance is 60 months.

To verify compliance with the education, workforce development, or employment requirement or one of the statutory exceptions, the PHA must provide the FYI voucher holder written notification informing them that they may receive an extension of their FYI assistance and providing instructions on how the FYI voucher holder may demonstrate that they meet one of these conditions. This notification must be provided sufficiently in advance of the end of the 36-month or 48-month time periods, as applicable, to allow the FYI voucher holder to demonstrate that they meet the education, workforce development, or employment requirement, or one of the statutory exceptions, and for the PHA to conduct an annual reexamination prior to the expiration of the FYI assistance.

### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

Jacksonville Housing will verify compliance with the education, workforce development, or employment requirement, or one of the statutory exceptions, at the end of the 36-month and 48-month time periods prior to the FYI voucher holder's scheduled annual reexamination. Jacksonville Housing will not verify compliance at the end of the 60-month time period.

Jacksonville Housing will provide each FYI voucher holder on the PHA's program with a written notification informing them that they may receive an extension of their FYI assistance if they meet conditions outlined in this chapter and providing them with instructions on how they may demonstrate compliance at least 60 days prior to their scheduled annual reexam date. When necessary, Jacksonville Housing will provide this notification in a format accessible to FYI voucher holders with disabilities and in a translated format for FYI voucher holders with limited English proficiency in accordance with Chapter 4.

Jacksonville Housing will use the following verification methods to verify an FYI voucher holder's eligibility for voucher extensions:

To verify compliance with the FSS requirement, Jacksonville Housing will examine its records to confirm, or obtain confirmation from the PHA's FSS program staff, that the FYI participant is in compliance with FSS program requirements and has not been terminated from the FSS program.

To meet the education, workforce development, or employment requirement, the PHA will verify that the FYI voucher holder was engaged in at least one education, workforce development, or employment activity for at least nine months of the 12-month period immediately preceding the end of the 36-month or 48-month time period, as applicable.

Due to the timing of when the PHA verifies compliance and conducts the annual reexamination, the FYI voucher holder may have not yet met the nine-month requirement but may be able to demonstrate that they will meet the nine-month requirement as of the end of the 36-month or 48-

month time period. In such cases, the FYI voucher holder will still be considered to have met the requirements.

In order for the FYI voucher holder to meet one of the statutory exceptions described above, the FYI voucher holder must submit a certification to the PHA that they meet one of these exceptions. This certification is the only documentation that the FYI voucher holder must submit in order to demonstrate that they meet one of the statutory exceptions.

An FYI voucher holder who received an extension of voucher assistance at the end of the 36-month time period based on meeting one of the conditions described in this chapter does not have to meet the same conditions when they reach the end of the 48-month time period. The FYI voucher holder may demonstrate that they meet a different condition in order to receive an extension of their assistance.

If the PHA determines that the FYI voucher holder meets one of the statutory conditions, the PHA would then conduct an annual reexamination. If the annual reexamination determines that the FYI voucher holder is still eligible for the HCV program, the PHA must provide the FYI voucher holder the extension of voucher assistance.

### **Termination of Assistance for Failure to Meet Conditions**

Failure of the FYI voucher holder to meet one of the above conditions will only impact their ability to receive subsequent extensions of assistance. It will not serve as a basis for terminating the FYI assistance prior to the annual reexam.

If the FYI voucher holder does not meet any of the statutory conditions described in this chapter, the youth is subject to the statutory time limit of 36 months or the time limit of any extension that the youth has already received, and the FYI voucher must be terminated once they reach this time limit. The calculation of the time limit begins from the date the first HAP contract is signed (for tenant-based vouchers) or from the date the FYI voucher holder entered into the initial lease agreement (for project-based vouchers). The number of months is calculated based on the number of months that HAP subsidy is being paid on behalf of the FYI voucher holder, not the number of months that they are in the FYI program. Prior to termination, the PHA must offer the FYI voucher holder the opportunity to request an informal hearing, in accordance with Chapter 16.

### **TERMINATION OF ASSISTANCE [FYI FAQs]**

Termination of an FYI voucher is handled in the same way as with any HCV; therefore, termination of an FYI voucher must be consistent with HCV regulations at 24 CFR Part 982, Subpart L, and PHA policies in Chapter 12. Given the statutory time limit that requires FYI vouchers to sunset, a PHA must terminate the youth's assistance once the limit on assistance has expired.

A PHA cannot terminate an FYI youth's assistance for noncompliance with PCWA case management, nor may the PHA terminate assistance for an FYI youth for not accepting services from the PCWA.

The PHA may not transfer the assistance of FYI voucher holders to regular HCV assistance upon the expiration of the limit on assistance. However, the PHA may issue a regular HCV to FYI voucher holders if they were selected from the waiting list in accordance with PHA policies. The

PHA may also adopt a waiting list preference for FYI voucher holders who are being terminated for this reason.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will not provide a selection preference on the Jacksonville Housing's HCV waiting list for FYI voucher holders who are terminated due to the time limit on assistance.

### **PORTABILITY [FYI FAQs]**

Portability for an FYI youth is handled in the same way as for a regular HCV family. A PHA may not restrict or deny portability for an FYI youth for reasons other than those specified in the HCV program regulations, as reflected in Chapter 10 of the administrative plan.

An FYI youth does not have to port to a jurisdiction that administers FYI vouchers.

If the receiving PHA absorbs the voucher, the PHA may absorb the youth into its regular HCV program if it has vouchers available to do so. If the receiving PHA absorbs the youth into its regular HCV program, that youth becomes a regular HCV participant with none of the limitations of an FYI voucher.

The initial and receiving PHA must work together to initiate termination of assistance upon expiration of the time limit on assistance.

### **PROJECT-BASING FYI VOUCHERS [FYI FAQs; FR Notice 1/24/22]**

The PHA may project-base certain FYI vouchers without HUD approval in accordance with all applicable PBV regulations and PHA policies in Chapter 17. This includes FYI vouchers awarded under Notices PIH 2020-28 and PIH 2021-26. Assistance awarded under Notice PIH 2019-20 is prohibited from being project-based.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will not project-base FYI vouchers. All FYI vouchers will be used to provide tenant-based assistance.

## **C.VETERANS AFFAIRS SUPPORTIVE HOUSING (VASH) PROGRAM**

### **OVERVIEW**

Since 2008, HCV program funding has provided rental assistance under a supportive housing program for homeless veterans. The Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) program combines HCV rental assistance with case management and clinical services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) at VA medical centers (VAMCs) and Community-Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs), or through a designated service provider (DSP) as approved by the VA Secretary. Eligible families are homeless veterans and their families who agree to participate in VA case management and are referred to the VAMC's partner PHA for HCV assistance. The VAMC or DSP's responsibilities include:

- Screening homeless veterans to determine whether they meet VASH program participation criteria;
- Referring homeless veterans to the PHA;

- The term *homeless veteran* means a veteran who is homeless (as that term is defined in subsection (a) or (b) of Section 103 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11302)). See 38 U.S.C. 2002.
- Providing appropriate treatment and supportive services to potential VASH participants, if needed, prior to PHA issuance of a voucher;
- Providing housing search assistance to VASH participants;
- Identifying the social service and medical needs of VASH participants, and providing or ensuring the provision of regular ongoing case management, outpatient health services, hospitalization, and other supportive services as needed throughout the veterans' participation period; and
- Maintaining records and providing information for evaluation purposes, as required by HUD and the VA.

VASH vouchers are awarded noncompetitively based on geographic need and PHA administrative performance. Eligible PHAs must be located within the jurisdiction of a VAMC and in an area of high need based on data compiled by HUD and the VA. When Congress funds a new allocation of VASH vouchers, HUD invites eligible PHAs to apply for a specified number of vouchers.

Generally, the HUD-VASH program is administered in accordance with regular HCV program requirements. However, HUD is authorized to waive or specify alternative requirements to allow PHAs to effectively deliver and administer VASH assistance. Alternative requirements are established in the HUD-VASH Operating Requirements, which were originally published in the Federal Register on May 6, 2008, and updated September 27, 2021. Unless expressly waived by HUD, all regulatory requirements and HUD directives regarding the HCV program are applicable to VASH vouchers, including the use of all HUD-required contracts and other forms, and all civil rights and fair housing requirements. In addition, the PHA may request additional statutory or regulatory waivers that it determines are necessary for the effective delivery and administration of the program.

The VASH program is administered in accordance with applicable Fair Housing requirements since civil rights requirements cannot be waived under the program. These include applicable authorities under 24 CFR 5.105(a) and 24 CFR 982.53 including, but not limited to, the Fair Housing Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the Age Discrimination Act and all PHA policies as outlined in Chapter 4 of this document.

When HUD-VASH recipients include veterans with disabilities or family members with disabilities, reasonable accommodation requirements in Chapter 4 of this policy apply.

## **REFERRALS [FR Notice 9/27/21 and HUD-VASH Qs and As]**

VAMC case managers will screen all families in accordance with VA screening criteria and refer eligible families to the PHA for determination of program eligibility and voucher issuance. The PHA has no role in determining or verifying the veteran's eligibility under VA screening criteria, including determining the veteran's homelessness status. The PHA must accept referrals from the partnering VAMC and must maintain written documentation of referrals in VASH tenant

files. Upon turnover, VASH vouchers must be issued to eligible veteran families as identified by the VAMC.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

In order to expedite the screening process, Jacksonville Housing will provide all forms and a list of documents required for the VASH application to the VAMC. Case managers will work with veterans to fill out the forms and compile all documents prior to meeting with Jacksonville Housing and submitting an application. When feasible, the VAMC case manager should email or fax copies of all documents to Jacksonville Housing prior to the meeting in order to allow Jacksonville Housing time to review them and start a file for the veteran.

After the VAMC has given Jacksonville Housing a complete referral, Jacksonville Housing will perform an eligibility screening within five business days of receipt of a VAMC referral.

#### **HCV PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY [FR Notice 9/27/21]**

Eligible participants are homeless veterans and their families who agree to participate in case management from the VAMC.

- A *VASH Veteran* or *veteran family* refers to either a single veteran or a veteran with a household composed of two or more related persons. It also includes one or more eligible persons living with the veteran who are determined to be important to the veteran's care or well-being.
- A veteran for the purpose of VASH is a person whose length of service meets statutory requirements, and who served in the active military, naval, or air service, was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable, and is eligible for VA health care.

Under VASH, PHAs do not have authority to determine family eligibility in accordance with HCV program rules and PHA policies. The only reasons for denial of assistance by the PHA are failure to meet the income eligibility requirements and/or that a family member is subject to a lifetime registration requirement under a state sex offender registration program. Under portability, the receiving PHA must also comply with these VASH screening requirements.

#### **Social Security Numbers**

When verifying Social Security numbers (SSNs) for homeless veterans and their family members, an original document issued by a federal or state government agency, which contains the name and SSN of the individual along with other identifying information of the individual, is acceptable in accordance with Section 7-II.B. of this policy.

In the case of the homeless veteran, the PHA must accept the Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD-214) or the VA-verified Application for Health Benefits (10-10EZ) as verification of SSN and cannot require the veteran to provide a Social Security card. A VA-issued identification card may also be used to verify the SSN of a homeless veteran.

## **Proof of Age**

The DD-214 or 10-10EZ must be accepted as proof of age in lieu of birth certificates or other PHA-required documentation as outlined in Section 7-II.C. of this policy. A VA-issued identification card may also be used to verify the age of a homeless veteran.

## **Photo Identification**

A VA-issued identification card must be accepted in lieu of another type of government-issued photo identification. These cards also serve as verification of SSNs and date of birth.

## **Income Eligibility**

The PHA must determine income eligibility for VASH families in accordance with 24 CFR 982.201 and policies in Section 3-II.A. If the family is over-income based on the most recently published income limits for the family size, the family will be ineligible for HCV assistance.

While income-targeting does not apply to VASH vouchers, the PHA may include the admission of extremely low-income VASH families in its income targeting numbers for the fiscal year in which these families are admitted.

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

While income-targeting requirements will not be considered by Jacksonville Housing when families are referred by the partnering VAMC, Jacksonville Housing will include any extremely low-income VASH families that are admitted in its income targeting numbers for the fiscal year in which these families are admitted.

## **Screening**

The PHA may not screen any potentially eligible family members or deny assistance for any grounds permitted under 24 CFR 982.552 and 982.553 with one exception: the PHAs is still required to prohibit admission if any member of the household is subject to a lifetime registration requirement under a state sex offender registration program. Accordingly, with the exception of denial for registration as a lifetime sex offender under state law and PHA policies on how sex offender screenings will be conducted, PHA policy in Sections 3.B. through 3.E. do not apply to VASH. The prohibition against screening families for anything other than lifetime sex offender status applies to all family members, not just the veteran.

If a family member is subject to lifetime registration under a state sex offender registration program, the remaining family members may be served if the family agrees to remove the sex offender from its family composition. This is true unless the family member subject to lifetime registration under a state sex offender registration program is the homeless veteran, in which case the family would be denied admission to the program [New HCV GB, *HUD-VASH*, p. 6].

## **Denial of Assistance [Notice PIH 2008-37]**

Once a veteran is referred by the VAMC, the PHA must either issue a voucher or deny assistance. If the PHA denies assistance, it must provide the family with prompt notice of the decision and a brief statement of the reason for denial in accordance with Section 3-III.F. Like in the standard HCV program, the family must be provided with the opportunity for an informal review in accordance with policies in Section 3.F. In addition, a copy of the denial notice must be sent to the VAMC case manager.



## **CHANGES IN FAMILY COMPOSITION**

### **Adding Family Members [FR Notice 9/27/21]**

When adding a family member after the family has been admitted to the program, PHA policies in Section 3-II.B. apply. Other than the birth, adoption, or court-awarded custody of a child, the PHA must approve additional family members and will apply its regular screening criteria in doing so.

### **Remaining Family Members [HUD-VASH Qs and As]**

If the homeless veteran dies while the family is being assisted, the voucher would remain with the remaining members of the tenant family. The PHA may use one of its own regular vouchers, if available, to continue assisting this family and free up a VASH voucher for another VASH-eligible family. If a regular voucher is not available, the family would continue utilizing the VASH voucher. Once the VASH voucher turns over, however, it must go to a homeless veteran family.

### **Family Break Up [HUD-VASH Qs and As]**

In the case of divorce or separation, since the set-aside of VASH vouchers is for veterans, the voucher must remain with the veteran. This overrides the PHA's policies in Section 3-I.C. on how to determine who remains in the program if a family breaks up.

## **LEASING [FR Notice 9/27/21]**

### **Waiting List**

The PHA does not have the authority to maintain a waiting list or apply local preferences for HUD-VASH vouchers. Policies in Chapter 4 relating to applicant selection from the waiting list, local preferences, special admissions, cross-listing, and opening and closing the waiting list do not apply to VASH vouchers.

### **Exception Payment Standards**

To assist VASH participants in finding affordable housing, especially in competitive markets, HUD allows PHAs to establish a HUD-VASH exception payment standard. PHAs may go up to but no higher than 120 percent of the published area-wide fair market rent (FMR) or small area fair market rent (SAFMR) specifically for VASH families. PHAs who want to establish a VASH exception payment standard over 120 percent must still request a waiver from HUD through the regular waiver process outlined in Notice PIH 2018-16.

### **Voucher Issuance**

Unlike the standard HCV program which requires an initial voucher term of at least 60 days, VASH vouchers must have an initial search term of at least 120 days. PHA policies on extensions as outlined in Section 5-II.E. will apply.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

All VASH vouchers will have an initial term of 120 calendar days.

The family must submit a Request for Tenancy Approval and proposed lease within the 120-day period unless Jacksonville Housing grants an extension.

The PHA must track issuance of HCVs for families referred by the VAMC or DSP in PIC as required in Notice PIH 2011-53.

### **Initial Lease Term**

Unlike in the standard the HCV program, VASH voucher holders may enter into an initial lease that is for less than 12 months. Accordingly, PHA policy in Section 9-I.E., Term of Assisted Tenancy, does not apply.

### **Ineligible Housing [FR Notice 6/18/14]**

Unlike in the standard HCV program, VASH families are permitted to live on the grounds of a VA facility in units developed to house homeless veterans. This applies to both tenant-based assistance and PBV. Therefore, 24 CFR 982.352(a)(5) and 983.53(a)(2), which prohibit units on the physical grounds of a medical, mental, or similar public or private institution, do not apply to VASH for this purpose only. Accordingly, PHA policy in 9-I.D., Ineligible Units, does not apply for this purpose only.

### **Pre-Inspections**

To expedite the leasing process, PHAs may pre-inspect available units that veterans may be interested in leasing in order to maintain a pool of eligible units. If a VASH family selects a unit that passed an inspection (without intervening occupancy) within 45 days of the date of the Request for Tenancy Approval (Form HUD-52517), the unit may be approved if it meets all other conditions under 24 CFR 982.305. However, the veteran must be free to select their unit and cannot be steered to these units.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

To expedite the leasing process, Jacksonville Housing may pre-inspect available units that veterans may be interested in leasing to maintain a pool of eligible units. If a VASH family selects a unit that passed NSPIRE standard pre-inspection (without intervening occupancy) within 45 days of the date of the RFTA, the unit may be approved provided that it meets all other conditions under 24 CFR 982.305. The veteran will be free to select their unit.

When a pre-inspected unit is not selected, Jacksonville Housing will make every effort to fast-track the inspection process, including adjusting the normal inspection schedule for both initial and any required re-inspections.

### **PORTABILITY [FR Notice 9/27/21 and Notice PIH 2011-53]**

#### **General Requirements**

Portability policies under VASH depend on whether the family wants to move within or outside of the initial VA facility's catchment area (the area in which the VAMC or DSP operates). In all cases, the initial VA facility must be consulted prior to the move and provide written confirmation that case management will continue to be provided in the family's new location. VASH participant families may only reside in jurisdictions that are accessible to case management services, as determined by case managers at the partnering VAMC or DSP.

Under VASH, applicant families may move under portability even if the family did not have legal residency in the jurisdiction of the initial PHA when they applied. As a result, PHA policies in Section 10-II.B. about nonresident applicants do not apply.

If the family no longer requires case management, there are no portability restrictions. Normal portability rules apply.

### **Portability within the Initial VAMC or DSP's Catchment Area**

A VASH family can move within the VAMC's catchment area as long as case management can still be provided, as determined by the VA. If the initial PHA's partnering VAMC will still provide the case management services, the receiving PHA must process the move in accordance with portability procedures:

- If the receiving PHA has been awarded VASH vouchers, it can choose to either bill the initial PHA or absorb the family if it has a VASH voucher available to do so.
  - If the PHA absorbs the family, the VAMC or DSP providing the initial case management must agree to the absorption and the transfer of case management.
- If the receiving PHA does not administer a VASH program, it must always bill the initial PHA.

### **Portability Outside of the Initial VAMC or DSP's Catchment Area**

If a family wants to move to another jurisdiction where it will not be possible for the initial PHA's partnering VAMC or DSP to provide case management services, the initial VAMC or DSP must first determine that the VASH family could be served by another VAMS or DSP that is participating in the VASH program, and the receiving PHA has an available VASH voucher.

In these cases, the family must be absorbed by the receiving PHA either as a new admission or as a portability move-in, as applicable. Upon absorption, the initial PHA's VASH voucher will be available to lease to a new VASH-eligible family, and the absorbed family will count toward the number of VASH slots awarded to the receiving PHA.

### **Portability Outside of the Initial VAMC or DSP's Catchment Area under VAWA**

Veterans who request to port beyond the catchment area of the VAMC or DSP where they are receiving case management to protect the health or safety of a person who is or has been the victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, and who reasonably believes they are threatened with imminent harm from further violence by remaining in the unit may port prior to receiving approval from the receiving VAMC or DSP. The initial PHA must follow its emergency transfer plan (see Exhibit 16-3). PHAs may require verbal self-certification or a written request from a participant seeing a move beyond the catchment area of the VAMC or DSP.

The verbal self-certification or written request must include either a statement expressing why the participant reasonably believes that there is a threat of imminent harm from further violence if they were to remain in the same unit or a statement that the tenant was a sexual assault victim and that the sexual assault occurred on the premises during the 90-day period preceding the participants request for the move.

The participant must still port to a PHA that has a VASH program. If the receiving PHA does not have a VASH voucher available to lease, they may bill the initial PHA until a VASH voucher is available, at which point the porting veteran must be absorbed into the receiving PHA's program.

## **TERMINATION OF ASSISTANCE [FR Notice 9/27/21]**

With the exception of terminations for failure to receive case management, HUD has not established any alternative requirements for termination of assistance for VASH participants. However, prior to terminating VASH participants, HUD strongly encourages PHAs to exercise their discretion under 24 CFR 982.552(c)(2) as outlined in Section 12-II.D. of this policy and consider all relevant circumstances of the specific case. This includes granting reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, as well as considering the role of the case manager and the impact that ongoing case management services can have on mitigating the conditions that led to the potential termination.

VASH participant families may not be terminated after admission for a circumstance or activities that occurred prior to admission and were known to the PHA but could not be considered at the time of admission due to VASH program requirements. The PHA may terminate the family's assistance only for program violations that occur after the family's admission to the program.

### **Cessation of Case Management**

As a condition of receiving HCV rental assistance, a HUD-VASH-eligible family must receive case management services from the VAMC or DSP. A VASH participant family's assistance must be terminated for failure to participate, without good cause, in case management as verified by the VAMC or DSP.

However, a VAMC or DSP determination that the participant family no longer requires case management is not grounds for termination of voucher or PBV assistance. In such a case, at its option, the PHA may offer the family continued assistance through one of its regular vouchers. If the PHA has no voucher to offer, the family will retain its VASH voucher or PBV unit until such time as the PHA has an available voucher for the family.

## **VAWA [FR Notice 9/27/21]**

When a veteran's family member is receiving protection under VAWA because the veteran is the perpetrator of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, the victim must continue to be assisted. Upon termination of the perpetrator's VASH assistance, the victim must be given a regular HCV if one is available, and the perpetrator's VASH voucher must be used to serve another eligible veteran family. If a regular HCV is not available, the perpetrator must be terminated from assistance and the victim will continue to use the VASH voucher.

## **PROJECT-BASING VASH VOUCHERS**

### **General Requirements [Notice PIH 2017-21 and FR Notice 9/27/21]**

PHAs are authorized to project-base their tenant-based VASH vouchers without additional HUD review or approval in accordance with Notice PIH 2017-21 and all PBV program requirements provided that the VAMC will continue to make supportive services available. In addition, since 2010, HUD has awarded VASH vouchers specifically for project-based assistance in the form of PBV HUD-VASH set-aside vouchers. While these vouchers are excluded from the PBV program cap as long as they remain under PBV HAP contract at the designated project, all other VASH

vouchers are subject to the PBV program percentage limitation discussed in Section 17-I.A. Note that VASH supportive services only need to be provided to VASH families receiving PBV assistance in the project, not all families receiving PBV assistance in the project. If a VASH family does not require or no longer requires case management, the unit continues to count as an excepted PBV unit as long as the family resides in the unit.

If the PHA project-bases VASH vouchers, the PHA must consult with the partnering VAMC or DSP to ensure approval of the project or projects. PHAs may project-base VASH vouchers in projects alongside other PBV units and may execute a single HAP contract covering both the VASH PBVs and the other PBVs. The PHA must refer only VASH families to PBV units exclusively made available to VASH families and to PBV units funded through a HUD set-aside award.

If a VASH family is referred to the PHA and there is an available PBV unit that is not exclusively made available to VASH families, the PHA may offer to refer the family to the owner if allowable under the selection policy for that project, and the owner and PHA may amend the HAP contract to designate the PBV unit as a VASH PBV unit.

The PHA and owner may agree to amend a PBV HAP contract to redesignate a regular PBV unit as a unit specifically designated for VASH families so long as the PHA first consults with the VAMC or DSP. Additionally, the PHA and owner may agree to amend a PBV HAP contract to redesignate a unit specifically designated for VASH families as a regular PBV unit, so long as the unit is not funded through a VASH PBV set-aside award and is eligible for regular PBV (i.e., the unit is not on the grounds of a medical facility and the unit is eligible under the PHA's program and project caps).

Policies for VASH PBV units will generally follow PHA policies for the standard PBV program as listed in Chapter 17, with the exception of the policies listed below.

### **Failure to Participate in Case Management [FR Notice 9/27/21]**

Upon notification by the VAMC or DSP of the family's failure to participate, without good cause, in case management, the PHA must provide the family a reasonable time period to vacate the unit. The PHA must terminate assistance to the family at the earlier of either the time the family vacates or the expiration of the reasonable time period given to vacate.

#### **Jacksonville Housing Policy**

Upon notification by the VAMC or DSP that a VASH PBV family has failed to participate in case management without good cause, Jacksonville Housing will provide written notice of termination of assistance to the family and the owner within 10 business days. The family will be given 60 days from the date of the notice to move out of the unit.

The PHA may make exceptions to this 60-day period if needed for reasons beyond the family's control such as death, serious illness, or other medical emergency of a family member.

If the family fails to vacate the unit within the established time, the owner may evict the family. If the owner does not evict the family, the PHA must remove the unit from the HAP contract or amend the HAP contract to substitute a different unit in the project if the project is partially

assisted. The PHA may add the removed unit to the HAP contract after the ineligible family vacates the property.

#### **Moves [HUD-VASH Qs and As, FR Notice 9/27/21]**

When a VASH PBV family is eligible to move from its PBV unit in accordance with Section 17-C. of this policy, but there is no other comparable tenant-based rental assistance, the following procedures must be implemented:

- If a VASH tenant-based voucher is not available at the time the family wants (and is eligible) to move, the PHA may require a family who still requires case management to wait for a VASH tenant-based voucher for a period not to exceed 180 days;
- If a VASH tenant-based voucher is still not available after that period, the family must be allowed to move with its VASH voucher. Alternatively, the PHA may allow the family to move with its VASH voucher without having to meet this 180-day period. In either case, the PHA is required to replace the assistance in the PBV unit with one of its regular vouchers unless the PHA and owner agree to temporarily remove the unit from the HAP contract and
- If a VASH veteran is determined to no longer require case management, the PHA must allow the family to move with the first available tenant-based voucher. If not, a VASH voucher is immediately available and cannot require the family to wait for a VASH voucher to become available.

#### **D. MAINSTREAM VOUCHER PROGRAM**

##### **PROGRAM OVERVIEW [Notice PIH 2020-01]**

Mainstream vouchers assist non-elderly persons with disabilities and their families in the form of either project-based or tenant-based voucher assistance.

Aside from separate funding appropriations and serving a specific population, Mainstream vouchers follow the same program requirements as standard vouchers. The PHA does not have special authority to treat families that receive a Mainstream voucher differently from other applicants and participants. For example, the PHA cannot apply different payment standards, establish conditions for allowing portability, or apply different screening criteria to Mainstream families.

The Mainstream voucher program (previously referred to as the Mainstream 5-Year program or the Section 811 voucher program) was originally authorized under the National Affordable Housing Act of 1990. Mainstream vouchers operated separately from the regular HCV program until the passage of the Frank Melville Supportive Housing Investment Act of 2010. Funding for Mainstream voucher renewals and administrative fees was first made available in 2012. In 2017 and 2019, incremental vouchers were made available for the first time since the Melville Act (in addition to renewals and administrative fees), and PHAs were invited to apply for a competitive award of Mainstream vouchers under the FY17 and FY19 NOFAs. In 2020, Notice PIH 2020-22 provided an opportunity for any PHA administering an HCV program to apply for Mainstream vouchers noncompetitively, while Notice PIH 2020-09 authorized an increase in Mainstream voucher units and budget authority for those PHAs already awarded Mainstream vouchers under the FY17 and FY19 NOFAs.

Funds for Mainstream vouchers may be recaptured and reallocated if the PHA does not comply with all program requirements or fails to maintain a utilization rate of 80 percent for the PHA's Mainstream vouchers.

### **ELIGIBLE POPULATION [Notice PIH 2020-01 and Notice PIH 2020-22]**

All Mainstream vouchers must be used to serve non-elderly persons with disabilities and their families, defined as any family that includes a person with disabilities who is at least 18 years old and not yet 62 years old as of the effective date of the initial HAP contract. The eligible disabled household member does not need to be the head of the household.

The definition of a person with disabilities for purposes of Mainstream vouchers is the statutory definition under section 3(b)(3)(E) of the 1937 Act, which is the same as is used for allowances and deductions in the HCV program and is provided in Exhibit 3-1 of this policy.

Existing families receiving Mainstream vouchers, where the eligible family member is now age 62 or older, will not "age out" of the program as long as the family was eligible on the day it was first assisted under a HAP contract.

The PHA may not implement eligibility screening criteria for Mainstream vouchers that is different from that of the regular HCV program.

### **PARTNERSHIP AND SUPPORTIVE SERVICES [Notice PIH 2020-01]**

PHAs are encouraged but not required to establish formal and informal partnerships with a variety of organizations that assist persons with disabilities to help ensure eligible participants find and maintain stable housing.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will implement a Mainstream program in partnership with service providers.

### **WAITING LIST ADMINISTRATION**

#### **General Waiting List Requirements [Notice PIH 2020-01 and Mainstream Voucher Basics Webinar, 10/15/20]**

PHAs must not have a separate waiting list for Mainstream voucher assistance since the PHA is required by the regulations to maintain one waiting list for tenant-based assistance [24 CFR 982.204(f)]. All PHA policies on opening, closing, and updating the waiting list, as well as waiting list preferences in Chapter 4, apply to the Mainstream program.

When the PHA is awarded Mainstream vouchers, these vouchers must be used for new admissions to the PHA's program from the waiting list. The PHA must lease these vouchers by pulling the first Mainstream-eligible family from its tenant-based waiting list. PHAs are not permitted to reassign existing participants to the program in order to make regular tenant-based vouchers available. Further, the PHA may not skip over Mainstream-eligible families on the waiting list because the PHA is serving the required number of Mainstream families.

Upon turnover, vouchers must be provided to Mainstream-eligible families. If a Mainstream turnover voucher becomes available, the PHA must determine if the families at the top of the waiting list qualify under program requirements.

## **Admission Preferences [Notice PIH 2020-01; FY17 Mainstream NOFA; FY19 Mainstream NOFA]**

If the PHA claims points for a preference in a NOFA application for Mainstream vouchers, it must adopt a preference for at least one of the targeted groups identified in the NOFA.

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing claimed a preference for a targeted group as part of an application for Mainstream vouchers under a NOFA.

Jacksonville Housing will adopt the discretionary Mainstream policy as noted in the Mainstream addendum in this Administrative Plan and create a separate waiting list.

## **PORTABILITY [Notice PIH 2020-01 and Mainstream Voucher Basics Webinar, 10/15/20]**

Mainstream voucher participants are eligible for portability under standard portability rules, and all PHA policies regarding portability in Chapter 10, Part II apply to Mainstream families.

The following special considerations for Mainstream vouchers apply under portability:

- If the receiving PHA has a Mainstream voucher available, the participant may remain a Mainstream participant.
  - If the receiving PHA chooses to bill the initial PHA, then the voucher will remain a Mainstream voucher.
  - If the receiving PHA chooses to absorb the voucher, the voucher will be considered a regular voucher or a Mainstream voucher if the receiving PHA has a Mainstream voucher available, and the Mainstream voucher at the initial PHA will be freed up to lease to another Mainstream-eligible family.
- If the receiving PHA does not have a Mainstream voucher available, the participant may receive a regular voucher.

## **PROJECT-BASING MAINSTREAM VOUCHERS [FY19 Mainstream Voucher NOFA Q&A]**

The PHA may project-base Mainstream vouchers in accordance with all applicable PBV regulations and PHA policies in Chapter 17. PHAs are responsible for ensuring that, in addition to complying with project-based voucher program requirements, the project complies with all applicable federal nondiscrimination and civil rights statutes and requirements. This includes, but is not limited to, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (Section 504), Titles II or III of the Americans with Disabilities (ADA), and the Fair Housing Act and their implementing regulations at 24 CFR Part 8; 28 CFR Parts 35 and 36; and 24 CFR Part 100. Mainstream vouchers are subject to the PBV program percentage limitation discussed in Section 17-I.A.

## **E. NON-ELDERLY DISABLED (NED) VOUCHERS**

### **PROGRAM OVERVIEW [Notice PIH 2013-19]**

NED vouchers help non-elderly disabled families lease suitable, accessible, and affordable housing in the private market. Aside from separate funding appropriations and serving a specific population, NED vouchers follow the same program requirements as standard vouchers. The



PHA does not have special authority to treat families that receive a NED voucher differently from other applicants and participants.

Some NED vouchers are awarded to PHAs through competitive NOFAs. The NOFA for FY2009 Rental Assistance for NED made incremental funding available for two categories of NED families:

- **Category 1** vouchers enable non-elderly persons or families with disabilities to access affordable housing on the private market.
- **Category 2** vouchers enable non-elderly persons with disabilities currently residing in nursing homes or other healthcare institutions to transition into the community. PHAs with NED Category 2 vouchers were required to partner with a state Medicaid or health agency or the state Money Follows the Person (MFP) Demonstration agency.

Since 1997, HCVs for NED families have also been awarded under various special purpose HCV programs: Rental Assistance for Non-Elderly Persons with Disabilities in Support of Designated Housing Plans (Designated Housing), Rental Assistance for Non-Elderly Persons with Disabilities Related to Certain Types of Section 8 Project-Based Developments (Certain Developments), One-Year Mainstream Housing Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, and the Project Access Pilot Program (formerly Access Housing 2000).

- **Designated Housing** vouchers enable non-elderly disabled families, who would have been eligible for a public housing unit if the occupancy of the unit or entire project had not been restricted to elderly families only through an approved Designated Housing Plan, to receive rental assistance. These vouchers may also assist non-elderly disabled families living in a designated unit/project/building to move from that project if they so choose. The family does not have to be listed on the PHA's voucher waiting list. Instead, they may be admitted to the program as a special admission. Once the impacted families have been served, the PHA may begin issuing these vouchers to non-elderly disabled families from their HCV waiting list. Upon turnover, these vouchers must be issued to non-elderly disabled families from the PHA's HCV waiting list.
- **Certain Developments** vouchers enable non-elderly families having a person with disabilities, who do not currently receive housing assistance in certain developments where owners establish preferences for, or restrict occupancy to, elderly families, to obtain affordable housing. These non-elderly families with a disabled person do not need to be listed on the PHA's HCV waiting list in order to be offered and receive housing choice voucher rental assistance. It is sufficient that these families' names are on the waiting list for a covered development at the time their names are provided to the PHA by the owner. Once the impacted families have been served, the PHA may begin issuing these vouchers to non-elderly disabled families from their HCV waiting list. Upon turnover, these vouchers must be issued to non-elderly disabled families from the PHA's HCV waiting list.
- **One-Year Mainstream Housing Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities (One-Year Mainstream)** vouchers enable non-elderly disabled families on the PHA's waiting list to receive a voucher. After initial leasing, turnover vouchers must be issued to non-elderly disabled families from the PHA's voucher waiting list.

## **ELIGIBLE POPULATION**

### **General Requirements [Notice PIH 2013-19]**

Only eligible families whose head of household, spouse, or cohead is non-elderly (under age 62) and disabled may receive a NED voucher. Families with only a minor child with a disability are not eligible.

In cases where the qualifying household member now qualifies as elderly due to the passage of time since the family received the NED voucher, existing NED participant families do not “age out,” as the family was eligible on the day it was first assisted under a housing assistance payments (HAP) contract.

The definition of a person with disabilities for purposes of NED vouchers is the statutory definition under Section 3(b)(3)(E) of the 1937 Act, which is the same as is used for allowances and deductions in the HCV program and is provided in Exhibit 3-1 of this policy.

The PHA may not implement eligibility screening criteria for NED vouchers that is different from that of the regular HCV program.

### **NED Category 2 [Notice PIH 2013-19 and NED Category 2 FAQs]**

In addition to being eligible for the PHA’s regular HCV program and a non-elderly person with a disability, in order to receive a Category 2 voucher, the family’s head, spouse, cohead, or sole member must be transitioning from a nursing home or other healthcare institution and provided services needed to live independently in the community.

Nursing homes or other healthcare institutions may include intermediate care facilities and specialized institutions that care for those with intellectual disabilities, developmentally disabled, or mentally ill, but do not include board and care facilities (e.g., adult homes, adult day care, adult congregate living).

The PHA cannot limit who can apply to just those persons referred or approved by a Money Follows the Person (MFP) Demonstration agency or state health agency. Other individuals could be placed on the waiting list if they can show, with confirmation by an independent agency or organization that routinely provides such services (this can be the MFP or partnering agency, but need not be), that the transitioning individual will be provided with all necessary services, including care or case management.

For each Category 2 family, there must be documentation (e.g., a copy of a referral letter from the partnering or referring agency) in the tenant file identifying the institution where the family lived at the time of voucher issuance.

## **WAITING LIST**

### **General Requirements [Notice PIH 2013-19]**

Families must be selected for NED vouchers from the PHA’s waiting list in accordance with all applicable regulations and PHA policies in Chapter 4.

Regardless of the number of NED families the PHA is required to serve, the next family on the waiting list must be served. Further, the PHA may not skip over NED-eligible families on the waiting list because the PHA is serving the required number of NED families.

### **NED Category 2 Referrals [NED Category 2 FAQs]**

For NED Category 2 families, the partnering agency may make referrals of eligible families to the PHA for placement on the waiting list. The PHA will then select these families from the waiting list for voucher issuance. Because language in the NOFA established that vouchers awarded under the NOFA must only serve non-elderly disabled families transitioning from institutions, the PHA does not need to establish a preference in order to serve these families ahead of other families on the PHA's waiting list.

PHAs must accept applications from people living outside their jurisdictions or from people being referred from other Medicaid or MFP service agencies in their state.

If the PHA's waiting list is closed, the PHA must reopen its waiting list to accept referrals from its partnering agency. When opening the waiting list, PHAs must advertise in accordance with 24 CFR 982.206 and PHA policies in Section 4-II.C. In addition, the PHA must ensure that individuals living in eligible institutions are aware when the PHA opens its waiting list by reaching out to social service agencies, nursing homes, intermediate care facilities and specialized institutions in the local service area.

### **Reissuance of Turnover Vouchers [Notice PIH 2013-19]**

All NED turnover vouchers must be reissued to the next NED family on the PHA's waiting list with the following exception: A Category 2 voucher must be issued to another Category 2 family upon turnover if a Category 2 family is on the PHA's waiting list. If there are no Category 2 families on the PHA's waiting list, the PHA must contact its partnering agency as well as conduct outreach through appropriate social service agencies and qualifying institutions to identify potentially eligible individuals. Only after all means of outreach have been taken to reach Category 2 families can the PHA reissue the voucher to another Category 2 NED family on the PHA's waiting list. Any subsequent turnover of that voucher must again be used for a Category 2 family on the PHA's waiting list, and the PHA is under the same obligation to conduct outreach to Category 2 families if no such families are on the PHA's waiting list.

For PHAs that received both Category 1 and Category 2 vouchers, if at any time the PHA is serving fewer Category 2 families than the number of Category 2 HCVs awarded under the NOFA, when a Category 2 family applies to the waiting list and is found eligible, the PHA must issue the next NED voucher to that family. HUD monitors the initial leasing and reissuance of Category 2 HCVs. These vouchers may be recaptured and reassigned if not leased properly and in a timely manner.

All NED vouchers should be affirmatively marketed to a diverse population of NED-eligible families to attract protected classes least likely to apply. If at any time following the turnover of a NED HCV a PHA believes it is not practicable to assist NED families, the PHA must contact HUD.

### **LEASE UP [Notice PIH 2013-19]**

#### **Briefings**

In addition to providing families with a disabled person a list of accessible units known to the PHA, HUD encourages, but does not require, PHAs to provide additional resources to NED families as part of the briefing.

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

In addition to providing families with a disabled person a list of accessible units known to Jacksonville Housing, JH will provide a list of local supportive service and disability organizations that may provide such assistance as counseling services and funding for moving expenses or security deposits in the briefing packet. These organizations include state protection and advocacy agencies, Centers for Independent Living, state Medicaid agencies, and disability advocacy groups that represent individuals with a variety of disabilities.

Further, if other governmental or non-governmental agencies provide available resources such as housing search counseling, moving expenses, security deposits, and utility deposits, Jacksonville Housing will include this information in the briefing packet.

Jacksonville Housing will also offer specialized housing search assistance to families with a disabled person to locate accessible units if requested. Trained Jacksonville Housing staff or a local supportive service or disability organization may be able to provide this service.

### **Voucher Term**

While the PHA is not required to establish different policies for the initial term of the voucher for NED vouchers, HUD has encouraged PHAs with NED vouchers to be generous in establishing reasonable initial search terms and subsequent extensions for families with a disabled person.

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

- All NED vouchers will have an initial term of 120 calendar days.
- The family must submit a Request for Tenancy Approval and proposed lease within the 120-day period unless the PHA grants an extension.
- All other Jacksonville Housing policies on extensions and suspension of vouchers in Chapter 5 will apply.

### **Special Housing Types [Notice PIH 2013-19 and NED Category 2 FAQs]**

In general, a PHA is not required to permit families to use any of the special housing types and may limit the number of families using such housing. However, the PHA must permit the use of a special housing type if doing so provides a reasonable accommodation so that the program is readily accessible to and usable by a person with disabilities.

Such special housing types include single-room occupancy housing, congregate housing, group homes, shared housing, cooperative housing, and manufactured homes when the family owns the home and leases the manufactured home space.

Persons with disabilities transitioning out of institutional settings may choose housing in the community that is in a group or shared environment or where some additional assistance for daily living is provided for them on-site. Under HUD regulations, group homes and shared housing are considered special housing types and are not excluded as an eligible housing type in the HCV program. Assisted living facilities are also considered eligible housing under the normal HCV program rules, as long as the costs for meals and other supportive services are not

included in the housing assistance payments (HAP) made by the PHA to the owner, and as long as the person does not need continual medical or nursing care.

## **PORTABILITY [NED Category 2 FAQs]**

NED voucher participants are eligible for portability under standard portability rules and all PHA policies regarding portability in Chapter 10, Part II apply to NED families. However, the PHA may, but is not required to, allow applicant NED families to move under portability, even if the family did not have legal residency in the initial PHA's jurisdiction when they applied.

### Jacksonville Housing Policy

If neither the head of household nor the spouse or cohead of a NED applicant family had a domicile (legal residence) in the Jacksonville Housing's jurisdiction at the time that the family's initial application for assistance was submitted, the family must lease a unit within the initial Jacksonville Housing's jurisdiction for at least 12 months before requesting portability.

Jacksonville Housing will consider exceptions to this policy for purposes of reasonable accommodation (see Chapter 4) or reasons related to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

## **F. EMERGENCY HOUSING VOUCHERS (EHV) Notice PIH 2021-15 (HA)**

On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (P.L. 117-2, hereafter referred to "the ARP") to address the continued impact of the -COVID-19 pandemic on the economy, public health, State and local governments, individuals, and businesses. The ARP appropriated the cost for new EHV. the renewal of EHV's, and fees for the cost of administering the EHV's and other eligible expenses defined by notice to prevent, prepare, and respond to coronavirus to facilitate the leasing of the emergency vouchers, such as security deposit assistance and other costs related to retention and support of participating owners.

### Individual and Family Eligibility under the Qualifying Categories

In order to be eligible for an EHV, an individual or family must meet one of four eligibility categories:

#### **a. Individuals and families who are homeless**

The meaning of "homeless" is as such term is defined in section 103(a) of the McKinney- Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11302(a)), which is codified in HUD's Continuum of Care Program regulations at 24 CFR 578.3 and reads as follows:

*Homeless* means:

- (1) An individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, meaning:
  - (i) An individual or family with a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a

regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground;

- (ii) An individual or family living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements (including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, State, or local government programs for low-income individuals); or
- (iii) An individual who is exiting an institution where he or she resided for 90 days or less and who resided in an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering that institution.

(2) An individual or family who will imminently lose their primary nighttime residence, provided that:

- (i) The primary nighttime residence will be lost within 14 days of the date of application for homeless assistance;
- (ii) No subsequent residence has been identified; and
- (iii) The individual or family lacks the resources or support networks, *e.g.*, family, friends, faith-based or other social networks, needed to obtain other permanent housing.

(3) Unaccompanied youth under 25 years of age, or families with children and youth, who do not otherwise qualify as homeless under this definition, but who:

- (i) Are defined as homeless under section 387 of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5732a), section 637 of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9832), section 41403 of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 14043e-2), section 330(h) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254b(h)), section 3 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2012), section 17(b) of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786(b)), or section 725 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11434a);
- (ii) Have not had a lease, ownership interest, or occupancy agreement in permanent housing at any time during the 60 days immediately preceding the date of application for homeless assistance;
- (iii) Have experienced persistent instability as measured by two moves or more during the 60-day period immediately preceding the date of applying for homeless assistance; and

- (iv) Can be expected to continue in such status for an extended period of time because of chronic disabilities; chronic physical health or mental health conditions; substance addiction; histories of domestic violence or childhood abuse (including neglect); the presence of a child or youth with a disability; or two or more barriers to employment, which include the lack of a high school degree or General Education Development (GED), illiteracy, low English proficiency, a history of incarceration or detention for criminal activity, and a history of unstable employment.

**b. Individuals or families who are at risk of homelessness**

The meaning of “at-risk of homelessness” is as such term is defined in section 401(1) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11360(1)), which is codified in HUD’s Continuum of Care Program regulations at 24 CFR 578.3 and reads as follows:

At risk of homelessness.

An individual or family who:

- (i) Has an annual income below 30 percent of the median family income for the area, as determined by HUD;
- (ii) Does not have sufficient resources or support networks, *e.g.*, family, friends, faith-based or other social networks, immediately available to prevent them from moving to an emergency shelter or another place described in paragraph of the “Homeless” definition above; and
- (iii) Meets one of the following conditions:
  - (A) Has moved because of economic reasons two or more times during the 60 days immediately preceding the application for homelessness prevention assistance;
  - (B) Is living in the home of another because of economic hardship;
  - (C) Has been notified in writing that their right to occupy their current housing or living situation will be terminated within 21 days of the date of application for assistance;
  - (D) Lives in a hotel or motel and the cost of the hotel or motel stay is not paid by charitable organizations or by federal, State, or local government programs for low-income individuals;
  - (E) Lives in a single-room occupancy or efficiency apartment unit in which there reside more than two persons, or lives in a larger housing unit in which there reside more than 1.5 people per room, as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau;

(F) Is exiting a publicly funded institution, or system of care (such as a health-care facility, a mental health facility, foster care or other youth facility, or correction program or institution); or

(G) Otherwise lives in housing that has characteristics associated with instability and an increased risk of homelessness, as identified in the recipient's approved consolidated plan.

(2) A child or youth who does not qualify as “homeless” under this section, but qualifies as “homeless” under section 387(3) of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5732a(3)), section 637(11) of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9832(11)), section 41403(6) of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 14043e-2(6)), section 330(h)(5)(A) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254b(h)(5)(A)), section 3(m) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2012(m)), or section 17(b)(15) of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786(b)(15)); or

(3) A child or youth who does not qualify as “homeless” under this section, but qualifies as “homeless” under section 725(2) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42

U.S.C. 11434a(2)), and the parent(s) or guardian(s) of that child or youth if living with her or him.

**c. Individuals or families who are fleeing, or attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking or human trafficking**

This category is composed of any individual or family who is fleeing, or is attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking.

This includes cases where a HUD-assisted tenant reasonably believes that there is a threat of imminent harm from further violence if they remain within the same dwelling unit, or in the case of sexual assault, the HUD-assisted tenant reasonably believes there is a threat of imminent harm from further violence if they remain within the same dwelling unit that they are currently occupying, or the sexual assault occurred on the premise during the 90- day period preceding the date of the request for transfer.

**Domestic violence** includes felony or misdemeanor crimes of violence committed by:

- a. a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim (the term “spouse or intimate partner of the victim” includes a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim, as determined by the length of the relationship, the type of the relationship, and the frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship),
- b. a person with whom the victim shares a child in common,



- c. a person who is cohabitating with or has cohabitated with the victim as a spouse or intimate partner,
- d. a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction receiving grant monies, or
- e. any other person against an adult or youth victim who is protected from that person's acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction.

**Dating violence** means violence committed by a person:

- a. Who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim; and
- b. Where the existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on a consideration of the following factors:
  - 1. The length of the relationship;
  - 2. The type of relationship; and
  - 3. The frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.

**Sexual assault** means any nonconsensual sexual act proscribed by Federal, Tribal, or State law, including when the victim lacks the capacity to consent.

**Stalking** means engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to:

- (1) Fear for the person's individual safety or the safety of others; or
- (2) Suffer substantial emotional distress.

**Human trafficking** includes both sex and labor trafficking, as outlined in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA), as amended (22 U.S.C. § 7102). These are defined as:

*Sex trafficking* means the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act, in which the commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age; (and)

*Labor trafficking* means the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery

**d. Individuals or families who are recently homeless**

This category is composed of individuals and families determined by the CoC or its designee to meet the following definition.

***Recently homeless*** is defined as individuals and families who have previously been classified by a member agency of the CoC as homeless but are not currently homeless as a result of homeless assistance (financial assistance or services), temporary rental assistance or some type of other assistance, and where the CoC or its designee determines that the loss of such assistance would result in a return to homelessness or the family having a high risk of housing instability. Examples of households that may be defined as recently homeless by the CoC include, but are not limited to, participants in rapid rehousing, and permanent supportive housing.

Individuals and families classified as recently homeless must be referred by the CoC or its designee.

**LEASE UP [Notice PIH 2013-19]**

- (1) The PHA must apply the standards it established under § 982.553(a)(1)(ii)(C) that prohibit admission if any household member has ever been convicted of drug-related criminal activity for manufacture or production of methamphetamine on the premises of federally assisted housing to EHV applicants.
- (2) The PHA must apply the standards it established under § 982.553(a)(2)(i) that prohibit admission to the program if any member of the household is subject to a lifetime registration requirement under a State sex offender registration program to EHV applicants.

## GLOSSARY

### **A. ACRONYMS USED IN THE HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER (HCV) PROGRAM**

<b>AAF</b>	Annual adjustment factor (published by HUD in the <i>Federal Register</i> and used to compute annual rent adjustments)
<b>ACC</b>	Annual contributions contract
<b>ADA</b>	Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990
<b>AIDS</b>	Acquired immune deficiency syndrome
<b>BR</b>	Bedroom
<b>CDBG</b>	Community Development Block Grant (Program)
<b>CFR</b>	Code of Federal Regulations (published federal rules that define and implement laws; commonly referred to as “the regulations”)
<b>CPI</b>	Consumer price index (published monthly by the Department of Labor as an inflation indicator)
<b>EID</b>	Earned income disallowance
<b>EIV</b>	Enterprise Income Verification
<b>FDIC</b>	Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation
<b>FHA</b>	Federal Housing Administration (HUD Office of Housing)
<b>FHEO</b>	Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity (HUD Office of)
<b>FICA</b>	Federal Insurance Contributions Act (established Social Security taxes)
<b>FMR</b>	Fair market rent
<b>FR</b>	Federal Register
<b>FSS</b>	Family Self-Sufficiency (Program)
<b>FY</b>	Fiscal year
<b>FYE</b>	Fiscal year end
<b>GAO</b>	Government Accountability Office
<b>GR</b>	Gross rent
<b>HA</b>	Housing authority or housing agency
<b>HAP</b>	Housing assistance payment
<b>HCV</b>	Housing choice voucher
<b>HUD</b>	Department of Housing and Urban Development
<b>HUDCLIPS</b>	HUD Client Information and Policy System
<b>IPA</b>	Independent public accountant
<b>IRA</b>	Individual retirement account

<b>IRS</b>	Internal Revenue Service
<b>IVT</b>	Income Validation Tool
<b>JTPA</b>	Job Training Partnership Act
<b>LBP</b>	Lead-based paint
<b>LEP</b>	Limited English proficiency
<b>MRB</b>	Maximum rent burden
<b>MSA</b>	Metropolitan statistical area (established by the U.S. Census Bureau)
<b>MTCS</b>	Multi-family Tenant Characteristics System (now the Form HUD-50058 submodule of the PIC system)
<b>MTW</b>	Moving to Work
<b>NOFA</b>	Notice of funding availability
<b>NSPIRE</b>	National Standards for Physical Inspection of Real Estate
<b>OGC</b>	HUD's Office of General Counsel
<b>OIG</b>	HUD's Office of Inspector General
<b>OMB</b>	Office of Management and Budget
<b>PASS</b>	Plan to Achieve Self-Support
<b>PHA</b>	Public Housing Agency
<b>PIC</b>	PIH Information Center
<b>PIH</b>	(HUD Office of) Public and Indian Housing
<b>PS</b>	Payment standard
<b>QC</b>	Quality control
<b>REAC</b>	(HUD) Real Estate Assessment Center
<b>RFP</b>	Request for proposals
<b>RFTA</b>	Request for tenancy approval
<b>RIGI</b>	Regional inspector general for investigation (handles fraud and program abuse matters for HUD at the regional office level)
<b>SEMAP</b>	Section 8 Management Assessment Program
<b>SRO</b>	Single room occupancy
<b>SSA</b>	Social Security Administration
<b>SSI</b>	Supplemental Security Income
<b>SWICA</b>	State wage information collection agency

<b>TANF</b>	Temporary assistance for needy families
<b>TPV</b>	Tenant protection vouchers
<b>TR</b>	Tenant rent
<b>TTP</b>	Total tenant payment
<b>UA</b>	Utility allowance
<b>UFAS</b>	Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards
<b>UIV</b>	Upfront income verification
<b>URP</b>	Utility reimbursement payment
<b>VAWA</b>	Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013
<b>VMS</b>	Voucher Management System

## **B. GLOSSARY OF SUBSIDIZED HOUSING TERMS**

***Absorption.*** In portability (under subpart H of this part 982): the point at which a receiving PHA stops billing the initial PHA for assistance on behalf of a portability family. The receiving PHA uses funds available under the receiving PHA consolidated ACC.

***Accessible.*** The facility or portion of the facility can be approached, entered, and used by persons with disabilities.

***Adjusted income.*** Annual income, less allowable HUD deductions and allowances.

***Administrative fee.*** Fee paid by HUD to the PHA for administration of the program. See §982.152.

***Administrative plan.*** The plan that describes PHA policies for administration of the tenant-based programs. The Administrative Plan and any revisions must be approved by the PHA's board and included as a supporting document to the PHA Plan. See §982.54.

***Admission.*** The point when the family becomes a participant in the program. The date used for this purpose is the effective date of the first HAP contract for a family (first day of initial lease term) in a tenant-based program.

***Affiliated individual.*** With respect to an individual, a spouse, parent, brother, sister, or child of that individual, or an individual to whom that individual stands in loco parentis (in the place of a parent), or any individual, tenant, or lawful occupant living in the household of that individual

***Amortization payment.*** In a manufactured home space rental: The monthly debt service payment by the family to amortize the purchase price of the manufactured home.

***Annual.*** Happening once a year.

***Annual contributions contract (ACC).*** The written contract between HUD and a PHA under which HUD agrees to provide funding for a program under the 1937 Act, and the PHA agrees to comply with HUD requirements for the program.

**Annual income.** The anticipated total income of an eligible family from all sources for the 12-month period following the date of determination of income, computed in accordance with the regulations.

**Applicant (applicant family).** A family that has applied for admission to a program but is not yet a participant in the program.

**Area exception rent.** An amount that exceeds the published FMR. See 24 CFR 982.504(b).

**As-paid states.** States where the welfare agency adjusts the shelter and utility component of the welfare grant in accordance with actual housing costs.

**Assets.** (See *net family assets*.)

**Auxiliary aids.** Services or devices that enable persons with impaired sensory, manual, or speaking skills to have an equal opportunity to participate in, and enjoy the benefits of, programs or activities receiving federal financial assistance.

**Biennial.** Happening every two years.

**Bifurcate.** With respect to a public housing or Section 8 lease, to divide a lease as a matter of law such that certain tenants can be evicted or removed while the remaining family members' lease and occupancy rights are allowed to remain intact.

**Budget authority.** An amount authorized and appropriated by the Congress for payment to PHAs under the program. For each funding increment in a PHA program, budget authority is the maximum amount that may be paid by HUD to the PHA over the ACC term of the funding increment.

**Child.** A member of the family other than the family head or spouse who is under 18 years of age.

**Child care expenses.** Amounts anticipated to be paid by the family for the care of children under 13 years of age during the period for which annual income is computed, but only where such care is necessary to enable a family member to actively seek employment, be gainfully employed, or to further their education and only to the extent such amounts are not reimbursed. The amount deducted shall reflect reasonable charges for child care. In the case of child care necessary to permit employment, the amount deducted shall not exceed the amount of employment income that is included in annual income.

**Citizen.** A citizen or national of the United States.

**Cohead.** An individual in the household who is equally responsible for the lease with the head of household. A family may have a cohead or spouse but not both. A cohead never qualifies as a dependent. The cohead must have legal capacity to enter into a lease.

**Common space.** In shared housing, the space available for use by the assisted family and other occupants of the unit.

**Computer match.** The automated comparison of databases containing records about individuals.

**Confirmatory review.** An on-site review performed by HUD to verify the management performance of a PHA.

**Consent form.** Any consent form approved by HUD to be signed by assistance applicants and participants to obtain income information from employers and SWICAs; return information

from the Social Security Administration (including wages, net earnings from self-employment, and retirement income); and return information for unearned income from the IRS. Consent forms expire after a certain time and may authorize the collection of other information to determine eligibility or level of benefits.

***Congregate housing.*** Housing for elderly persons or persons with disabilities that meets the NSPIRE standard for congregate housing. A special housing type: see 24 CFR 982.606–609.

***Contiguous MSA.*** In portability (under subpart H of part 982): An MSA that shares a common boundary with the MSA in which the jurisdiction of the initial PHA is located.

***Continuously assisted.*** An applicant is continuously assisted under the 1937 Act if the family is already receiving assistance under any 1937 Housing Act program when the family is admitted to the voucher program.

***Contract authority.*** The maximum annual payment by HUD to a PHA for a funding increment.

***Cooperative*** (term includes mutual housing). Housing owned by a nonprofit corporation or association, and where a member of the corporation or association has the right to reside in a particular apartment, and to participate in management of the housing. A special housing type (see 24 CFR 982.619).

***Covered families.*** Statutory term for families who are required to participate in a welfare agency economic self-sufficiency program and who may be subject to a welfare benefit sanction for noncompliance with this obligation. Includes families who receive welfare assistance or other public assistance under a program for which federal, state or local law requires that a member of the family must participate in an economic self-sufficiency program as a condition for the assistance.

***Dating violence.*** Violence committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim; and where the existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on a consideration of the following factors:

- The length of the relationship
- The type of relationship
- The frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship

***Dependent.*** A member of the family (except foster children and foster adults) other than the family head or spouse, who is under 18 years of age, or is a person with a disability, or is a full-time student.

***Dependent child.*** In the context of the student eligibility restrictions, a dependent child of a student enrolled in an institution of higher education. The dependent child must also meet the definition of *dependent* as specified above.

***Disability assistance expenses.*** Reasonable expenses that are anticipated, during the period for which annual income is computed, for attendant care and auxiliary apparatus for a disabled family member, and that are necessary to enable a family member (including the disabled member) to be employed, provided that the expenses are neither paid to a member of the family nor reimbursed by an outside source.

**Disabled family.** A family whose head, cohead, spouse, or sole member is a person with disabilities; two or more persons with disabilities living together; or one or more persons with disabilities living with one or more live-in aides.

**Disabled person.** See *person with disabilities*.

**Disallowance.** Exclusion from annual income.

**Displaced family.** A family in which each member, or whose sole member, is a person displaced by governmental action, or a person whose dwelling has been extensively damaged or destroyed as a result of a disaster declared or otherwise formally recognized pursuant to federal disaster relief laws.

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

**Domicile.** The legal residence of the household head or spouse as determined in accordance with state and local law.

**Drug-related criminal activity.** The illegal manufacture, sale, distribution, or use of a drug, or the possession of a drug with intent to manufacture, sell, distribute, or use the drug.

**Economic self-sufficiency program.** Any program designed to encourage, assist, train or facilitate the economic independence of assisted families, or to provide work for such families. Can include job training, employment counseling, work placement, basic skills training, education, English proficiency, Workfare, financial or household management, apprenticeship, or any other program necessary to ready a participant to work (such as treatment for drug abuse or mental health treatment). Includes any work activities as defined in the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 607(d)). Also see 24 CFR 5.603(c).

**Elderly family.** A family whose head, cohead, spouse, or sole member is a person who is at least 62 years of age; two or more persons who are at least 62 years of age living together; or one or more persons who are at least 62 years of age living with one or more live-in aides.

**Elderly person.** An individual who is at least 62 years of age.

**Eligible family** A family that is income eligible and meets the other requirements of the 1937 Act and Part 5 of 24 CFR. See also *family*.

**Employer identification number (EIN).** The nine-digit taxpayer identifying number that is assigned to an individual, trust, estate, partnership, association, company, or corporation.

**Evidence of citizenship or eligible status.** The documents which must be submitted as evidence of citizenship or eligible immigration status. See 24 CFR 5.508(b).

**Extremely low-income family.** A family whose annual income does not exceed the federal poverty level or 30 percent of the median income for the area, whichever number is higher. Area median income is determined by HUD, with adjustments for smaller and larger families. HUD may establish income ceilings higher or lower than 30 percent of median



income if HUD finds such variations are necessary due to unusually high or low family incomes. See 24 CFR 5.603.

**Facility.** All or any portion of buildings, structures, equipment, roads, walks, parking lots, rolling stock, or other real or personal property or interest in the property.

**Fair Housing Act.** Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, as amended by the Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988.

**Fair market rent (FMR).** The rent, including the cost of utilities (except telephone), as established by HUD for units of varying sizes (by number of bedrooms), that must be paid in the housing market area to rent privately owned, existing, decent, safe, and sanitary rental housing of modest (non-luxury) nature with suitable amenities. See periodic publications in the *Federal Register* in accordance with 24 CFR Part 888.

**Family.** Includes but is not limited to the following, regardless of actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status, and can be further defined in PHA policy.

- A family with or without children (the temporary absence of a child from the home due to placement in foster care is not considered in determining the family composition and family size)
- An elderly family or a near-elderly family
- A displaced family
- The remaining member of a tenant's family
- A single person who is not an elderly or displaced person, or a person with disabilities, or the remaining member of a tenant family.

**Family rent to owner.** In the voucher program, the portion of rent to the owner is paid by the family.

**Family self-sufficiency program (FSS program).** The program was established by a PHA within its jurisdiction to promote self-sufficiency among participating families, including the coordination of supportive services to these families (24 CFR 984.103).

**Family share.** The portion of rent and utilities is paid by the family. For the calculation of family share, see 24 CFR 982.515(a).

**Family unit size.** The appropriate number of bedrooms for a family, as determined by the PHA under the PHA subsidy standards.

**Federal agency.** A department of the executive branch of the federal government.

**Foster child care payment.** A payment to eligible households by state, local, or private agencies appointed by the state to administer payments for the care of foster children.

**Full-time student.** A person who is attending school or vocational training on a full-time basis (carrying a subject load that is considered full-time for day students under the standards and practices of the educational institution attended). See 24 CFR 5.603.

**Funding increment.** Each commitment of budget authority by HUD to a PHA under the consolidated annual contributions contract for the PHA program.

**Gender identity.** Actual or perceived gender-related characteristics.

**Good cause.** is defined as an unavoidable conflict which seriously affects the health, safety or welfare of the family.

**Good standing.** In compliance with the regulations regarding participation in the relevant rental assistance program and has either satisfied or are current on any debts owed the PHA or owner; and is in compliance with the regulations regarding participation in the relevant rental assistance program, including rent payments.

**Gross rent.** The sum of the rent to owner plus any utility allowance.

**Group home.** A dwelling unit that is licensed by the state as a group home for the exclusive residential use of two to twelve persons who are elderly or persons with disabilities (including any live-in aide). (A special housing type: see 24 CFR 982.610–614.)

**Handicap.** Any condition or characteristic that renders a person an individual with handicaps. (See *person with disabilities*.)

**HAP contract.** The housing assistance payments contract. A written contract between the PHA and an owner for the purpose of providing housing assistance payments to the owner on behalf of an eligible family.

**Head of household.** The adult member of the family is the head of the household for purposes of determining income eligibility and rent.

**Household.** A household includes additional people other than the family who, with the PHA's permission, live in an assisted unit, such as live-in aides, foster children, and foster adults.

**Housing assistance payment.** The monthly assistance payment by a PHA includes: (1) A payment to the owner for rent to the owner under the family's lease; and (2) An additional payment to the family if the total assistance payment exceeds the rent to the owner.

**Housing agency (HA).** See *public housing agency*.

**HUD.** The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

**Imputed asset.** An asset disposed of for less than the fair market value during the two years preceding examination or reexamination.

**Imputed asset income.** The PHA-established passbook rate is multiplied by the total cash value of assets. The calculation is used when net family assets exceed \$5,000.

**Imputed welfare income.** An amount of annual income that is not actually received by a family as a result of a specified welfare benefit reduction, but is included in the family's annual income and therefore reflected in the family's rental contribution.

**Income.** Income from all sources of each member of the household, as determined in accordance with criteria established by HUD.

**Income for eligibility.** Annual income.

**Income information** means information relating to an individual's income, including:

- All employment income information known to current or previous employers or other income sources
- All information about wages, as defined in the state's unemployment compensation law, including any social security number; name of the employee; quarterly wages of the

employee; and the name, full address, telephone number, and, when known, employer identification number of an employer reporting wages under a state unemployment compensation law

- Whether an individual is receiving, has received, or has applied for unemployment compensation, and the amount and the period received
- Unearned IRS income and self-employment, wages, and retirement income
- Wage, social security, and supplemental security income data obtained from the Social Security Administration.

***Individuals with handicaps.*** See a *person with disabilities*.

***Initial PHA.*** In portability, the term refers to both: (1) A PHA that originally selected a family that later decides to move out of the jurisdiction of the selecting PHA; and (2) A PHA that absorbed a family that later decides to move out of the jurisdiction of the absorbing PHA.

***Initial payment standard.*** The payment standard at the beginning of the HAP contract term.

***Initial rent to owner.*** The rent to the owner at the beginning of the HAP contract term.

***Inside.*** Under NSPIRE, the inside of HUD housing (or “inside areas”) refers to the common areas and building systems that can be generally found within the building interior and are not inside a unit. Examples of “inside” common areas may include, basements, interior or attached garages, enclosed carports, restrooms, closets, utility rooms, mechanical rooms, community rooms, day care rooms, halls, corridors, stairs, shared kitchens, laundry rooms, offices, enclosed porches, enclosed patios, enclosed balconies, and trash collection areas. Examples of building systems include those components that provide domestic water such as pipes, electricity, elevators, emergency power, fire protection, HVAC, and sanitary services.

***Institution of higher education.*** An institution of higher education as defined in 20 U.S.C. 1001 and 1002. See Exhibit 3-2 in this Administrative Plan.

***Jurisdiction.*** The area in which the PHA has authority under state and local law to administer the program.

***Landlord.*** Either the owner of the property or their representative, or the managing agent or their representative, as shall be designated by the owner.

***Lease.*** A written agreement between an owner and a tenant for the leasing of a dwelling unit to the tenant. The lease establishes the conditions for occupancy of the dwelling unit by a family with housing assistance payments under a HAP contract between the owner and the PHA.

***Life Threatening deficiency.*** Under NSPIRE, the life-threatening category includes deficiencies that, if evident in the home or on the property, present a high risk of death or severe illness or injury to a resident.

***Live-in aide.*** A person who resides with one or more elderly persons, or near-elderly persons, or persons with disabilities, and who:

- Is determined to be essential to the care and well-being of the persons;
- Is not obligated for the support of the persons; and
- Would not be living in the unit except to provide the necessary supportive services.

**Living/sleeping room.** A living room may be used as a sleeping (bedroom) space, but no more than two persons may occupy the space. A bedroom or living/sleeping room must have at least one window and two electrical outlets in proper operating condition. See HCV GB p. 10-6 and 24 CFR 982.401.

**Local preference.** A preference used by the PHA to select among applicant families.

**Low deficiency.** Under NSPIRE, deficiencies critical to habitability but not presenting a substantive health or safety risk to resident.

**Low-income family.** A family whose income does not exceed 80 percent of the median income for the area as determined by HUD with adjustments for smaller or larger families, except that HUD may establish income limits higher or lower than 80 percent for areas with unusually high or low incomes.

**Manufactured home.** A manufactured structure that is built on a permanent chassis, is designed for use as a principal place of residence and meets the NSPIRE (A special housing type: see 24 CFR 982.620 and 982.621.)

**Manufactured home space.** In manufactured home space rental: A space leased by an owner to a family. A manufactured home owned and occupied by the family is located on the space. See 24 CFR 982.622 to 982.624.

**Medical expenses.** Medical expenses, including medical insurance premiums, that are anticipated during the period for which annual income is computed, and that are not covered by insurance (a deduction for elderly or disabled families only). These allowances are given when calculating adjusted income for medical expenses in excess of 3 percent of annual income.

**Minor.** A member of the family household other than the family head or spouse, who is under 18 years of age.

**Mixed family.** A family whose members include those with citizenship or eligible immigration status, and those without citizenship or eligible immigration status.

**Moderate deficiency.** Under NSPIRE, this includes deficiencies that, if evident in the home or on the property, present a moderate risk of an adverse medical event requiring a healthcare visit; cause temporary harm; or if left untreated, cause or worsen a chronic condition that may have long-lasting adverse health effects; or that the physical security or safety of a resident or their property could be compromised.

**Monthly adjusted income.** One-twelfth of adjusted income.

**Monthly income.** One-twelfth of annual income.

**Mutual housing.** Included in the definition of *cooperative*.

**National.** A person who owes permanent allegiance to the United States, for example, as a result of birth in a United States territory or possession.

**National Standards for the Physical Inspection of Real Estate.** HUD's housing inspection approach. NSPIRE is a single inspection standard for all units under the Public Housing, HCV, Multifamily, and Community Planning and Development (CPD) programs. NSPIRE's focus is on the areas that impact residents the most, such as the dwelling unit.

**Near-elderly family.** A family whose head, spouse, or sole member is a person who is at least 50 years of age but below the age of 62; or two or more persons, who are at least 50 years of age but below the age of 62, living together; or one or more persons who are at least 50 years of age but below the age of 62 living with one or more live-in aides.

**Net family assets.** (1) Net cash value after deducting reasonable costs that would be incurred in disposing of real property, savings, stocks, bonds, and other forms of capital investment, excluding interests in Indian trust land and excluding equity accounts in HUD homeownership programs. The value of necessary items of personal property such as furniture and automobiles shall be excluded.

- In cases where a trust fund has been established and the trust is not revocable by, or under the control of, any member of the family or household, the value of the trust fund will not be considered an asset so long as the fund continues to be held in trust. Any income distributed from the trust fund shall be counted when determining annual income under §5.609.
- In determining net family assets, PHAs or owners, as applicable, shall include the value of any business or family assets disposed of by an applicant or tenant for less than fair market value (including a disposition in trust, but not in a foreclosure or bankruptcy sale) during the two years preceding the date of application for the program or reexamination, as applicable, in excess of the consideration received therefore. In the case of a disposition as part of a separation or divorce settlement, the disposition will not be considered to be for less than fair market value if the applicant or tenant receives important consideration not measurable in dollar terms.

**Noncitizen.** A person who is neither a citizen nor national of the United States.

**Notice of funding availability (NOFA).** For budget authority that HUD distributes by competitive process, the *Federal Register* document that invites applications for funding. This document explains how to apply for assistance and the criteria for awarding the funding.

**Office of General Counsel (OGC).** The General Counsel of HUD.

**Outside.** Under NSPIRE, outside of HUD housing (or "outside areas") refers to the building site, building exterior components, and any building systems located outside of the building or unit. Examples of "outside" components may include fencing, retaining walls, grounds, lighting, mailboxes, project signs, parking lots, detached garage or carport, driveways, play areas and equipment, refuse disposal, roads, storm drainage, non-dwelling buildings, and walkways. Components found on the exterior of the building are also considered outside areas, and examples may include doors, attached porches, attached patios, balconies, car ports, fire escapes, foundations, lighting, roofs, walls, and windows.

**Overcrowded.** A unit that does not meet the following NSPIRE space standards: (1) Provide adequate space and security for the family; and (2) Have at least one bedroom or living/sleeping room for each two persons.

**Owner.** Any person or entity with the legal right to lease or sublease a unit to a participant.

**PHA Plan.** The annual plan and the 5-year plan as adopted by the PHA and approved by HUD.

**PHA's quality control sample.** An annual sample of files or records drawn in an unbiased manner and reviewed by a PHA supervisor (or by another qualified person other than the person who performed the original work) to determine if the work documented in the files or records conforms to program requirements. For minimum sample size see CFR 985.3.

**Participant (participant family).** A family that has been admitted to the PHA program and is currently assisted in the program. The family becomes a participant on the effective date of the first HAP contract executed by the PHA for the family (first day of initial lease term).

**Payment standard.** The maximum monthly assistance payment for a family assisted in the voucher program (before deducting the total tenant payment by the family).

**Person with disabilities.** *For the purposes of program eligibility.* A person who has a disability as defined under the Social Security Act or Developmental Disabilities Care Act, or a person who has a physical or mental impairment expected to be of long and indefinite duration and whose ability to live independently is substantially impeded by that impairment but could be improved by more suitable housing conditions. This includes persons with AIDS or conditions arising from AIDS but excludes persons whose disability is based solely on drug or alcohol dependence. *For the purposes of reasonable accommodation.* A person with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, a person regarded as having such an impairment, or a person with a record of such an impairment.

**Portability.** Renting a dwelling unit with a Section 8 housing choice voucher outside the jurisdiction of the initial PHA.

**Premises.** The building or complex in which the dwelling unit is located, including common areas and grounds.

**Previously unemployed.** With regard to the earned income disallowance, a person with disabilities who has earned, in the 12 months previous to employment, no more than would be received for 10 hours of work per week for 50 weeks at the established minimum wage.

**Private space.** In shared housing, the portion of a contract unit that is for the exclusive use of an assisted family.

**Processing entity.** The person or entity that, under any of the programs covered, is responsible for making eligibility and related determinations and any income reexamination. In the HCV program, the "processing entity" is the "responsible entity."

**Project owner.** The person or entity that owns the housing project containing the assisted dwelling unit.

**Public assistance.** Welfare or other payments to families or individuals, based on need, which are made under programs funded, separately or jointly, by federal, state, or local governments.

**Public housing agency (PHA).** Any state, county, municipality, or other governmental entity or public body, or agency or instrumentality of these entities, that is authorized to engage or assist in the development or operation of low-income housing under the 1937 Act.

**Qualified family** (under the earned income disallowance). A family participating in an applicable assisted housing program or receiving HCV assistance:

- Whose annual income increases as a result of employment of a family member who is a person with disabilities and who was previously unemployed for one or more years prior to employment;
- Whose annual income increases as a result of increased earnings by a family member who is a person with disabilities during participation in any economic self-sufficiency or other job training program; or
- Whose annual income increases, as a result of new employment or increased earnings of a family member who is a person with disabilities, during or within six months after receiving assistance, benefits or services under any state program for temporary assistance for needy families funded under Part A of Title IV of the Social Security Act, as determined by the responsible entity in consultation with the local agencies administering temporary assistance for needy families (TANF) and Welfare-to-Work (WTW) programs. The TANF program is not limited to monthly income maintenance, but also includes such benefits and services as one-time payments, wage subsidies and transportation assistance--provided that the total amount over a six-month period is at least \$500.

**Qualified census tract.** With regard to certain tax credit units, any census tract (or equivalent geographic area defined by the Bureau of the Census) in which at least 50 percent of households have an income of less than 60 percent of Area Median Gross Income (AMGI), or where the poverty rate is at least 25 percent, and where the census tract is designated as a qualified census tract by HUD.

**Reasonable rent.** A rent to owner that is not more than rent charged: (1) For comparable units in the private unassisted market; and (2) For comparable unassisted units in the premises.

**Reasonable accommodation.** A change, exception, or adjustment to a rule, policy, practice, or service to allow a person with disabilities to fully access the PHA's programs or services.

**Receiving PHA.** In portability: A PHA that receives a family selected for participation in the tenant-based program of another PHA. The receiving PHA issues a voucher and provides program assistance to the family.

**Recertification.** Sometimes called *reexamination*. The process of securing documentation of total family income used to determine the rent the tenant will pay for the next 12 months if there are no additional changes to be reported.

**Remaining member of the tenant family.** The person left in assisted housing who may or may not normally qualify for assistance on their own circumstances (i.e., an elderly spouse dies, leaving widow age 47 who is not disabled).

**Rent to owner.** The total monthly rent payable to the owner under the lease for the unit (also known as contract rent). Rent to owner covers payment for any housing services, maintenance, and utilities that the owner is required to provide and pay for.

**Residency preference.** A PHA preference for admission of families that reside anywhere in a specified area, including families with a member who works or has been hired to work in the area (See *residency preference area*).

**Residency preference area.** The specified area where families must reside to qualify for a residency preference.

**Responsible entity.** For public housing and Section 8 tenant-based assistance, project-based voucher assistance, and moderate rehabilitation programs, the responsible entity means the PHA administering the program under an ACC with HUD. For all other Section 8 programs, the responsible entity means the Section 8 owner.

**Secretary.** The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

**Section 8.** Section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937.

**Section 8 covered programs.** All HUD programs that assist housing under Section 8 of the 1937 Act, including Section 8 assisted housing for which loans are made under Section 202 of the Housing Act of 1959.

**Section 214.** Section 214 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1980, as amended.

**Section 214 covered programs.** The collective term for the HUD programs to which the restrictions imposed by Section 214 apply. These programs are set forth in 24 CFR 5.500.

**Security deposit.** A dollar amount (maximum set according to the regulations) that can be used for unpaid rent or damages to the owner upon termination of the lease.

**Set-up charges.** In a manufactured home space rental, charges are payable by the family for assembling, skirting, and anchoring the manufactured home.

**Severe deficiency.** Under NSPIRE, the severe category includes deficiencies that, if evident in the home or on the property, present a high risk of permanent disability, or serious injury or illness, to a resident; or the physical security or safety of a resident or their property would be seriously compromised.

**Sexual assault.** Any nonconsensual sexual act proscribed by federal, tribal, or state law, including when the victim lacks the capacity to consent (42 U.S.C. 13925(a)).

**Sexual orientation.** Homosexuality, heterosexuality, or bisexuality.

**Shared housing.** A unit occupied by two or more families. The unit consists of both common spaces for shared use by the occupants of the unit and separate private spaces for each assisted family. (A special housing type: see 24 CFR 982.615–982.618.)

**Single person.** A person living alone or intending to live alone.

**Single room occupancy housing (SRO).** A unit that contains no sanitary facilities or food preparation facilities, or contains either, but not both, types of facilities. (A special housing type: see 24 CFR 982.602–982.605.)

**Small rural public housing agency (PHA).** Section 38 defines the term “small public housing agency” as a public housing agency “for which the sum of the number of public housing dwelling units administered by the agency and the number of vouchers under section 8(o) administered by the agency is 550 or fewer” and “that predominantly operates in a rural area,



as described in section 1026.35(b)(2)(iv)(A) of title 12, Code of Federal Regulations.” After consideration of the public comments discussed above, HUD is interpreting “predominantly operates in a rural area” to mean a small PHA that:

- (1) Has a primary administrative building with a physical address in a rural area as described in 12 CFR 1026.35(b)(2)(iv)(A); or
- (2) more than 50 percent of its combined public housing units and voucher units under section 8(o) are in rural areas as described in 12 CFR 1026.35(b)(2)(iv)(A). HUD also clarifies that voucher units under section 8(o) include those in the tenant-based Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program and the Project-Based Voucher (PBV) program.

***Social Security Number (SSN).*** The nine-digit number is assigned to a person by the Social Security Administration and identifies the record of the person’s earnings reported to the Social Security Administration. The term does not include a number with a letter as a suffix that is used to identify an auxiliary beneficiary.

***Special admission.*** Admission of an applicant who is not on the PHA waiting list or without considering the applicant’s waiting list position.

***Special housing types.*** See subpart M of part 982. Subpart M states the special regulatory requirements for: SRO housing, congregate housing, group homes, shared housing, cooperatives (including mutual housing), and manufactured homes (including manufactured home space rental).

***Specified welfare benefit reduction.*** Those reductions in welfare benefits (for a covered family) may not result in a reduction of the family rental contribution. A reduction of welfare benefits because of fraud in connection with the welfare program, or because of welfare sanction due to noncompliance with a welfare agency requirement to participate in an economic self-sufficiency program.

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

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

***State wage information collection agency (SWICA).*** The state agency, including any Indian tribal agency, receives quarterly wage reports from employers in the state, or an alternative system that has been determined by the Secretary of Labor to be as effective and timely in providing employment-related income and eligibility information.

***Subsidy standards.*** Standards established by a PHA to determine the appropriate number of bedrooms and amount of subsidy for families of different sizes and compositions.

***Suspension.*** The term on the family’s voucher stops from the date the family submits a request for PHA approval of the tenancy, until the date the PHA notifies the family in writing whether the request has been approved or denied. This practice is also called *tolling*.

**Tax credit rent.** With regard to certain tax credit units, the rent charged for comparable units of the same bedroom size in the building also receives the low-income housing tax credit but does not have any additional rental assistance (e.g., tenant-based voucher assistance).

**Tenancy addendum.** For the housing choice voucher program, the lease language is required by HUD in the lease between the tenant and the owner.

**Tenant.** The person or persons (other than a live-in aide) who executes the lease as lessee of the dwelling unit.

**Tenant rent to owner.** See *family rent to owner*.

**Term of lease.** The amount of time a tenant agrees in writing to live in a dwelling unit.

**Total tenant payment (TTP).** The total amount the HUD rent formula requires the tenant to pay toward rent and utilities.

**Unit.** Under NSPIRE, a unit (or “dwelling unit”) of HUD housing refers to the interior components of an individual unit. Examples of components included in the interior of a unit may include the balcony, bathroom, call-for-aid (if applicable), carbon monoxide devices, ceiling, doors, electrical systems, enclosed patio, floors, HVAC (where individual units are provided), kitchen, lighting, outlets, smoke detectors, stairs, switches, walls, water heater, and windows.

**Utilities.** Water, electricity, gas, other heating, refrigeration, cooking fuels, trash collection, and sewage services. Telephone service is not included.

**Utility allowance.** If the cost of utilities (except telephone) and other housing services for an assisted unit is not included in the tenant rent but is the responsibility of the family occupying the unit, an amount equal to the estimate made or approved by a PHA or HUD of the monthly cost of a reasonable consumption of such utilities and other services for the unit by an energy-conservative household of modest circumstances consistent with the requirements of a safe, sanitary, and healthful living environment.

**Utility reimbursement.** In the voucher program, the portion of the housing assistance payment exceeds the amount of rent to the owner.

**Utility hook-up charge.** In a manufactured home space rental: Costs payable by a family for connecting the manufactured home to utilities such as water, gas, electrical, and sewer lines.

**Very low-income family.** A low-income family whose annual income does not exceed 50 percent of the median income for the area, as determined by HUD, with adjustments for smaller and larger families. HUD may establish income limits higher or lower than 50 percent of the median income for the area on the basis of its finding that such variations are necessary because of unusually high or low family incomes. This is the income limit for the housing choice voucher program.

**Veteran.** A person who has served in the active military or naval service of the United States at any time and who shall have been discharged or released therefrom under conditions other than dishonorable.

**Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act (VAWA) of 2013.** Prohibits denying admission to the program to an otherwise qualified applicant or terminating assistance on the basis that

the applicant or program participant is or has been a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

***Violent criminal activity.*** Any illegal criminal activity that has as one of its elements the use, attempted use, or threatened use of physical force against the person or property of another.

***Voucher (housing choice voucher).*** A document issued by a PHA to a family selected for admission to the housing choice voucher program. This document describes the program and the procedures for PHA approval of a unit selected by the family. The voucher also states the obligations of the family under the program.

***Voucher holder.*** A family holding a voucher with an unexpired term (search time).

***Voucher program.*** The housing choice voucher program.

***Waiting list.*** A list of families organized according to HUD regulations and PHA policy who are waiting for a unit to become available.

***Waiting list admission.*** An admission from the PHA waiting list.

***Welfare assistance.*** Income assistance from federal or state welfare programs, including assistance provided under TANF and general assistance. Does not include assistance directed solely to meeting housing expenses, nor programs that provide health care, childcare, or other services for working families. For the FSS program (24 CFR 984.103), *welfare assistance* includes only cash maintenance payments designed to meet a family's ongoing basic needs. Does not include nonrecurring short-term benefits designed to address individual crisis situations, work subsidies, supportive services such as child care and transportation provided to families who are employed, refundable earned income tax credits, contributions to and distributions from Individual Development Accounts under TANF, services such as counseling, case management, peer support, child care information and referral, financial empowerment, transitional services, job retention, job advancement, and other employment-related services that do not provide basic income support, amounts solely directed to meeting housing expenses, amounts for health care, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and emergency rental and utilities assistance, SSI, SSDI, or social security, and child-only or non-needy TANF grants made to or on behalf of a dependent child solely on the basis of the child's need and not the need of the child's current non-parental caretaker.

## **ADDENDUM**

### **MAINSTREAM MANDATORY POLICIES**

#### **Background: [Notice PIH 2024-30]**

Mainstream Vouchers are special-purpose vouchers for non-elderly persons with disabilities that are subject to the requirements in Section 8(o) of the 1937 Act and 24 CFR 982, except as provided in this notice and any subsequent notice issued by HUD. However, funding and reporting for Mainstream Vouchers are separate from the HCV program.

In targeting housing assistance to non-elderly persons with disabilities and their families, particularly those transitioning out of institutions or at serious risk of institutionalization, Mainstream Vouchers help further the goals of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). One specific goal under the ADA is to ensure that services, programs, and activities are provided by public entities in the most integrated setting appropriate to the needs of persons with disabilities.

The waivers and alternative requirements described below are intended to provide programmatic flexibilities to help PHAs improve Mainstream utilization and more successfully target Mainstream-eligible populations, including persons exiting institutions or at serious risk of institutionalization.

#### Jacksonville Housing Policy

Jacksonville Housing will implement mandatory changes in accordance with PIH Notice 2024-30, effective January 1, 2025:

##### Mandatory Program Policies:

- a. Initial Search Term. The initial search term for issued vouchers must be 120 days.
- b. Extension of Term. The first request of 30 days must be approved as a part of the reasonable accommodation policy.
- c. Residency Preference. This requirement must be waived when selecting from the waiting list.

Jacksonville Housing will implement the following discretionary changes in accordance with PIH Notice 2024-30, effective January 1, 2025:

##### Discretionary Program Policies:

- a. Waiting Lists. PHAs may use a single waiting list for Mainstream.
- b. Local Preferences. HUD is waiving 24 CFR 982.207(a)(1) and establishing an optional waiver permitting PHAs to establish separate preferences for Mainstream Voucher applicants.