

**NEEDHAM HOUSING AUTHORITY
ADMISSIONS AND CONTINUED OCCUPANCY POLICY**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION 1 - Marketing 4

1.0 FAIR HOUSING.....4

1.1 REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION4

1.2 COMMUNICATION.....5

1.3 QUESTIONS TO ASK IN GRANTING THE ACCOMMODATION5

1.4 SERVICES FOR NON-ENGLISH SPEAKING APPLICANTS AND RESIDENTS.....6

1.5 FAMILY OUTREACH.....6

1.6 RIGHT TO PRIVACY.....7

1.7 REQUIRED POSTINGS7

1.8 TAKING APPLICATIONS8

SECTION 2 - APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION..... 9

2.0 INTRODUCTION9

2.1 ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA9

2.2 SUITABILITY12

2.3 GROUNDS FOR DENIAL14

2.4 INFORMAL REVIEW16

SECTION 3 - MANAGING THE WAITING LIST..... 17

3.0 OPENING AND CLOSING THE WAITING LIST17

3.1 ORGANIZATION OF THE WAITING LIST17

3.2 FAMILIES NEARING THE TOP OF THE WAITING LIST.....17

3.3 PURGING THE WAITING LIST18

3.4 REMOVAL OF APPLICANTS FROM THE WAITING LIST18

3.5 MISSED APPOINTMENTS.....18

3.6 NOTIFICATION OF NEGATIVE ACTIONS19

SECTION 4: WAITING LIST MANAGEMENT 19

4.0 ORGANIZATION OF THE WAITING LIST19

4.1 OPENING AND CLOSING THE WAITING LIST19

4.2 WAITING LIST PLACEMENT20

4.3 PREFERENCE POINT SYSTEM.....22

4.4 APPLICANT PREFERENCES22

4.5 VETERANS PRIORITY23

4.6 FACTORS AFFECTING APPLICANT RANKING.....23

SECTION 5. TENANT SELECTION AND ASSIGNMENT OF BEDROOM SIZES 24

5.0 ASSIGNMENT OF BEDROOM SIZES24

5.1 SELECTION FROM THE WAITING LIST25

5.2 DECONCENTRATION POLICY26

5.3 OFFER OF A UNIT.....26

SECTION 6. PLACEMENTS 27

6.0 REJECTION OF UNIT.....27

6.1 ACCEPTANCE OF UNIT27

SECTION 7. INCOME, EXCLUSIONS AND DEDUCTIONS FROM INCOME 28

7.0 INCOME.....28

7.1 ANNUAL INCOME31

7.2 DEDUCTIONS FROM ANNUAL INCOME35

7.3 RECEIPT OF A LETTER OR NOTICE FROM HUD CONCERNING INCOME36

7.4 COOPERATING WITH WELFARE AGENCIES37

SECTION 8. INCOME VERIFICATION..... 37

8.0 ACCEPTABLE METHODS OF VERIFICATION37

8.1 TYPES OF VERIFICATION.....38

8.2	VERIFICATION OF CITIZENSHIP OR ELIGIBLE NONCITIZEN STATUS	40
8.2	VERIFICATION OF SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS	41
8.3	TIMING OF VERIFICATION	41
8.4	FREQUENCY OF OBTAINING VERIFICATION	43
SECTION 9. DETERMINATION OF TOTAL TENANT PAYMENT AND TENANT RENT		43
9.0	FAMILY CHOICE	43
9.1	THE INCOME METHOD	44
9.2	MINIMUM RENT	44
9.3	THE FLAT RENT	45
9.4	RENT FOR FAMILIES UNDER THE NONCITIZEN RULE	45
9.5	UTILITY ALLOWANCE	46
9.6	PAYING RENT	48
SECTION 10. CONTINUED OCCUPANCY AND COMMUNITY SERVICE		48
10.0	GENERAL	48
10.1	EXEMPTIONS	48
10.2	NOTIFICATION OF THE REQUIREMENT	49
10.3	VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES	49
10.4	THE PROCESS	50
10.5	NOTIFICATION OF NON-COMPLIANCE WITH COMMUNITY SERVICE REQUIREMENT	50
10.6	OPPORTUNITY FOR CURE	52
10.7	PROHIBITION AGAINST REPLACEMENT OF AGENCY EMPLOYEES	52
SECTION 11. RECERTIFICATIONS		52
11.0	GENERAL	52
11.1	MISSED APPOINTMENTS	53
11.2	FLAT RENTS	53
11.3	THE INCOME METHOD	54
11.4	EFFECTIVE DATE OF RENT CHANGES FOR ANNUAL REEXAMINATIONS	54
11.5	INTERIM REEXAMINATIONS	55
11.6	SPECIAL REEXAMINATIONS	56
11.7	EFFECTIVE DATE OF RENT CHANGES DUE TO INTERIM OR SPECIAL REEXAMINATIONS	56
SECTION 12. UNIT TRANSFERS		56
12.0	OBJECTIVES OF THE TRANSFER POLICY	56
12.1	CATEGORIES OF TRANSFERS	57
12.2	DOCUMENTATION	58
12.3	PROCESSING TRANSFERS	59
12.4	COST OF THE FAMILY'S MOVE	59
12.5	TENANTS IN GOOD STANDING	60
12.6	TRANSFER REQUESTS	60
12.7	RIGHT OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY IN TRANSFER POLICY	61
12.8	TRANSFER ACCEPTANCE AND REFUSAL	61
12.9	UNDERHOUSED AND OVERHOUSED FAMILIES	62
SECTION 13. INSPECTIONS		62
13.0	MOVE-IN INSPECTIONS	62
13.1	ANNUAL INSPECTIONS	63
13.2	PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE INSPECTIONS	63
13.3	SPECIAL INSPECTIONS	63
13.4	HOUSEKEEPING INSPECTIONS	63
13.5	NOTICE OF INSPECTION	63
13.6	EMERGENCY INSPECTIONS	63
13.7	PRE-MOVE-OUT INSPECTIONS	63
13.8	MOVE-OUT INSPECTIONS	64
SECTION 14. PET POLICY		64
14.0	EXCLUSIONS	64
14.1	PETS IN PUBLIC HOUSING	64

14.2 APPROVAL..... 64

14.3 TYPES AND NUMBER OF PETS 64

14.4 FINANCIAL OBLIGATION OF RESIDENTS 65

14.5 NUISANCE OR THREAT TO HEALTH OR SAFETY 65

14.6 DESIGNATION OF PET AREAS 65

14.6 MISCELLANEOUS RULES 65

SECTION 15. REPAYMENT AGREEMENTS 66

SECTION 16. TERMINATION..... 66

16.0 TERMINATION BY TENANT..... 66

16.1 TERMINATION BY THE HOUSING AUTHORITY 66

16.2 ABANDONMENT 68

GLOSSARY..... 70

ACRONYMS..... 79

NEEDHAM HOUSING AUTHORITY

ADMISSIONS AND CONTINUED OCCUPANCY POLICY

This Admissions and Continued Occupancy Policy defines the Needham Housing Authority's (NHA) policies for the operation for the Public Housing Program, incorporating Federal, State and local law. If there is any conflict between this policy and laws or regulations, the laws and regulations will prevail.

SECTION 1 - Marketing

1.0 FAIR HOUSING

It is the policy of the NHA to fully comply with all Federal, State, and local nondiscrimination laws; the Americans with Disabilities Act; and the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations governing Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity. The NHA shall affirmatively further fair housing in the administration of its public housing program.

No person shall, on the grounds of race, color, sex, religion, national or ethnic origin, familial status, or disability be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under the NHA's programs.

To further its commitment to full compliance with applicable Civil Rights laws, the NHA will provide Federal/State/local information to applicants/tenants of the Public Housing Program regarding discrimination and any recourse available to them if they believe they may be victims of discrimination. Such information will be made available with the application, and all applicable Fair Housing Information and Discrimination Complaint Forms will be made available at the NHA office. In addition, all written information and advertisements will contain the appropriate Equal Opportunity language and logo.

The NHA will assist any family that believes they have suffered illegal discrimination by providing them copies of the appropriate housing discrimination forms. The NHA will also assist them in completing the forms if requested and will provide them with the address of the nearest HUD office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity.

1.1 REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION

Sometimes people with disabilities may need a reasonable accommodation in order to take full advantage of the NHA housing programs and related services. When such accommodations are granted, they do not confer special treatment or advantage for the person with a disability; rather, they make the program accessible to them in a way that would otherwise not be possible due to their disability. This policy clarifies how people can request accommodations and the guidelines the NHA will follow in determining whether it is reasonable to provide a requested accommodation. Because disabilities are

not always apparent, the NHA will attempt to ensure that all applicants/tenants requesting accommodations or indicating a disability are aware of the opportunity to request reasonable accommodations.

1.2 COMMUNICATION

Anyone requesting an accommodation or indicating a disability will also receive a Request for Reasonable Accommodation form.

All decisions granting or denying requests for reasonable accommodations will be in writing.

1.3 QUESTIONS TO ASK IN GRANTING THE ACCOMMODATION

A. Is the requestor a person with disabilities? For this purpose the definition of person with disabilities is different than the definition used for admission. The Fair Housing definition used for this purpose is:

A person with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, has a record of such an impairment, or is regarded as having such an impairment. (The disability may not be apparent to others, i.e., a heart condition).

If the disability is apparent or already documented, the answer to this question is yes. It is possible that the disability for which the accommodation is being requested is a disability other than the apparent disability. If the disability is not apparent or documented, the NHA will obtain verification that the person is a person with a disability.

B. Is the requested accommodation related to the disability? If it is apparent that the request is related to the apparent or documented disability, the answer to this question is yes. If it is not apparent, the NHA will obtain documentation that the requested accommodation is needed due to the disability.

C. Is the requested accommodation reasonable? In order to be determined reasonable, the accommodation must meet two criteria:

1. Would the accommodation constitute a fundamental alteration? The NHA's business is housing. If the request would alter the fundamental business that the NHA conducts, that would not be reasonable. For instance, the NHA would deny a request to have the NHA do grocery shopping for a person with disabilities.

2. Would the requested accommodation create an undue financial hardship or administrative burden? Frequently the requested accommodation costs little or nothing. If the cost would be an undue burden, the NHA may request a meeting with the individual to investigate and consider equally effective alternatives.

D. Generally, the individual knows best what it is they need; however, the NHA retains the right to be shown how the requested accommodation enables the individual to access or use the NHA's programs or services.

If more than one accommodation is equally effective in providing access to the NHA's programs and services, the NHA retains the right to select the most efficient or economic choice. The cost necessary to carry out approved requests, including requests for physical modifications, will be borne by the NHA if there is no one else willing to pay for the modifications. If another party pays for the modification, the NHA will seek to have the same entity pay for any restoration costs.

If the tenant requests as a reasonable accommodation that they be permitted to make physical modifications at their own expense, the NHA will generally approve such request if it does not violate codes or affect the structural integrity of the unit.

Any request for an accommodation that would enable a tenant to materially violate essential lease terms will not be approved, i.e. allowing nonpayment of rent, destruction of property, disturbing safety, security or the peaceful enjoyment of others, etc.

1.4 SERVICES FOR NON-ENGLISH SPEAKING APPLICANTS AND RESIDENTS

The NHA will endeavor where practical to have bilingual staff or access or referrals to people who speak languages other than English.

1.5 FAMILY OUTREACH

The NHA will publicize the availability and nature of the Public Housing Program for extremely low-income, very low and low-income families in a newspaper of general circulation, minority media, and by other suitable means. The NHA will also try to utilize public service announcements.

The NHA will communicate the status of housing availability to other service providers in the community and inform them of housing eligibility factors and guidelines so they can make proper referrals for the Public Housing Program.

1.6 RIGHT TO PRIVACY

All adult members of both applicant and tenant households are required to sign HUD Form 9886, Authorization for Release of Information and Privacy Act Notice. The Authorization for Release of Information and Privacy Act Notice states how family information will be released and includes the Federal Privacy Act Statement.

Any request for applicant or tenant information will not be released unless there is a signed release of information request from the applicant or tenant.

1.7 REQUIRED POSTINGS

In each of its offices, the NHA will post, in a conspicuous place and at a height easily read by all persons including persons with mobility disabilities, the following information:

- A. Statement of Policies and Procedures governing Admission and Continued Occupancy
- B. Notice of the status of the waiting list (opened or closed)
- C. A listing of all the developments by name, address, number of units, units designed with special accommodations, address of all project offices, office hours, telephone numbers, TDD numbers, and Resident Facilities and operation hours.
- D. Income Limits for Admission
- E. Excess Utility Charges
- F. Utility Allowance Schedule
- G. Current Schedule of Routine Maintenance Charges
- H. Dwelling Lease
- I. Grievance Procedure
- J. Fair Housing Poster
- K. Equal Opportunity in Employment Poster
- L. Any current Housing Authority Notices

1.8 TAKING APPLICATIONS

Families wishing to apply for the Public Housing Program will be required to complete an application for housing assistance. Applications will be accepted during regular business hours at 28 Captain Robert Cook Drive in the Town of Needham, Massachusetts.

Applications are taken to compile a waiting list. Due to the demand for housing in the NHA jurisdiction, the NHA may take applications on an open enrollment basis, depending on the length of the waiting list.

Completed applications will be accepted for all applicants and the NHA will verify the information.

Applications may be made in person during the open wait list period at the NHA office, 28 Captain Robert Cook Drive, Needham, MA 02492. Applications will be mailed to interested families upon request.

The completed application will be dated, and time stamped upon its return to the NHA.

Persons with disabilities who require a reasonable accommodation in completing an application may call the HA to make special arrangements. A Telecommunication Device for the Deaf (TDD) is available for the deaf. The TDD telephone number is through MassRelay at 800-720-3480.

The application process will involve two phases. The first phase is the initial application for housing assistance or the pre-application. The pre-application requires the family to provide limited basic information establishing any preferences to which they may be entitled. This first phase results in the family's placement on the waiting list.

Upon receipt of the family's pre-application, the NHA will make a preliminary determination of eligibility. The NHA will notify the family in writing of the date and time of placement on the waiting list, and the approximate wait before housing may be offered. If the NHA determines the family to be ineligible, the notice will state the reasons therefore and will offer the family the opportunity of an informal review of the determination.

The applicant may at any time report changes in their applicant status including changes in family composition, income, or preference factors. The NHA will annotate the applicant's file and will update their place on the waiting list.

The second phase is the final determination of eligibility, referred to as the full application. The full application takes place when the family nears the top of the waiting list. The NHA will ensure that verification of all preferences, eligibility, suitability and

selection factors are current in order to determine the family's final eligibility for admission into the Public Housing Program.

SECTION 2 - APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION

2.0 INTRODUCTION

There are at least five primary eligibility requirements for admission to public housing: qualifies as a family, has an income within the income limits, meets citizenship/eligible immigrant criteria, provides documentation of Social Security numbers and signs consent authorization documents. In addition to the eligibility criteria, families must also meet the Needham Housing Authority screening criteria in order to be admitted to public housing.

2.1 ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

A. Family Status

1. A **family with or without children**. Such a family is defined as a group of people related by blood, marriage, adoption or affinity that live together in a stable family relationship.
 - a. Children temporarily absent from the home due to placement in foster care are considered family members.
 - b. Unborn children and children in the final stages of the legal process of being adopted are considered family members for the purpose of determining bedroom size but are not considered family members for determining income limit.
2. An **elderly family**, which is:
 - a. A family whose head, spouse, or sole member is a person who is at least 62 years of age;
 - b. Two or more persons who are at least 62 years of age living together; or
 - c. One or more persons who are at least 62 years of age living with one or more live-in aides.
3. A **near-elderly family**, which is:
 - a. 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;

- b. Two or more persons, who are at least 50 years of age but below the age of 62, living together; or
 - c. 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.
4. A **disabled family**, which is:
- a. A family whose head, spouse, or sole member is a person with disabilities;
 - b. Two or more persons with disabilities living together; or
 - c. One or more persons with disabilities living with one or more live-in aides.
 - d. For purposes of qualifying for low-income housing, does not include a person whose disability is based solely on any drug or alcohol dependence.
5. A **displaced family**, which is a family in which each member, or whose sole member, has been displaced by governmental action, or 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.
6. A **remaining member of a tenant family**.
7. A **single person** who is not either an elderly or displaced person, or a person with disabilities, or the remaining member of a tenant family.
- B. Income Eligibility
- 1. To be eligible for admission to developments or scattered-site units, the family's annual income must be within the low-income limit set by HUD. This means the family income cannot exceed 80 percent of the median income for the area.
 - 2. Income limits apply only at admission and are not applicable for continued occupancy.
 - 3. A family may not be admitted to the public housing program from another assisted housing program (e.g., tenant-based Section 8) or from a public housing program operated by another housing authority without meeting the income requirements of the NHA.

4. If the NHA acquires a property for federal public housing purposes, the families living there must have incomes within the appropriate income limit in order to be eligible to remain as public housing tenants.
5. Income limit restrictions do not apply to families transferring within our Public Housing Program.
6. The NHA may allow police officers who would not otherwise be eligible for occupancy in public housing to reside in a public housing dwelling unit. Such occupancy must be needed to increase security for public housing residents. Their rent shall at least equal the cost of operating the public housing unit.
7. The NHA will comply with the HUD regulations, as amended from time to time, relative to the number of low-income, very-low income, and extremely-low income persons admitted to occupancy. Not less than 40% of the families admitted during the fiscal year shall be extremely low-income families (basic targeting requirement).

C. Citizenship/Eligibility Status

1. To be eligible each member of the family must be a citizen, national, or a non-citizen who has eligible immigration status under one of the categories set forth in Section 214 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1980 (see 42 U.S.C. 1436a(a) or a citizen of the Republic of Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia or the Republic of Palau. However, people in the last category are not entitled to housing assistance in preference to any United States citizen or national resident within Guam.
2. Family eligibility for assistance.
 - a. A family shall not be eligible for assistance unless every member of the family residing in the unit is determined to have eligible status, with the exception noted below.
 - b. Despite the ineligibility of one or more family members, a mixed family may be eligible for one of three types of assistance (See Section 13.6 for calculating rents under the non-citizen rule).
 - c. A family without any eligible members and receiving assistance on June 19, 1995 may be eligible for temporary deferral of termination of assistance.

D. Social Security Number Documentation

To be eligible, all family members 6 years of age and older must provide a Social Security number or certify that they do not have one. Adults must certify for minors.

E. Signing Consent Forms

1. In order to be eligible, each member of the family who is at least 18 years of age, and each family head and spouse regardless of age, shall sign one or more consent forms.
2. The consent form must contain, at a minimum, the following:
 - a. A provision authorizing HUD or the NHA to obtain from State Wage Information Collection Agencies (SWICAs) any information or materials necessary to complete or verify the application for participation or for eligibility for continued occupancy;
 - b. A provision authorizing HUD or the NHA to verify with previous or current employers income information pertinent to the family's eligibility for or level of assistance;
 - c. A provision authorizing HUD to request income information from the IRS and the SSA for the sole purpose of verifying income information pertinent to the family's eligibility or level of benefits;
 - d. A statement allowing the NHA permission to access the applicant's criminal record with any and all police and/or law enforcement agencies; and
 - e. A statement that the authorization to release the information requested by the consent form expires 15 months after the date the consent form is signed.

2.2 SUITABILITY

- A. Applicant families will be evaluated to determine whether, based on their recent behavior, such behavior could reasonably be expected to result in noncompliance with the public housing lease. The NHA will look at past conduct as an indicator of future conduct. Emphasis will be placed on whether a family's admission could reasonably be expected to have a detrimental effect on the development environment, other tenants, NHA employees, or other people residing in the immediate vicinity of the property. Otherwise eligible families will be denied admission if they fail to meet the suitability criteria.
- B. The NHA will consider objective and reasonable aspects of the family's background, including the following:

1. History of meeting financial obligations, especially rent and any utility payments;
 2. Ability to maintain (or with assistance would have the ability to maintain) their housing in a decent and safe condition based on living or housekeeping habits and whether such habits could adversely affect the health, safety, or welfare of other tenants;
 3. History of criminal activity by any household member involving crimes of physical violence against persons or property and any other criminal activity including drug-related criminal activity that would adversely affect the health, safety, or well being of other tenants or staff or cause damage to the property;
 4. History of disturbing neighbors or destruction of property;
 5. Having committed fraud in connection with any housing assistance program, including the intentional misrepresentation of information related to their housing application or benefits derived there from; and
 6. History of alcohol abuse in a way that may interfere with the health, safety, or right to peaceful enjoyment by others.
 7. Any criminal activity or drug abuse as prohibited in 24 CFR § 960.204 which may require denial of admission.
- C. The NHA will ask applicants to provide information demonstrating their ability to comply with the essential elements of the lease. NHA will verify the information provided. Such verification may include but may not be limited to the following:
1. A credit check of the head, spouse, co-head and any other adult family members;
 2. A rental history check of all adult family members;
 3. A criminal background check on all adult household members, including live-in aides at no cost to the applicant. This check will be made through State or local law enforcement or court records in those cases where the household member has lived in the local jurisdiction for the last three years. The NHA may contact law enforcement agencies where the individual had lived or request a check through the FBI's National Crime Information Center (NCIC). This criminal background check will proceed after each adult household member has signed a consent form designed by the NHA.

The information received as a result of the criminal background check shall be used solely for screening, lease enforcement and eviction

purposes. The information derived from the criminal background check shall be shared only with employees of the NHA who have a job-related need to have access to the information. The information shall be maintained confidentially, not misused or improperly disseminated and destroyed once the purpose(s) for which it was requested has been accomplished and the period for filing a challenge to the NHA's action has expired without a challenge or final disposition of any litigation has occurred.

4. A home visit. The home visit provides the opportunity for the family to demonstrate their ability to maintain their home in a safe and sanitary manner. This inspection considers cleanliness and care of rooms, appliances, and appurtenances. The inspection may also consider any evidence of criminal activity; and
5. A check of the State's lifetime sex offender registration program for each adult household member, including live-in aides. No household with an individual registered under a State sex offender registration will be admitted to public housing. The NHA will check with our State registry and if the applicant has resided in another State(s), with that State(s)' list.

If an applicant is about to be denied housing based on either the criminal check or the sex offender registration program, the applicant will be informed of this fact and given an opportunity to dispute the accuracy of the information before the denial or eviction occurs.

2.3 GROUNDS FOR DENIAL

The NHA is not required or obligated to assist applicants who:

- A. Do not meet any one or more of the eligibility criteria;
- B. Do not supply information or documentation required by the application process;
- C. Have failed to respond to a written request for information or a request to declare their continued interest in the program;
- D. Have a history of not meeting financial obligations, especially rent;
- E. Do not have the ability to maintain (with assistance) their housing in a decent and safe condition where such habits could adversely affect the health, safety, or welfare of other tenants;
- F. Have a history of criminal activity by any household member involving crimes of physical violence against persons or property and any other criminal activity including drug-related criminal activity that would adversely affect the health, safety, or well being of other tenants or staff or cause damage to the property;

- G. Have a history of disturbing neighbors or destruction of property;
- H. Currently owes rent or other amounts to any housing authority in connection with their public housing or Section 8 programs;
- I. Have committed fraud, bribery or any other corruption in connection with any Federal housing assistance program, including the intentional misrepresentation of information related to their housing application or benefits derived there from;
- J. Were evicted from assisted housing within 10 years because of drug-related criminal activity. The 10 year limit is based on the date of such eviction, not the date the crime was committed.

However, the NHA may at its sole discretion, admit the household if the authority determines:

1. The evicted household member who engaged in drug-related criminal activity has successfully completed a supervised drug rehabilitation program approved by the NHA, or
 2. The circumstances leading to the eviction no longer exist (for example, the criminal household member is imprisoned or has died).
- K. Are currently engaging in the illegal use of a controlled substance. For purposes of this section, a member is "currently engaged in" the criminal activity if the person has engaged in this behavior recently enough to justify a reasonable belief that the behavior is current);
 - L. The NHA determines that it has reasonable cause to believe that a household member's illegal use or pattern of illegal use of a drug may threaten the health, safety or right to peaceful enjoyment of the premises by other residents;
 - M. The NHA determines that it has reasonable cause to believe that a 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.
 - N. Have engaged in or threatened abusive or violent behavior towards any NHA staff member or resident;
 - O. Fugitive felons, parole violators and persons fleeing to avoid prosecution or custody or confinement after conviction for a crime or attempt to commit a crime, that is a felony under the laws of the place from which the individual flees;
 - P. Denied for Life: If any family member has been convicted of manufacturing or producing methamphetamine (speed) in a public housing development or in a Section 8 assisted property, or on the premises of other federally assisted housing;

- Q. Denied for Life: Has a lifetime registration under any State sex offender registration program.

In determining whether to deny admission for illegal drug use by a household member who is no longer engaging in such abuse or for abuse or a pattern of abuse of alcohol by a household member who is no longer engaging in such abuse, the NHA may, at its option, and sole discretion, consider whether such household member:

1. Is participating in a supervised drug or alcohol rehabilitation program;
2. Has successfully completed a supervised drug or alcohol rehabilitation program; or
3. Has otherwise been successfully rehabilitated.

For this purpose, NHA will require the applicant to submit evidence of the household member's current participation in or successful completion of a supervised drug or alcohol rehabilitation program or evidence of otherwise having been rehabilitated successfully.

Before the NHA denies admission to the NHA's public housing program on the basis of a criminal record, the NHA must notify the household of the proposed action and must provide the person with the criminal record (i.e., a child) and the applicant (head of household) with a copy of the criminal record and an opportunity to dispute the accuracy and relevance of that record. The applicant will have 10 business days to dispute the accuracy and relevance of the record in writing. If the NHA does not receive the dispute within the allotted time, the applicant will be denied.

2.4 INFORMAL REVIEW

- A. If the NHA determines that an applicant does not meet the criteria for receiving public housing assistance, the NHA will promptly provide the applicant with written notice of the determination. The notice must contain a brief statement of the reason(s) for the decision and state that the applicant may request an informal review of the decision within 10 business days of the denial. The NHA will describe how to obtain the informal review.

The informal review may be conducted by any person designated by the NHA, other than a person who made or approved the decision under review or subordinate of this person. The applicant must be given the opportunity to present written or oral objections to the NHA's decision. The NHA should notify the applicant of the final decision within 14 business days after the informal review, including a brief statement of the reasons for the final decision.

- B. The participant family may request that the NHA provide for an Informal Hearing after the family has notification of an INS decision on their citizenship status on appeal, or in lieu of request of appeal to the INS. This request must be made by the participant family within 30 days of receipt of the Notice of Denial or Termination of Assistance, or within 30 days of receipt of the INS appeal decision.

For the participant families, the Informal Hearing Process above will be utilized with the exception that the participant family will have up to 30 days of receipt of the Notice of Denial or Termination of Assistance, or of the INS appeal decision.

SECTION 3 - MANAGING THE WAITING LIST

3.0 OPENING AND CLOSING THE WAITING LIST

Opening of the waiting list will be announced with a public notice stating that applications for public housing will again be accepted. The public notice will state where, when, and how to apply. The notice will be published in a local newspaper of general circulation and also by any available minority media.

The notice will state that applicants already on waiting lists for other housing programs must apply separately for this program and such applicants will not lose their place on other waiting lists when they apply for public housing. The notice will include the Fair Housing logo and slogan and will be in compliance with Fair Housing requirements.

Closing of the waiting list will also be announced with a public notice. The public notice will state the date the waiting list will be closed and for what bedroom sizes. The public notice will be published in a local newspaper of general circulation and also by any available minority media.

3.1 ORGANIZATION OF THE WAITING LIST

The waiting list will be maintained in accordance with the following guidelines:

- A. The application will be a permanent file;
- B. All applications will be maintained in order of bedroom size, preference, and then in order of date and time of application; and
- C. Any relevant contact between the NHA and the applicant will be documented in the applicant file.

3.2 FAMILIES NEARING THE TOP OF THE WAITING LIST

When a family appears to be nearing the top of the waiting list, the family will be invited to an interview and the verification process will begin. It is at this point in time that the family's waiting list preference will be verified. If the family no longer qualifies to be near the top of the list, the family's name will be returned to the appropriate spot on the waiting list. The NHA must notify the family in writing of this determination and give the family the opportunity for an informal review.

Once the preference has been verified, the family will complete a full application, present Social Security number information, citizenship/eligible immigrant information, and sign the Consent for Release of Information forms.

3.3 PURGING THE WAITING LIST

The NHA will update and purge its waiting list at least annually to ensure that the pool of applicants reasonably represents the interested families for whom the NHA has current information, i.e. applicant's address, family composition, income category, and preferences.

3.4 REMOVAL OF APPLICANTS FROM THE WAITING LIST

The NHA will not remove an applicant's name from the waiting list unless:

- A. The applicant requests in writing that the name be removed;
- B. The applicant fails to respond to a written request for information or a request to declare their continued interest in the program;
- C. Fails to attend a scheduled appointment without advance notification and/or good cause;
- D. The applicant does not meet either the eligibility or suitability criteria for the program; or
- E. The applicant is housed in another NHA unit.

3.5 MISSED APPOINTMENTS

All applicants who fail to keep a scheduled appointment with the NHA will be sent a notice of termination of the process for eligibility.

The NHA will allow the family to reschedule for good cause. Generally, no more than one opportunity will be given to reschedule without good cause, and no more than two opportunities will be given for good cause. When good cause exists for missing an appointment, the NHA will attempt to work closely with the family to find a more suitable time. Applicants will be offered the right to an informal review before being removed from the waiting list.

3.6 NOTIFICATION OF NEGATIVE ACTIONS

Any applicant whose name is being removed from the waiting list will be notified by the NHA, in writing, that they have seven (7) calendar days from the date of the written correspondence to present mitigating circumstances or request an informal review. The letter will also indicate that their name will be removed from the waiting list if they fail to respond within the timeframe specified. The NHA system of removing applicant names from the waiting list will not violate the rights of persons with disabilities. If an applicant claims that their failure to respond to a request for information or updates was caused by a disability, the NHA will verify that there is in fact a disability and the disability caused the failure to respond, and will provide a reasonable accommodation. An example of a reasonable accommodation would be to reinstate the applicant on the waiting list based on the date and time of the original application.

SECTION 4: WAITING LIST MANAGEMENT

4.0 ORGANIZATION OF THE WAITING LIST

The Needham Housing Authority (NHA) waiting list for public housing programs will be maintained in accordance with the following guidelines:

- A. The application will be a permanent file;
- B. All applications will be maintained in order of bedroom size, preference, and then in order of date and time of application; and
- C. Any contacts between the NHA and the applicant will be documented in the applicant file.
- D. Applicant will receive one Master Control Number unless they submit a second application on a different date.

4.1 OPENING AND CLOSING THE WAITING LIST

- A. Media announcements of the opening and closing of NHA waiting lists will be published in a local newspaper of general circulation and also by any available minority media. They will bear the Equal Housing Opportunity logo and NHA Statement of Non-discrimination
- B. Announcements
 - 1. Opening of Waiting List or Sub-list. Public notices announcing the opening/re-opening of a program waiting list or sub-list shall include the following: the date the NHA will start accepting applications; information

regarding the type of housing program; eligibility requirements and any restrictions on who may apply; where, when, and how to apply; and that applicants already on waiting lists for other housing programs must apply separately for this program and their status on other waiting lists will not be affected.

2. Closure of Waiting List or Sub-list. Public notices announcing the closure of a program waiting list or sub-list shall include the following: the date the NHA will stop accepting applications; the housing programs and/or bedroom sizes affected; and that applicants currently on the waiting list will not be affected by its closure.

4.2 WAITING LIST PLACEMENT

A. Community-Wide Waiting Lists

Once it has been determined that an applicant satisfies the threshold eligibility requirements for household income and family status, the applicant shall be placed on a community-wide waiting list for the federal public housing program(s) for which they are eligible. NHA has three (3) community-wide lists in the federal public housing program, one for each development type: Family; Elderly-Only; and Mixed Populations. The largest unit size under the Mixed Populations program is one (1) bedroom. As such, non-elderly households requiring more than one (1) bedroom may only apply for the Family Program.

B. Waiting Sub-Lists

Each community-wide list is then divided into waiting sub-lists by the available bedroom sizes, ranging from zero (0) to five (5) bedroom units, within each development type¹. The tables below illustrate the number of dwelling units in each bedroom size category, development type and development in the NHA federal public housing portfolio.

¹ Under the Mixed Populations program, wherein only studio apartments (0-bedroom efficiency units) and one-bedroom units available, there is one singular waiting sub-list for both unit sizes.

- C. Initial determination of an applicant's eligibility for waiting list preference, development type, and bedroom size shall be based on the information provided on the pre-application.

UNIT COUNTS BY DEVELOPMENT

Development Type	Development	Units
Family	CRCO	30
Family	Seabeds Way	46
Family	High Rock	60

- D. NHA will follow the guidelines set forth in Sections 5.0 (Preferences), 5.2 (Designated Housing) and 5.4 (Occupancy Standards) when making these determinations. Final verification of eligibility for these waiting list factors occurs when the applicant approaches the top of the list and is invited to attend an applicant interview and complete the full application package. NHA will document subsequent changes to an applicant’s family composition or eligibility for preference. In accordance with Section 3.2 of this policy, when such changes affect an applicant’s sub-waiting list assignment, bedroom size, or preference category, those updates will be made accordingly.

4.3 PREFERENCE POINT SYSTEM

- A. The Needham Housing Authority (NHA) has established four (4) Applicant Preference categories and three (3) Unit Transfer categories that affect an individual's ranking on the federal public housing waiting list. Each category is associated with a specific point value that places it on a scale of 0 to 70. The point system hierarchy reflects the values, needs and priorities of both the Authority and the local Needham community. Eligibility for waiting list points must be verified at the time of screening prior to admission or unit transfer.
- B. Preference points are *mutually exclusive*, so no application on the waiting list may be assigned more than one preference. Families that are eligible for more than one preference will be assigned the highest-ranking preference for which they qualify. Applications that are not eligible for a preference will be ranked on the waiting lists according to date and time of application. Preferences are weighted highest to lowest in the following order and date and time of application determines the ranking sequence within the categories. The preference point system used by NHA to process new admissions and transfers on all federal public housing waiting lists is as follows:

Point System Hierarchy	
Preference Category	Points
Administrative Transfers ¹	70
Emergency Transfer	65
Standard Transfer	60
Applicant Preference #2	50
Applicant Preference #3	40
Applicant Preference #4	30
Standard Applicants	0

4.4 APPLICANT PREFERENCES

- A. APPLICANT PREFERENCE #1: EMERGENCY (65 PTS)**
Applicants displaced by one of the following:
1. Fire
 2. Federally declared natural disaster
 3. Condemnation

¹ Approved Administrative Transfers will be offered housing before all ranking families on the waiting list. (See: Chapter 12 Transfers)

4. Urban renewal
5. Presence of Lead Paint if a home with a child age 6 and under
6. Witness relocation as determined by city, county, state or federal law enforcement.

B. APPLICANT PREFERENCE #2: RESIDENCY (50 PTS)

1. Applicants currently residing in the Town of Needham, or have at least one adult member who works or has been hired to work in the Town of Needham, or is attending an educational or training program full-time in the Town of Needham.
2. NHA does not require a minimum term of Needham residency to qualify under this preference. A family that can provide proper verification as outlined in Section 6.3 (B) of this policy qualifies as a resident provided they do not live somewhere else.
3. EXCEPTION: Applicant families currently living in subsidized or low-income housing, or who have lived in assisted housing in the previous six months are not eligible for Preference #2.

C. APPLICANT PREFERENCE #3: EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION, TRAINING (40 PTS)

1. Applicants with at least one adult who is employed a minimum of 32 hours weekly and has been employed for at least three months; or at least one adult who is a full-time participant in an educational or training program designed to prepare the individual for the job market; or
2. Applicants where both the Head of Household AND spouse/co-head, or sole member, are age 62 or older, or are receiving social security disability, supplemental security income, disability benefits, or any other payments based on an individual's ability to work.

D. APPLICANT PREFERENCE #4: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (30 PTS)

Applicants who are victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. (See Appendix C: Violence Against Women Act Policy)

4.5 VETERANS PRIORITY

Priority points will be *added to* preference category points for *applicants* at admission only. Veterans will be given priority over non-veterans, regardless of whether or not they are eligible for a preference.

4.6 FACTORS AFFECTING APPLICANT RANKING

There is no guarantee that an applicant's ranking on the waiting list will continually rise over time. Various factors affect the length of time an applicant spends on the waiting

list. Factors such as unit turnover rates, waiting list demand, and the constant influx of new applicants qualifying for preference points may cause an incumbent applicant's ranking to rise or fall to varying degrees. Examples of these factors affecting rank include, but are not limited to:

- A subsequent applicant is placed on the same sub-waiting list and bedroom size but qualifies for a higher-ranking preference.
- An applicant with an older application date and/or higher-ranking preference category experiences a change that qualifies them to be placed on another sub-waiting list.

SECTION 5. TENANT SELECTION AND ASSIGNMENT OF BEDROOM SIZES

5.0 ASSIGNMENT OF BEDROOM SIZES

The following guidelines will determine each family's unit size without overcrowding or over-housing: The family will be offered the smallest unit possible provided such offer does not violate state or local housing codes or the guidelines contained herein.

NUMBER OF BEDROOMS	NUMBER OF PERSONS	
	Minimum	Maximum
0	1	1
1	1	2
2	2	4
3	3	6
4	4	8

These standards are based on the assumption that each bedroom will accommodate no more than two (2) persons. Two adults of the same sex may share a bedroom. Two adults of the opposite sex will be given separate bedrooms unless they are married or in a cohabiting relationship, or require a separate bedroom for a medical necessity based on a reasonable accommodation for a disability.

In determining bedroom size, the NHA will include the presence of children to be born to a pregnant woman, children who are in the process of being adopted, children whose custody is being obtained, children who are temporarily away at school, or children who are temporarily in foster care.

In addition, the following considerations may be taken in determining bedroom size:

- A. Children of the same sex will share a bedroom.
- B. Children of the opposite sex, both under the age of 7, may share a bedroom.
- C. Adults and children will not be required to share a bedroom but may do so under certain circumstances.
- D. Foster adults will not be required to share a bedroom with family members.
- E. Live-in aides may get a separate bedroom, where practical and feasible.

Exceptions to normal bedroom size standards include the following:

- A. Units smaller than assigned through the above guidelines. A family may request a smaller unit size than the guidelines allow. The NHA will allow the smaller size unit so long as generally no more than two (2) people per bedroom are assigned. In such situations, the family will sign a certification stating they understand they will be ineligible for a larger size unit until the family size changes.
- B. Units larger than assigned through the above guidelines. A family may request a larger unit size than the guidelines allow. The NHA may allow the larger size unit if the family provides a verified medical need that the family be housed in a larger unit. Approval by the NHA will be considered only if the larger bedroom size is medically necessary without alternative solutions.
- C. If there are no families on the waiting list for a larger size, smaller families may be housed if they sign a release form stating they will transfer (at the family's own expense) to the appropriate size unit when an eligible family needing the larger unit applies. The family transferring will be given a 30-day notice before being required to move.
- D. Larger units may be offered in order to improve the marketing of a development suffering a high vacancy rate.
- E. In no event will a single person who is not an elderly person or a displaced person or a person with disabilities be provided with a unit that is larger than one-bedroom.

5.1 SELECTION FROM THE WAITING LIST

The NHA shall follow the statutory requirement that at least 40% of newly admitted families in any fiscal year be families whose annual income is at or below 30% of the area median income. To insure this requirement is met we shall quarterly monitor the incomes of newly admitted families and the incomes of the families on the waiting list. If

it appears that the requirement to house extremely low-income families will not be met, we will skip higher income families on the waiting list to reach extremely low-income families.

If there are not enough extremely low-income families on the waiting list we will conduct outreach on a non-discriminatory basis to attract extremely low-income families to reach the statutory requirement.

5.2 DECONCENTRATION POLICY

The NHA will affirmatively market our housing to all eligible income groups.

5.3 OFFER OF A UNIT

When the NHA discovers that a unit will become available, we will contact the first family on the waiting list who has the highest priority for this type of unit whose income category would help to meet the income targeting goal.

The NHA will contact the family first by telephone and first class mail to make the unit offer. The family will be given five (5) business days from the date the letter was mailed to contact the NHA regarding the offer.

The family will be offered the opportunity to view the unit. After the opportunity to view the unit, the family will have two (2) business days to accept or reject the unit. This verbal offer and the family's decision must be documented in the tenant file. If the family rejects the offer of the unit, the NHA will send the family a letter documenting the offer and the rejection.

SECTION 6. PLACEMENTS

6.0 REJECTION OF UNIT

If the NHA did not skip over other families on the waiting list to reach the family, and the family rejects the unit without good cause, the family will forfeit their application's date and time. The family will keep their preferences, but the date and time of the application will be changed to the date and time the unit was rejected.

If the family rejects with good cause any unit offered, they will not lose their place on the waiting list. Good cause includes reasons related to health, proximity to work, school, and childcare (for those working or going to school). The family will be offered the right to an informal review of the decision to alter their application status.

6.1 ACCEPTANCE OF UNIT

The family will be required to sign a lease that will become effective no later than three (3) business days after the date of acceptance or the business day after the day the unit becomes available, whichever is later.

Prior to signing the lease, all families (head of household) and other adult family members will be required to attend the Lease and Occupancy Orientation when they are initially accepted for occupancy. The family will not be housed if they have not attended the orientation. Applicants who provide prior notice of an inability to attend the orientation will be rescheduled. Failure of an applicant to attend the orientation, without good cause, may result in the cancellation of the occupancy process.

The applicant will be provided a copy of the lease, the grievance procedure, utility allowances, utility charges, the current schedule of routine maintenance charges and a request for reasonable accommodation form. These documents will be explained in detail. The applicant will sign a certification that they have received these documents and that they have reviewed them with NHA personnel. The certification will be filed in the tenant's file.

The signing of the lease and the review of financial information are to be privately handled. The head of household and all adult family members will be required to execute the lease prior to admission. One executed copy of the lease will be furnished to the head of household and the NHA will retain the original executed lease in the tenant's file. A copy of the grievance procedure will be attached to the resident's copy of the lease.

A. The Total Tenant Payment or Flat Rent.

In exceptional situations, the NHA reserves the right to allow a new resident to pay their security deposit in up to three (3) payments. One third shall be paid in advance, one third with their second rent payment, and one third with their third rent payment. This shall be at the sole discretion of the NHA.

In the case of a move within public housing, the security deposit for the first unit will be transferred to the second unit. For existing tenants who have not paid a security deposit at moved-in, a security deposit will be required for a second unit. Additionally, if the security deposit for the second unit is greater than that for the first, the difference will be collected from the family. Conversely, if the security deposit is less, the difference will be refunded to the family.

In the case of a move within public housing and in the event there are costs attributable to the family for bringing the first unit into condition for re-renting, the family shall be billed for these charges.

SECTION 7. INCOME, EXCLUSIONS AND DEDUCTIONS FROM INCOME

To determine annual income, the NHA adds the income of all family members, excluding the types and sources of income that are specifically excluded. Once the annual income is determined, the NHA subtracts all allowable deductions (allowances) to determine the Total Tenant Payment.

7.0 INCOME

Annual income means all amounts, monetary or not, that:

- A. Go to (or on behalf of) the family head or spouse (even if temporarily absent) or to any other family member; or
- B. Are anticipated to be received from a source outside the family during the 12-month period following admission or annual reexamination effective date; and
- C. Are not specifically excluded from annual income.

If it is not feasible to anticipate a level of income over a 12-month period (e.g. seasonal or cyclic income), or the NHA believes that past income is the best available indicator of expected future income, the NHA may annualize the income anticipated for a shorter period, subject to a redetermination at the end of the shorter period.

Annual income includes, but is not limited to:

- A. The full amount, before any payroll deductions, of wages and salaries, overtime pay, commissions, fees, tips and bonuses and other compensation for personal services.
- B. The net income from the operation of a business or profession. Expenditures for business expansion or amortization of capital indebtedness are not 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 is included in income, except to the extent the withdrawal is a reimbursement of cash or assets invested in the operation by the family.

- C. Interest, dividends, and other net income of any kind from real or personal property. Expenditures for amortization of capital indebtedness are not 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 an investment is included in income, except to the extent the withdrawal is reimbursement of cash or assets invested by the family. Where the family has net family assets in excess of \$5,000, annual income includes the greater of the actual income derived from all net family assets or a percentage of the value of such assets based on the current passbook savings rate, as determined by HUD.
- D. The full amount of periodic amounts received from Social Security, annuities, insurance policies, retirement funds, pensions, disability or death benefits, and other similar types of periodic receipts, including a lump-sum amount or prospective monthly amounts for the delayed start of a periodic amount. (However, deferred periodic amounts from supplemental security income and Social Security benefits that are received in a lump sum amount or in prospective monthly amounts are excluded.)
- E. Payments in lieu of earnings, such as unemployment and disability compensation, worker's compensation, and severance pay. (However, lump sum additions such as insurance payments from worker's compensation are excluded.)
- F. Welfare assistance
 - 1. Welfare assistance payments:
 - a. Welfare assistance payments made under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program are included in annual income only to the extent such payments:
 - i. Qualify as assistance under the TANF program definition at 45 CFR 260.31; and
 - ii. Are not otherwise excluded under paragraph Section 11.2 of this Policy.
 - b. If the welfare assistance payment includes an amount specifically designated for shelter and utilities that is subject to adjustment by the

welfare assistance agency in accordance with the actual cost of shelter and utilities, the amount of welfare assistance income to be included as income consists of:

i. The amount of the allowance or grant exclusive of the amount specifically designated for shelter or utilities; plus

ii. The maximum amount that the welfare assistance agency could in fact allow the family for shelter and utilities. If the family's welfare assistance is ratably reduced from the standard of need by applying a percentage, the amount calculated under this requirement is the amount resulting from one application of the percentage.

2. Imputed welfare income

a. 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 NHA by the welfare agency) plus the total amount of other annual income.

b. At the request of the NHA, the welfare agency will inform the NHA 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 NHA of any subsequent changes in the term or amount of such specified welfare benefit reduction. The NHA will use this information to determine the amount of imputed welfare income for a family.

c. A family's annual income includes imputed welfare income in family annual income, as determined at an interim or regular reexamination of family income and composition, during the term of the welfare benefits reduction (as specified in information provided to the NHA by the welfare agency).

d. 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 welfare income, the imputed welfare income is reduced to zero.

e. The NHA will not include imputed welfare income in annual income if the family was not an assisted resident at the time of the sanction.

f. If a resident is not satisfied that the NHA has calculated the amount of imputed welfare income in accordance with HUD requirements, and if the NHA denies the family's request to modify such amount, then the HA shall give the resident written notice of such denial, with a brief explanation of the basis for the NHA'S, determination of the amount of

imputed welfare income. The NHA's notice shall also state that if the resident does not agree with the determination, the resident may grieve the decision in accordance with our grievance policy. The resident is not required to pay an escrow deposit for the portion of the resident's rent attributable to the imputed welfare income in order to obtain a grievance hearing.

3. Relations with welfare agencies
 - a. The NHA will ask welfare agencies to inform it 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 HA written notice of such reduction, the family's annual incomes shall include the imputed welfare income because of the specified welfare benefits reduction.
 - b. The NHA 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 housing authority. However, the NHA 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.
 - c. 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 NHA shall rely on the welfare agency notice to the NHA of the welfare agency's determination of a specified welfare benefits reduction.
- G. Periodic and determinable allowances, such as alimony, child support payments and regular contributions or gifts received from organizations or from persons not residing in the dwelling.
- H. All regular pay, special pay and allowances of a member of the Armed Forces. (Special pay to a member exposed to hostile fire is excluded.)

7.1 ANNUAL INCOME

Annual income does not include the following:

- A. Income from employment of children (including foster children) under the age of 18 years;

- B. Payments received for the care of foster children or foster adults (usually persons with disabilities, unrelated to the tenant family, who are unable to live alone);
- C. Lump-sum additions to family assets, such as inheritances, insurance payments (including payments under health and accident insurance and worker's compensation), capital gains, and settlement for personal or property losses;
- D. Amounts received by the family that are specifically for, or in reimbursement of, the cost of medical expenses for any family member;
- E. Income of a live-in aide;
- F. The full amount of student financial assistance paid directly to the student or to the educational institution;
- G. The special pay to a family member serving in the Armed Forces who is exposed to hostile fire;
- H. The amounts received from the following programs:
 - 1. Amounts received under training programs funded by HUD;
 - 2. 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);
 - 3. Amounts received by a participant in other publicly assisted programs that are specifically for or in reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses incurred (special equipment, clothing, transportation, childcare, etc.) and that are made solely to allow participation in a specific program;
 - 4. Amounts received under a resident service stipend. A resident service stipend is a modest amount (not to exceed \$200 per month) received by a resident for performing a service for the Housing Authority or owner, on a part-time basis, that enhances the quality of life in the development. Such services may include, but are not limited to, fire patrol, hall monitoring, lawn maintenance, resident initiatives coordination, and serving as a member of the NHA governing board. No resident may receive more than one such stipend during the same period of time;
 - 5. Incremental earnings and benefits resulting to any family member from participation in qualifying State or local employment training programs (including training programs not affiliated with a local government) and training of a family member as resident management staff. 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;

6. Temporary, nonrecurring or sporadic income (including gifts);
7. 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;
8. Earnings in excess of \$480 for each full-time student 18 years old or older (excluding the head of household and spouse);
9. Adoption assistance payments in excess of \$480 per adopted child;
10. The incremental earnings due to employment during a cumulative 12 month period following date of the initial hire shall be excluded. This exclusion (paragraph 11) will not apply for any family who concurrently is eligible for exclusion #10. Additionally, this exclusion is only available to the following families:
 - a. Families whose income increases as a result of employment of a family member who was previously unemployed for one or more years.
 - b. Families whose income increases during the participation of a family member in any economic self-sufficiency or other job training program.
 - c. Families who are or were, within 6 months, assisted under a State TANF or Welfare-to-Work program.

During the second cumulative 12-month period after the date of initial hire, 50% of the increased income shall be excluded from income.

The disallowance of increased income of an individual family member is limited to a lifetime 48-month period. It only applies for 12 months of the 100% exclusion and 12 months of the 50% exclusion.

(While HUD regulations allow for the housing authority to offer an escrow account in lieu of having a portion of their income excluded under this paragraph, it is the policy of this housing authority to provide the exclusion in all cases.)

11. Deferred periodic amounts from supplemental security income and Social Security benefits that are received in a lump sum amount or in prospective monthly amounts;

12. 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;
13. Amounts paid by a State agency to a family with a member who has a developmental disability and is living at home to offset the cost of services and equipment needed to keep the developmentally disabled family member at home; or
14. Amounts specifically excluded by any other Federal statute from consideration as income for purposes of determining eligibility or benefits. These exclusions include:
 - a. The value of the allotment of food stamps;
 - b. Payments to volunteers under the Domestic Volunteer Services Act of 1973;
 - c. Payments received under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act;
 - d. Income derived from certain submarginal land of the U.S. that is held in trust for certain Indian tribes;
 - e. Payments or allowances made under the Department of Health & Human Services' Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program;
 - f. Payments received under programs funded in whole or in part under the Job Training Partnership Act; (effective July 1, 2000, references to Job Training Partnership Act shall be deemed to refer to the corresponding provision of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998)
 - g. Income derived from the disposition of funds of the Grand River Band of Ottawa Indians;
 - h. The first \$2000 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 \$2000 per year of income received by individual Indians from funds derived from interests held in such trust or restricted lands;
 - i. Amount of scholarships funded under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, including awards under Federal work-study program or under the Bureau of Indian Affairs student assistance programs;

- j. Payments received from programs funded under Title V of the Older Americans Act of 1985;
- k. Payments received on or after January 1, 1989, from the Agent Orange Settlement Fund or any other fund established pursuant to the settlement in In Re Agent-product liability litigation, M.D.L. No 381;
- l. Payments received under the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act of 1980;
- m. The value of childcare provided or arranged (or any amount received as payment for such care or reimbursement for costs incurred for such care) under the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990;
- n. Earned income tax credit (EITC) refund payments received on or after January 1, 1991;
- o. Payments by the Indian Claims Commission to the Confederated Tribes and Bands of Yakima Indian Nation or the Apache Tribe of Mescalero Reservation;
- p. Allowances, earnings and payments to AmeriCorps participants under the National and Community Service Act of 1990;
- q. Any allowance paid under the provisions of 28 U.S.C. 1805 to a child suffering from spina bifida who is the child of a Vietnam veteran;
- r. Any amount of crime victim compensation (under the Victims of Crime Act) received through crime victim assistance (or payment or reimbursement of the cost of such assistance) as determined under the Victims of Crime Act because of the commission of a crime against the applicant under the Victims of Crime Act; and
- s. Allowances, earnings and payments to individuals participating in programs under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998.

The NHA will not provide exclusions from income in addition to those provided for by HUD.

7.2 DEDUCTIONS FROM ANNUAL INCOME

The following deductions will be made from annual income:

- A. \$480 for each dependent;
- B. \$400 for any elderly family or disabled family;
- C. The sum of the following, to the extent the sum exceeds three % of annual income:
 - 1. Unreimbursed medical expenses of any elderly family or disabled family (including any fee paid by the participant for the Medicare Prescription Drug Program); and
 - 2. 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, but this allowance may not exceed the earned income received by family members who are 18 years of age or older who are able to work because of such attendant care or auxiliary apparatus.
- D. Reasonable childcare expenses for children 12 and younger necessary to enable a member of the family to be employed or to further his or her education. This deduction shall not exceed the amount of employment income that is included in annual income.

7.3 RECEIPT OF A LETTER OR NOTICE FROM HUD CONCERNING INCOME

- A. If a public housing resident receives a letter or notice from HUD concerning the amount or verification of family income, the letter shall be brought to the person responsible for income verification within thirty (30) days of receipt by the resident.
- B. The Executive Director shall reconcile any difference between the amount reported by the resident and the amount listed in the HUD communication. This shall be done as promptly as possible.
- C. After the reconciliation is complete, the NHA shall, if appropriate, adjust the resident's rent beginning at the start of the next month unless the reconciliation is completed during the final five (5) days of the month and then the new rent shall take effect on the first day of the second month following the end of the current month. In addition, if the resident had not previously reported the proper income, the NHA shall do one of the following:
 - 1. Immediately collect the back rent due to the agency;
 - 2. Establish a repayment plan for the resident to pay the sum due to the agency;

3. Terminate the lease and evict for failure to report income; or
4. Terminate the lease, evict for failure to report income, and collect the back rent due to the agency.

7.4 COOPERATING WITH WELFARE AGENCIES

The NHA will make its best efforts to enter into cooperation agreements with local welfare agencies under which the welfare agencies will agree:

- A. To target assistance, benefits and services to families receiving assistance in the public housing and Section 8 tenant-based assistance program to achieve self-sufficiency; and
- B. To provide written verification to the NHA concerning welfare benefits for families applying for or receiving assistance in our housing assistance programs.

SECTION 8. INCOME VERIFICATION

The NHA will verify information related to waiting list preferences, eligibility, admission and level of benefits prior to admission. Periodically during occupancy, items related to eligibility and rent determination shall also be reviewed and verified. Income, assets, and expenses will be verified, as well as disability status, need for a live-in aide and other reasonable accommodations; full-time student status of family members 18 years of age and older; Social Security numbers; and citizenship/eligible non-citizen status. Age and relationship will only be verified in those instances where needed to make a determination of level of assistance.

8.0 ACCEPTABLE METHODS OF VERIFICATION

Age, relationship, U.S. citizenship, and Social Security numbers will generally be verified with documentation provided by the family. For citizenship, documentation such as listed below will be required. Verification of these items will include photocopies of the Social Security cards and other documents presented by the family, the INS SAVE approval code, and forms signed by the family.

Other information will be verified by third party verification. This type of verification includes written documentation with forms sent directly to and received directly by a source, not passed through the hands of the family. This verification may also be direct contact with the source, in person or by telephone. It may also be a report generated by a request from the NHA or automatically by another government agency, i.e., the Social Security Administration. Verification forms and reports received will be contained in the applicant/tenant file. Oral third party documentation will include the same information as if the documentation had been written, i.e., name, date of contact, amount received, etc.

When third party verification cannot be obtained, the NHA will accept documentation received from the applicant/tenant. Hand-carried documentation will be accepted if the NHA has been unable to obtain third party verification in a 4-week period of time. Photocopies of the documents provided by the family will be maintained in the file. The NHA will participate in the Enterprise Income Verification Program (EIV and/or UIV) or its successors, as may be amended from time to time and the NHA will utilize said information.

When neither third party verification nor hand-carried verification can be obtained, the NHA may, at its sole discretion, accept a notarized statement signed by the head, spouse or co-head. Such documents will be maintained in the file.

The NHA shall require residents to sign an *Authorization to Review Credit Report Form* (to verify applicant/tenant’s expenses and financial obligations reported on Zero Income Checklist and Worksheet.) FRHA has an agreement with an authorized credit bureau for provision of online credit checks. A copy of the credit report will be kept in the application file.

8.1 TYPES OF VERIFICATION

The chart below outlines the factors that may be verified and gives common examples of the verification that will be sought. To obtain written third party verification, the NHA will send a request form to the source along with a release form signed by the applicant/tenant via first class mail.

Verification Requirements for Individual Items		
Item to Be Verified	3 rd party verification	Hand-carried verification
General Eligibility Items		
Social Security Number	Letter from Social Security, electronic reports	Social Security card
Citizenship	N/A	Signed certification, voter's registration card, birth certificate, etc.
Eligible immigration status	INS SAVE confirmation #	INS card
Disability	Letter from medical professional, SSI, etc	Proof of SSI or Social Security disability payments
Full time student status (if >18)	Letter from school	For high school students, any document evidencing enrollment
Need for a live-in aide	Letter from doctor or other professional knowledgeable of condition	N/A

Verification Requirements for Individual Items		
Item to Be Verified	3 rd party verification	Hand-carried verification
Childcare costs	Letter from care provider	Bills and receipts
Disability assistance expenses	Letters from suppliers, care givers, etc.	Bills and records of payment
Medical expenses	Letters from providers, prescription record from pharmacy, medical professional's letter stating assistance or a companion animal is needed	Bills, receipts, records of payment, dates of trips, mileage log, receipts for fares and tolls
Value of and Income from Assets		
Savings, checking accounts	Letter from institution	Passbook, most current statements
CDS, bonds, etc	Letter from institution	Tax return, information brochure from institution, the CD, the bond
Stocks	Letter from broker or holding company	Stock or most current statement, price in newspaper or through Internet
Real property	Letter from tax office, assessment, etc.	Property tax statement (for current value), assessment, records or income and expenses, tax return
Personal property	Assessment, bluebook, etc	Receipt for purchase, other evidence of worth
Cash value of life insurance policies	Letter from insurance company	Current statement
Assets disposed of for less than fair market value	N/A	Original receipt and receipt at disposition, other evidence of worth
Income		
Earned income	Letter from employer	Multiple pay stubs
Self-employed	N/A	Tax return from prior year, books of accounts
Regular gifts and contributions	Letter from source, letter from organization receiving gift (i.e., if grandmother pays day care provider, the day care provider could so state)	Bank deposits, other similar evidence
Alimony/child support	Court order, letter from source, letter from Human Services	Record of deposits, divorce decree
Periodic payments (i.e., social security, welfare, pensions, workers compensation, unemployment)	Letter or electronic reports from the source	Award letter, letter announcing Change in amount of future payments

Verification Requirements for Individual Items		
Item to Be Verified	3rd party verification	Hand-carried verification
Training program participation	Letter from program provider indicating <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - whether enrolled or completed - whether training is HUD-funded - whether Federal, State, local govt., or local program - whether it is employment training - whether it has clearly defined goals and objectives - whether program has supportive services - whether payments are for out-of-pocket expenses incurred in order to participate in a program - date of first job after program completion 	N/A Evidence of job start

8.2 VERIFICATION OF CITIZENSHIP OR ELIGIBLE NONCITIZEN STATUS

The citizenship/eligible non-citizen status of each family member regardless of age must be determined.

Prior to being admitted, or at the first reexamination, all citizens and nationals will be required to sign a declaration under penalty of perjury. They will be required to show proof of their status by such means as a birth certificate, military ID, or military DD 214 Form.

Prior to being admitted or at the first reexamination, all eligible non-citizens who are 62 years of age or older will be required to sign a declaration under penalty of perjury. They will also be required to show proof of age.

Prior to being admitted or at the first reexamination, all eligible non-citizens must sign a declaration of their status and a verification consent form and provide their original INS documentation. The NHA will make a copy of the individual's INS documentation and place the copy in the file. The NHA will also verify their status through the INS SAVE system. If the INS SAVE system cannot confirm eligibility, the NHA will mail information to the INS in order that a manual check can be made of INS records.

Family members who do not claim to be citizens, nationals, or eligible non-citizens must be listed on a statement of non-eligible members and the list must be signed by the head of the household.

Non-citizen students on student visas, though in the country legally, are not eligible to be admitted to public housing. If they are members of families that include citizens, the rent must be pro-rated. Any family member who does not choose to declare their status must be listed on the statement of non-eligible members.

If no family member is determined to be eligible under this section, the family's eligibility will be denied.

The family's assistance will not be denied, delayed, reduced, or terminated because of a delay in the process of determining eligible status under this section, except to the extent that the delay is caused by the family.

If the NHA determines that a family member has knowingly permitted an ineligible non-citizen (other than any ineligible non-citizens listed on the lease) to permanently reside in their public housing unit, the family will be evicted. Such family will not be eligible to be readmitted to public housing for a period of 24 months from the date of eviction or termination.

8.2 VERIFICATION OF SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS

Prior to admission, each family member who has a Social Security number and who is at least 6 years of age must provide verification of their Social Security number. New family members at least 6 years of age must provide this verification prior to being added to the lease. Children in assisted households must provide this verification at the first regular reexamination after turning six.

The best verification of the Social Security number is the original Social Security card. If the card is not available, the NHA will accept letters from the Social Security Agency that establishes and states the number. Documentation from other governmental agencies will also be accepted that establishes and states the number. Driver's licenses, military IDs, passports, or other official documents that establish and state the number are also acceptable.

If an individual states that they do not have a Social Security number, they will be required to sign a statement to this effect. The NHA will not require any individual who does not have a Social Security number to obtain a Social Security number, unless there is evidence of misrepresentation.

If a member of an applicant family indicates they have a Social Security number, but cannot readily verify it, the family cannot be housed until verification is provided.

If a member of a tenant family indicates they have a Social Security number, but cannot readily verify it, they shall be asked to certify to this fact and shall have up to sixty (60) days to provide the verification. If the individual is at least 62 years of age, they will be given one hundred and twenty (120) days to provide the verification. If the individual fails to provide the verification within the time allowed, the family will be evicted.

8.3 TIMING OF VERIFICATION

Verification information must be dated within ninety (90) days of certification or reexamination. If the verification is older than this, the source will be contacted and asked to provide information regarding any changes.

When an interim reexamination is conducted, the NHA will verify and update all information related to family circumstances and level of assistance. The NHA will only verify and update those elements reported to have changed if the NHA, at its sole discretion and option, deems it appropriate and sufficient to do so.

8.4 FREQUENCY OF OBTAINING VERIFICATION

Household composition will be verified annually. The frequency that household income will be verified depends on the type of rent method chosen by the family.

For each family member, citizenship/eligible non-citizen status will be verified only once. This verification will be obtained prior to admission. If the status of any family member was not determined prior to admission, verification of their status will be obtained at the next regular reexamination. Prior to a new member joining the family, their citizenship/eligible non-citizen status will be verified.

For each family member age 6 and above, verification of Social Security number will be obtained only once. This verification will be accomplished prior to admission. When a family member who did not have a Social Security number at admission receives a Social Security number, that number will be verified at the next regular reexamination. Likewise, when a child turns six, their verification will be obtained at the next regular reexamination.

SECTION 9. DETERMINATION OF TOTAL TENANT PAYMENT AND TENANT RENT

9.0 FAMILY CHOICE

At admission and each year in preparation for their annual reexamination, each family is given the choice of having their rent determined under the income method or having their rent set at the flat rent amount.

- A. Families who opt for the flat rent will be required to go through the income reexamination process every three years, rather than the annual review they would otherwise undergo.
- B. Families who opt for the flat rent may request to have a reexamination and return to the income based method at any time for any of the following reasons:
 - 1. The family's income has decreased.
 - 2. The family's circumstances have changed increasing their expenses for childcare, medical care, etc.
 - 3. Other circumstances creating a hardship on the family such that the income method would be more financially feasible for the family.

- C. Families have only one choice per year except for financial hardship cases. In order for families to make informed choices about their rent options, the NHA will provide them with the following information whenever they have to make rent decisions:
 - 1. The NHA's policies on switching types of rent in case of a financial hardship; and
 - 2. The dollar amount of tenant rent for the family under each option. If the family chose a flat rent for the previous year, the NHA will provide the amount of income-based rent for the subsequent year only the year the NHA conducts an income reexamination or if the family specifically requests it and submits updated income information.

9.1 THE INCOME METHOD

The total tenant payment is equal to the highest of:

- A. 10% of the family's monthly income;
- B. 30% of the family's adjusted monthly income; or
- C. If the family is receiving payments for welfare assistance from a public agency and a part of those payments, adjusted in accordance with the family's actual housing costs, is specifically designated by such agency to meet the family's housing costs, the portion of those payments which is so designated. If the family's welfare assistance is ratably reduced from the standard of need by applying a percentage, the amount calculated under this provision is the amount resulting from one application of the percentage; or
- D. The minimum rent is \$50.00 unless an exception is granted for hardship.

9.2 MINIMUM RENT

The NHA has set the minimum rent at \$50.00. If the family requests a minimum rent NHA will begin the minimum rent beginning the month following the family's request. The NHA will determine whether the hardship rent is appropriate and whether the hardship is of a temporary nature.

- A. A hardship exists in the following circumstances:
 - 1. When the family has lost eligibility for or is waiting an eligibility determination for a Federal, State, or local assistance program, including a family that includes a member who is a non-citizen lawfully admitted for permanent residence under the Immigration and Nationality Act who

would be entitled to public benefits but for title IV of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act of 1996.

2. When the income of the family has decreased because of changed circumstances, including loss of employment; and
 3. When a death has occurred in the family.
- B. Appeals. The family may use the grievance procedure to appeal the NHA's determination regarding the hardship. No escrow deposit will be required in order to access the grievance procedure.

9.3 THE FLAT RENT

The NHA has set a flat rent for each public housing unit. In doing so, it considered the size and type of the unit, as well as its age, condition, amenities, services, and neighborhood. The NHA determined the market value of the unit and set the rent at the market value. The amount of the flat rent will be reevaluated annually and adjustments applied. Affected families will be given a 30-day notice of any rent change. Adjustments are applied on the anniversary date for each affected family (for more information on flat rents, see Section 15.3).

The NHA will post the flat rents at each of the developments and at the central office. Flat rents are incorporated in this policy upon approval by the Board of Commissioners.

There is no utility allowance for families paying a flat rent because the NHA has already factored who pays for utilities into the flat rent calculation.

9.4 RENT FOR FAMILIES UNDER THE NONCITIZEN RULE

A mixed family will receive full continuation of assistance if all of the following conditions are met:

- A. The family was receiving assistance on June 19, 1995;
- B. The family was granted continuation of assistance before November 29, 1996;
- C. The family's head or spouse has eligible immigration status; and
- D. The family does not include any person who does not have eligible status other than the head of household, the spouse of the head of household, any parent of the head or spouse, or any child (under the age of 18) of the head or spouse.

The family's assistance is prorated in the following manner:

- A. Determine the 95th percentile of gross rents (tenant rent plus utility allowance) for the Housing Authority. The 95th percentile is called the maximum rent.
- B. Subtract the family's total tenant payment from the maximum rent. The resulting number is called the maximum subsidy.
- C. Divide the maximum subsidy by the number of family members and multiply the result times the number of eligible family members. This yields the prorated subsidy.
- D. Subtract the prorated subsidy from the maximum rent to find the prorated total tenant payment. From this amount subtract the full utility allowance to obtain the prorated tenant rent.

9.5 UTILITY ALLOWANCE

The NHA shall establish a utility allowance for all tenant-paid utilities. The allowance will be based on a reasonable consumption of utilities by an energy-conservative household of modest circumstances consistent with the requirements of a safe, sanitary, and healthful environment. In setting the allowance, the NHA will review the actual consumption of tenant families in public and/or private housing as well as changes made or anticipated due to modernization (weatherization efforts, installation of energy-efficient appliances, etc). Allowances will be evaluated at least annually as well as any time utility rate changes by 10% or more since the last revision to the allowances.

The utility allowance will be subtracted from the family's income rent to determine the amount of the Tenant Rent. The Tenant Rent is the amount the family owes each month to the NHA. The amount of the utility allowance is then still available to the family to pay the cost of their utilities. Any utility cost above the allowance is the responsibility of the tenant. Any savings resulting from utility costs below the amount of the allowance belongs to the tenant.

For NHA paid utilities, the NHA will monitor the utility consumption of each household. Any consumption in excess of the allowance established by the NHA will be billed to the tenant monthly. Utility allowance revisions based on rate changes shall be effective retroactively to the first day of the month following the month in which the last rate change took place. Revisions based on changes in consumption or other reasons shall become effective at each family's next annual reexamination.

Families with high utility costs are encouraged to contact the NHA for an energy analysis. The analysis may identify problems with the dwelling unit that once corrected will reduce energy costs. The analysis can also assist the family in identifying ways they can reduce their costs.

Requests for relief from surcharges for excess consumption of NHA purchased utilities or from payment of utility supplier billings in excess of the utility allowance for tenant-paid utility costs may be granted by the NHA on reasonable grounds. Requests shall be

Board Approved 2/18/2021

granted to families that include an elderly member or a member with disabilities. Requests by the family shall be submitted under the Reasonable Accommodation Policy.

9.6 PAYING RENT

Rent and other charges are due and payable on the first day of the month. All rents should be paid at the Authority's office, 28 Captain Robert Cook Drive, Needham, MA. Reasonable accommodations for this requirement will be made for persons with disabilities. As a safety measure, cash payments are not accepted.

If the rent is not paid by the 8th of the month, a Notice to Vacate will be issued to the tenant. In addition, a \$25 late charge per month will be assessed to the tenant plus cost of service, however, the NHA shall not impose a late fee until thirty (30) days after rent is due. If the family demonstrates good cause for late payment and enters a repayment agreement, NHA may, at its discretion, waive the late fee. If rent is paid by a personal check and the check is returned for insufficient funds, this shall be considered a non-payment of rent and will incur the late charge plus an additional charge for processing costs charged by the bank.

SECTION 10. CONTINUED OCCUPANCY AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

10.0 GENERAL

In order to be eligible for continued occupancy, each adult family member must either (1) contribute eight hours per month of community service (not including political activities), or (2) participate in an economic self-sufficiency program, or (3) perform eight hours per month of combined activities as previously described unless they are exempt from this requirement.

10.1 EXEMPTIONS

The following adult family members of tenant families are exempt from this requirement:

- A. Family members who are 62 or older.
- B. Family members who are blind or disabled as defined under 216(I)(1) or 1614 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 416(I)(1)) and who certifies that because of this disability he or she is unable to comply with the community service requirement.
- C. Family members who are the primary care giver for someone who is blind or disabled as set forth in Paragraph B above.
- D. Family members engaged in work activity (20 hours per week) as defined in section 407(d) of the Social Security Act, specified below.
 - 1. Unsubsidized employment;
 - 2. Subsidized private-sector employment;

3. Subsidized public-sector employment;
 4. Work experience (including work associated with the refurbishing of public assisted housing) if sufficient private sector employment is not available;
 5. On the job training;
 6. Job search and job readiness assistance;
 7. Community service programs;
 8. Vocational education training (not to exceed 12 months with respect to any individual);
 9. Job skills training directly related to employment;
 10. Education directly related to employment in the case of a recipient who has not received a high school diploma or a certificate of high school equivalency;
 11. Satisfactory attendance at secondary school or in a course of study leading to a certificate of general equivalence, in the case of a recipient who has not completed secondary school or received such a certificate;
 12. The provision of childcare services to an individual who is participating in a community service program.
- E. Family members who or would be exempt from work activity under part A title IV of the Social Security Act or under any other State welfare program, including the welfare-to-work program.
- F. Family members receiving assistance, benefits or services under a State program funded under part A title IV of the Social Security Act or under any other State welfare program, including welfare-to-work and who are in compliance with that program.

10.2 NOTIFICATION OF THE REQUIREMENT

The NHA shall identify all adult family members who are apparently not exempt from the community service requirement.

The NHA shall notify all such family members of the community service requirement and of the categories of individuals who are exempt from the requirement. The notification will provide the opportunity for family members to claim and explain an exempt status. The NHA shall verify such claims.

The notification will advise families that their community service obligation will begin upon the effective date of their first annual reexamination on or after July 1, 2001. For families paying a fiat rent, the obligation begins on the date their annual reexamination would have been effective had an annual reexamination taken place. It will also advise them that failure to comply with the community service requirement will result in ineligibility for continued occupancy at the time of any subsequent annual reexamination.

10.3 VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Community services includes performing work or duties in the public benefit that serve to improve the quality of life and/or enhance resident self-sufficiency, and/or increase the self-responsibility of the resident within the community.

An economic self-sufficiency program is one that is designed to encourage, assist, train or facilitate the economic independence of participants and their families or to provide work for participants. These programs may include programs for job training, work placement, basic skills training, education, English proficiency, work fare, financial or household management, apprenticeship, and any program necessary to ready a participant to work (such as substance abuse or mental health treatment).

The NHA will coordinate with social service agencies, local schools and the Human Resources Office in identifying a list of volunteer community service positions.

Together with the resident advisory council, the NHA may create volunteer positions such as litter patrols, neighbor hood watches, supervising and record keeping for volunteers etc.

10.4 THE PROCESS

The first annual reexamination on or after July 1, 2001 and each annual re-examination thereafter, the NHA will do the following:

- A. Provide a list of volunteer opportunities to the family members.
- B. Provide information about obtaining suitable volunteer positions.
- C. Provide a volunteer time sheet to the family member. Instructions for the time sheet require the individual to complete the form and have a supervisor date and sign for each period of work.
- D. At least thirty (30) days before the family's next lease anniversary date, the volunteer coordinator will advise the NHA whether each applicable adult family member is in compliance with the community service requirement.

10.5 NOTIFICATION OF NON-COMPLIANCE WITH COMMUNITY SERVICE REQUIREMENT

The NHA will notify any family found to be in noncompliance of the following:

- A. The family member(s) has been determined to be in noncompliance.
- B. That the determination is subject to the grievance procedures; and

- C. That, unless the family members(s) enter into an agreement to comply, the lease will not be renewed or will be terminated.

10.6 OPPORTUNITY FOR CURE

The NHA will offer the family member(s) the opportunity to enter into an agreement prior to the anniversary of the lease. The agreement shall state that the family member(s) agrees to enter into an economic self-sufficiency program or agrees to contribute to the community service for as many hours as needed to comply with the requirement over the past 12-month period. The cure shall occur over the 12-month period beginning with the date of the agreement and the resident shall at the same time stay current with that year's community service requirement. The first hours a resident earns go toward the current commitment until the current year's commitment is made.

The volunteer coordinator will assist the family member in identifying volunteer opportunities and will track compliance on a monthly basis.

If any applicable family member does not accept the terms of the agreement, does not fulfill their obligation to participate in an economic self-sufficiency program, or falls behind in their obligation under the agreement to perform community service, the NHA shall take action to terminate the lease.

10.7 PROHIBITION AGAINST REPLACEMENT OF AGENCY EMPLOYEES

In implementing the service requirement, the NHA may not substitute community service or self-sufficiency activities performed by residents for work ordinarily performed by its employees, or replace a job at any location where residents perform activities to satisfy the service requirement.

SECTION 11. RECERTIFICATIONS

At least annually, the NHA will conduct a reexamination of family income and circumstances. The results of the reexamination determine (1) the rent the family will pay, and (2) whether the family is housed in the correct unit size.

11.0 GENERAL

The NHA will send a notification letter to the family letting them know that it is time for their annual reexamination, giving them the option of selecting either the flat rent or income method, and scheduling an appointment if they are currently paying an income rent. If the family thinks they may want to switch from a flat rent to an income rent, they should request an appointment. At the appointment, the family can make their final decision regarding which rent method they will choose. The letter also includes, for those families paying the income method, forms for the family to complete in preparation for the interview. The letter tells families who may need to make alternate arrangements due to a disability that they may contact staff to request an accommodation of their needs.

During the appointment, the NHA will determine whether family composition may require a transfer to a different bedroom size unit, and if so, the family's name will be placed on the transfer list.

11.1 MISSED APPOINTMENTS

If the family fails to respond to the letter and fails to attend the interview, a second letter will be mailed. The second letter will advise of a new time and date for the interview. The letter will also advise that failure by the family to attend the second scheduled interview will result in the NHA taking eviction actions against the family.

11.2 FLAT RENTS

The annual letter to flat rent payers regarding the reexamination process will state the following:

- A. Each year at the time of the annual reexamination, the family has the option of selecting a flat rent amount in lieu of completing the reexamination process and having their rent based on the income amount.
- B. The amount of the flat rent.
- C. A fact sheet about income rents that explains the types of income counted, the most common types of income excluded, and the categories of allowances that can be deducted from income.
- D. Families who opt for the flat rent will be required to go through the income reexamination process every three years, rather than the annual review they otherwise would undergo.
- E. Families who opt for the flat rent may request to have a reexamination and return to the income based method at any time for any of the following reasons:
 - 1. The family's income has decreased.
 - 2. The family's circumstances have changed increasing their expenses for childcare, medical care, etc.
 - 3. Other circumstances creating a hardship on the family such that the income method would be more financially feasible for the family.

Once a family returns to the income based method during their "lease year" they cannot go back to a flat rent until their next regular annual reexamination.

- F. The dates upon which the NHA expects to review the amount of the flat rent, the approximate rent increase the family could expect, and the approximate date upon which a future rent increase could become effective.

G. The name and phone number of an individual to call to get additional information or counseling concerning flat rents.

H. A certification for the family to sign accepting or declining the flat rent.

Each year prior to their anniversary date, NHA will send a reexamination letter to the family offering the choice between a flat or an income rent. The opportunity to select the flat rent is available only at this time. At the appointment, the NHA may assist the family in identifying the rent method that would be most advantageous for the family. If the family wishes to select the flat rent method without meeting with the NHA representative, they may make the selection on the form and return the form to the NHA. In such case, the NHA will cancel the appointment.

11.3 THE INCOME METHOD

During the interview, the family will provide all information regarding income, assets, expenses, and other information necessary to determine the family's share of rent. The family will sign the HUD consent form and other consent forms that later will be mailed to the sources that will verify the family circumstances.

Upon receipt of verification, the NHA will determine the family's annual income and will calculate their rent as follows.

The total tenant payment is equal to the highest of:

- A. 10% of monthly income;
- B. 30% of adjusted monthly income;
- C. The welfare rent; or
- D. The minimum rent.

The family shall be informed of the results of the rent calculation under both the Income Method and the Flat Rent and given their choice of which to pay.

11.4 EFFECTIVE DATE OF RENT CHANGES FOR ANNUAL REEXAMINATIONS

The new rent will generally be effective upon the anniversary date with thirty (30) days notice of any rent increase to the family.

If the rent determination is delayed due to a reason beyond the control of the family, then any rent increase will be effective the first of the month after the month in which the family receives a 30-day notice of the amount. If the new rent is a reduction and the delay

is beyond the control of the family, the reduction will be effective as scheduled on the anniversary date.

If the family caused the delay, then any increase will be effective on the anniversary date. Any reduction will be effective the first of the month after the rent amount is determined.

11.5 INTERIM REEXAMINATIONS

Families are required to report the following changes to the NHA between regular reexaminations. If the family's rent is being determined under the income method, these changes will trigger an interim reexamination. The family shall report these changes within ten (10) days of their occurrence.

- A. A member has been added to the family through birth or adoption or court-awarded custody.
- B. A household member is leaving or has left the family unit.

In order to add a household member other than through birth or adoption (including a live-in aide), the family must request that the new member be added to the lease. Before adding the new member to the lease, the individual must complete an application form stating their income, assets, and all other information required of an applicant. The individual must provide their Social Security number if they have one and must verify their citizenship/eligible immigrant status. The new family member will go through the screening process similar to the process for applicants. The NHA will determine the eligibility of the individual before adding them to the lease. If the individual is found to be ineligible or does not pass the screening criteria, the family will be advised in writing and given the opportunity for an informal review. If they are found to be eligible and do pass the screening criteria, the NHA may determine that their name may be added to the lease. At the same time, if the family's rent is being determined under the income method, the family's annual income will be recalculated taking into account the circumstances of the new family member. The effective date of the new rent will be in accordance with Section 15.8. Notwithstanding the above, and provided there is no prohibited discriminatory or improper action or intent, a household member may only be added at the sole discretion of the NHA.

A resident requesting a live-in-aide will be required to provide verification of the need for a live-in-aide. In addition, before approval of the live-in-aide, the individual (live-in-aide) must complete an application form for purposes of determining citizenship/eligible immigrant status and the live-in-aide will go through the screening process similar to the process for applicants. The NHA will determine the eligibility of the live-in-aide before approval can be granted. If the individual is found to be ineligible or does not pass the screening criteria, the resident will be advised in writing and given the opportunity for an informal review. Under no circumstances will the live-in-aide be added to the lease or be considered the last remaining member of a tenant family.

- C. Any changes in income exceeding ten percent (10%) of the previously reported gross income.

Families are not required to, but may at any time, request an interim reexamination based on a decrease in income, an increase in allowable expenses, or other changes in family circumstances. Upon such request, the NHA will take timely action to process the interim reexamination and recalculate the tenant's rent.

11.6 SPECIAL REEXAMINATIONS

If a family's income is too unstable to project for 12 months, including families that temporarily have no income or have a temporary decrease in income, the NHA may schedule special reexaminations every 60 days until the income stabilizes and an annual income can be determined.

11.7 EFFECTIVE DATE OF RENT CHANGES DUE TO INTERIM OR SPECIAL REEXAMINATIONS

Unless there is a delay in reexamination processing caused by the family, any rent increase will be effective the first of the second month after the month in which the family receives notice of the new rent amount. If the family causes a delay, then the rent increase will be effective on the date it would have been effective had the process not been delayed (even if this means a retroactive increase).

If the new rent is a reduction and any delay is beyond the control of the family, the reduction will be effective the first of the month after the interim reexamination should have been completed, provided the family has used diligent and timely efforts to avoid any possible delay.

If the new rent is a reduction and the family caused the delay or did not report the change in a timely manner, the change will be effective the first of the month after the rent amount is determined.

SECTION 12. UNIT TRANSFERS

12.0 OBJECTIVES OF THE TRANSFER POLICY

The objectives of the Transfer Policy include the following:

- A. To address emergency situations.
- B. To fully utilize available housing resources while avoiding overcrowding by insuring that each family occupies the appropriate size unit.

- C. To facilitate a relocation when required for modernization or other management purposes.
- D. To facilitate relocation of families with inadequate housing accommodations.
- E. To provide an incentive for families to assist in meeting the NHA's deconcentration goal.
- F. To eliminate vacancy loss and other expenses due to unnecessary transfers.

12.1 CATEGORIES OF TRANSFERS

A. CATEGORY #1: ADMINISTRATIVE TRANSFERS (MANDATORY)

- a) The NHA is occasionally required to initiate transfers that have not been requested by a resident. These transfers are required in order to free a unit(s) for an important operational or policy reason. Administrative Transfers will be assigned before any other transfer type and new admissions. Administrative transfers include the following categories:
 - 1. **Uninhabitable Unit.** The current apartment has become uninhabitable and immediate relocation is required as a result of:
 - 1. Destruction by fire or other disaster;
 - 2. The existence of a major maintenance problem that presents a serious danger to health and safety that cannot be repaired in a reasonable period of time or while the apartment is occupied.
 - 2. **Demolition, Disposition, Revitalization or Rehabilitation.** The unit is located in a building or section of building scheduled for capital improvement pursuant to a funded capital improvement program or other major rehabilitation effort. Transfers under this section may be temporary relocations (i.e., at a local hotel) to permit work required for a maintenance or repair problem that cannot be performed while the unit is occupied. Following completion of the maintenance or repairs, temporarily relocated families will be returned to the same unit so long as it is of the appropriate size.
 - 3. **Accessible Unit.** The transfer is required to permit occupancy of an accessible unit or unit with adapted features by another resident or an applicant with a disability. A household occupying an accessible unit that does not require / no longer requires the unit's accessibility features must enter into a lease addendum certifying their acknowledgement of a potential Administrative Transfer under this section.
 - 4. **Refuge from Domestic Violence.** Relocation is necessary due to the household's current and on-going threat(s) as a result of domestic violence/sexual assault/dating violence/stalking which has been documented, investigated, and recommended by the Needham Police Department or other sources deemed acceptable by the NHA Director of Field Operations or other designee.
 - 5. **Over-housed by one (1) or more bedrooms.**

B. CATEGORY #2: EMERGENCY TRANSFERS (MEDICAL, HEALTH & SAFETY)

a) Emergency transfers are transfers necessary to the health and/or safety of one or more Household members. Residents will be required to document any special needs such as floor location, bedroom size, or neighborhood during the transfer application process or before a housing offer is made. These transfers shall be offered the **every other 4th available unit** by development by bedroom size. Approved emergency transfers will receive one housing offer. The following are criteria for Emergency Transfers:

1. **Severe Medical Emergency.** A household member has a serious, medically determinable, physical or mental condition that is aggravated by the present housing such that the condition is life-threatening and/or substantially improved only by relocation to another apartment.
2. **Witness Protection.** The household needs to be relocated because of a household member's participation in a witness protection program or in order to avoid reprisal as a result of providing information to a law enforcement agency or participation in a witness protection program.
3. **Reasonable Accommodation.** The transfer requested is for a person with a disability who requires reasonable accommodation to address dire circumstances posing serious and direct threat to health, life or safety which can only be alleviated by relocation to a unit with certain physical features and they cannot be provided at the current unit without undue financial and administrative burden to the NHA. Verification of the need for a transfer under this section will be required in accordance with the NHA Reasonable Accommodation Policy.
4. **Hate Crimes.** Relocation is necessary due one or more household members being a documented victim of a hate crime, physical harassment, extreme or repeated vandalism to personal property and/or extreme and/or repeated verbal harassment, intimidation or coercion - as determined by the NPD or other law enforcement entity - which places them in imminent danger and that cannot be expeditiously remedied in any other way.
5. **Under-housed by three (3) or more bedrooms.**

C. CATEGORY #3: REGULAR TRANSFERS (OCCUPANCY STANDARDS)

a) Regular Transfers are not mandatory for continued occupancy unless they exceed the two-person per bedroom/living room threshold. They include:

1. **Under-housed.** The household is under-housed by one (1) or two (2) bedrooms.
2. **Over-housed.** The household is over-housed by at least one (1) bedroom.
3. **Incentives.** Occasionally, NHA will offer transfers to families in order to help meet deconcentration or occupancy goals.

12.2 DOCUMENTATION

When the transfer is at the request of the family, the family may be required to provide third party verification of the need for the transfer.

12.3 PROCESSING TRANSFERS

Transfers on the waiting list will be sorted by the above categories and within each category by date and time.

Transfers in category 1 and 2 will be housed ahead of any other families, including those on the applicant waiting list. Transfers in category 1 will be housed ahead of transfers in category 2.

Transfers in category 3 will be housed along with applicants for admission at a ratio not exceeding one transfer for every four admissions.

Upon offer and acceptance of a unit, the family will execute all lease up documents and pay any rent and/or security deposit within two (2) days of being informed the unit is ready to rent. The family will be allowed seven (7) days to complete a transfer. The family will be responsible for paying rent at the old unit as well as the new unit for any period of time they have possession of both. The prorated rent and other charges (key deposit and any additional security deposit owing) must be paid at the time of lease execution.

The following is the policy for the rejection of an offer to transfer:

- A. If the family rejects with good cause any unit offered, they will not lose their place on the transfer waiting list.
- B. If the transfer is being made at the request of the NHA and the family rejects two offers without good cause, the NHA will take action to terminate their tenancy. If the reason for the transfer is that the current unit is too small to meet the NHA's, optimum occupancy standards, the family may request in writing to stay in the unit without being transferred so long as their occupancy will not exceed two people per living/sleeping room.
- C. If the transfer is being made at the family's request and the rejected offer provides deconcentration incentives, the family will maintain their place on the transfer list and will not otherwise be penalized.
- D. If the transfer is being made at the family's request, the family may, without good cause and without penalty, turn down one offer that does not include deconcentration incentives. After turning down a second such offer without good cause, the family's name will be removed from the transfer list.

12.4 COST OF THE FAMILY'S MOVE

The cost of the transfer generally will be borne by the family in the following circumstances:

- A. When the transfer is made at the request of the family or by others on behalf of the family (i.e. by the police);
- B. When the transfer is needed to move the family to an appropriately sized unit, either larger or smaller;
- C. When the transfer is necessitated because a family with disabilities needs the accessible unit into which the transferring family moved (The family without disabilities signed a statement to this effect prior to accepting the accessible unit); or
- D. When the transfer is needed because action or inaction by the family caused the unit to be unsafe or uninhabitable.

The cost of the transfer will be borne by the NHA in the following circumstances:

- A. When the transfer is needed in order to carry out rehabilitation activities; or
- B. When action or inaction by the NHA has caused the unit to be unsafe or inhabitable.

The responsibility for moving costs in other circumstances will be determined on a case by case basis.

12.5 TENANTS IN GOOD STANDING

When the transfer is at the request of the family, it will not be approved unless the family is in good standing with the NHA. This means the family must be in compliance with their lease, current in all payments to the housing authority, and must pass a housekeeping inspection.

12.6 TRANSFER REQUESTS

A tenant may request a transfer at any time by completing a transfer request form. In considering the request, the HA may request a meeting with the tenant to better understand the need for transfer and to explore possible alternatives. The NHA will review the request in a timely manner and if a meeting is desired, it shall contact the tenant within thirty (30) business days of receipt of the request to schedule a meeting.

The NHA will grant or deny the transfer request in writing within thirty (30) business days of receiving the request or holding the meeting, or receiving all requested documentation, whichever is later.

If the transfer is approved, the family's name will be added to the transfer waiting list. If the transfer is denied, the denial letter will advise the family of their right to utilize the grievance procedure.

12.7 RIGHT OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY IN TRANSFER POLICY

The provisions listed above are to be used as a guide to insure fair and impartial means of assigning units for transfers. It is not intended that this policy will create a property right or any other type of right for a tenant to transfer or refuse to transfer. Determinations within the above guidelines shall be made at the sole discretion of the NHA.

12.8 TRANSFER ACCEPTANCE AND REFUSAL

A. ACCEPTANCE OF UNIT TRANSFER OFFER

1. Upon offer and acceptance of a unit, the family will be allowed seven (7) days to complete the transfer from one unit to another.
2. The family must execute all lease up documents and pay any rent and other charges due within two (2) days of being informed the unit is ready to rent.
3. Unpaid balances will not be transferred over to the new unit.
4. If the family has possession of both the original and the new unit beyond the seven (7) day period following initial acceptance, the family will be obligated to pay for the rent for both units, pro-rated until the family returns the keys from the former unit to NHA.
5. Failure to move to the unit within the 30 calendar days or agreed date shall be considered as an unacceptable housing offer refusal.

B. REFUSAL OF A UNIT TRANSFER OFFER *WITH* GOOD CAUSE

1. If the family refuses a unit offer for a transfer *with* good cause, regardless of the transfer category, the family will not lose its preference or rank on the transfer waiting list and will be offered the next available, suitable unit. Reasons that will be considered good cause for unit refusals are outlined in 5.7C above.

C. REFUSAL OF A UNIT TRANSFER OFFER *WITHOUT* GOOD CAUSE

1. **Emergency and Standard Transfers (Tenant-Initiated).** In cases of Tenant-Initiated transfers, if a family refuses their first unit offer *without* good cause, they
 1. shall be removed from the transfer list; AND
 2. will have to re-apply for standard transfer list status; AND
 3. may not apply for Emergency Transfer preference for a period of one year from the date of refusal
2. **Administrative Transfers (Mandatory).** In cases of transfers initiated by NHA, if a family refuses their first unit offer *without* good cause, they
 1. shall not lose their ranking on the transfer waiting list; AND,
 2. shall be offered the next available, suitable unit.
 3. If a family refuses their second unit offer *without* good cause, they shall be removed from the transfer list; AND may be subject to termination for violation of Section VI of the Lease.

D. REFUSAL OF A MANDATORY UNIT TRANSFER OFFER

1. In cases of transfers mandated by NHA, upon notification of a Tenant's second unit refusal *without* good cause, the Property Manager shall take lease enforcement steps pursuant to Sections VI (A) and X(C) of the NHA Lease Agreement when the reason for Mandatory Transfer is one of the following:
 1. NHA deems the Tenant's unit uninhabitable;
 2. The size or design of the dwelling unit is no longer appropriate to Tenant's needs;
 3. Demolition, disposition, revitalization or rehabilitation work is to be undertaken involving the leased premises; or
 4. Tenant without disabilities is housed in a unit with special features and a tenant with disabilities needs a unit with such features, NHA may move Tenant into another unit of appropriate size and design.

12.9. UNDERHOUSED AND OVERHOUSED FAMILIES

A. UNDER-HOUSED FAMILIES

1. If a family is under-housed and NHA recommends a transfer to a larger unit, the family may request in writing to remain in the unit so long as their occupancy does not exceed two people per living/sleeping room (see Section 5.5B above) or violate the State Sanitary Code.
2. NHA will consider a living room to count as a bedroom in cases of overcrowding.

B. OVER-HOUSED FAMILIES

1. NHA will maintain a list of over-housed households, organized by site and ranked in the order of the effective date in which each household became over-housed.
2. NHA will make every effort to transfer over-housed families within this site where they already reside.

SECTION 13. INSPECTIONS

An authorized representative of the NHA and an adult family member will inspect the premises prior to commencement of occupancy. A written statement of the condition of the premises will be made, all equipment will be provided, and the statement will be signed by both parties with a copy retained in the NHA file and a copy given to the family member. An authorized NHA representative will inspect the premises at the time the resident vacates and will furnish a statement of any charges to be made provided the resident turns in the proper notice under State law.

13.0 MOVE-IN INSPECTIONS

The NHA and an adult member of the family will inspect the unit prior to signing the lease. Both parties will sign a written statement of the condition of the unit. A copy of the signed inspection will be given to the family and the original will be placed in the tenant file.

13.1 ANNUAL INSPECTIONS

The NHA will inspect each public housing unit annually to ensure that each unit meets the HA's housing standards. Work orders will be submitted and completed to correct any deficiencies.

13.2 PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE INSPECTIONS

This is generally conducted along with the annual inspection. This inspection is intended to keep items in good repair. It checks weatherization; checks the condition of the smoke detectors, water heaters, furnaces, automatic thermostats and water temperatures; checks for leaks; and provides an opportunity to change furnace filters and provide other minor servicing that extends the life of the unit and its equipment.

13.3 SPECIAL INSPECTIONS

A special inspection may be scheduled to enable HUD or others to inspect a sample of the housing stock maintained by the NHA.

13.4 HOUSEKEEPING INSPECTIONS

Generally, at the time of annual reexamination, or at other times as necessary, the NHA will conduct a housekeeping inspection to ensure the family is maintaining the unit in a safe and sanitary condition.

13.5 NOTICE OF INSPECTION

For inspections defined as annual inspections, preventative maintenance inspections, special inspections, and housekeeping inspections, the NHA will give the tenant at least two (2) days written notice.

13.6 EMERGENCY INSPECTIONS

If any employee and/or agent of the NHA has reason to believe that an emergency exists within the housing unit, the unit can be entered without notice. The person(s) that enters the unit will leave a written notice to the resident that indicates the date and time the unit was entered and the reason why it was necessary to enter the unit.

13.7 PRE-MOVE-OUT INSPECTIONS

When a tenant gives notice that they intend to move, the NHA may offer to schedule a pre-move-out inspection with the family. The inspection allows the NHA to help the family identify any problems which, if left uncorrected, could lead to vacate charges. This inspection is a courtesy to the family and has been found to be helpful both in

reducing costs to the family and in enabling the NHA to ready units more quickly for the future occupants.

13.8 MOVE-OUT INSPECTIONS

The NHA conducts the move-out inspection after the tenant vacates to assess the condition of the unit and determine responsibility for any needed repairs. When possible, the tenant is notified of the inspection and is encouraged to be present. This inspection becomes the basis for any claims that may be assessed against the security deposit.

SECTION 14. PET POLICY

14.0 EXCLUSIONS

This policy does not apply to animals that are used to assist persons with disabilities. Assistive animals are allowed in all public housing facilities with no restrictions other than those imposed on all tenants to maintain their units and associated facilities in a decent, safe and sanitary manner and to refrain from disturbing their neighbors.

14.1 PETS IN PUBLIC HOUSING

The NHA will allow for pet ownership in its federal public housing development with written pre-approval of the NHA. Residents are responsible for any damage caused by their pets, including the cost of fumigating or cleaning their units. In exchange for this right, resident assumes full responsibility and liability for the pet and agrees to hold the NHA harmless from any claims caused by an action or inaction of the pet.

14.2 APPROVAL

Residents must have the prior approval of the NHA before moving a pet into their unit. Residents must request approval in accordance with NHA Pet Ownership Policy and must be fully completed before the NHA will approve the request.

14.3 TYPES AND NUMBER OF PETS

The NHA will allow only the following common household pets: one cat or one dog, small birds, fish in aquariums or turtle. Common household pets do not include reptiles (except turtles). If this definition conflicts with a state or local law or applicable regulations, the state or local law or applicable regulations shall govern.

The number of pets allowed is as follows:

- Maximum of 1 cat or 1 dog per household; or
- Maximum of 2 small birds per household; or
- Maximum of 2 turtles per household; or
- Maximum size for an aquarium is 10-gallon capacity and 1 per household.

Any animal deemed to be potentially harmful to the health or safety of others will not be allowed.

No animal may exceed twenty (40) pounds in weight.

14.4 FINANCIAL OBLIGATION OF RESIDENTS

Any resident who owns or keeps a pet in their dwelling unit will be required to pay a pet deposit for each pet of \$160 or one (1) month's rent whichever is less and will be responsible for any damages caused by the pet. Also, any pet-related insect infestation in the pet owner's unit will be the financial responsibility of the pet owner and the NHA reserves the right to exterminate and charge the resident.

14.5 NUISANCE OR THREAT TO HEALTH OR SAFETY

The pet and its living quarters must be maintained in a manner to prevent odors and any other unsanitary conditions in the owner's unit and surrounding areas.

Repeated substantiated complaints by neighbors or NHA personnel regarding pets disturbing the peace of neighbors through noise, odor, animal waste, or other nuisance will result in the owner having to remove the pet or move him/herself.

Pets that make noise continuously and/or incessantly for a period of 10 minutes or intermittently for one half hour or more to the disturbance of any person at any time of day or night shall be considered a nuisance.

14.6 DESIGNATION OF PET AREAS

Pets must be kept in the owner's apartment and will not be allowed in common areas unattended or unrestrained, and only for purposes of passage to and from the unit.

With the exception of assistive animals no pets shall be allowed in the administrative/community building.

14.6 MISCELLANEOUS RULES

Pets may not be left unattended in a dwelling unit for over 48 hours. If the pet is left unattended and no arrangements have been made for its care, the NHA will have the right to enter the premises and take the uncared for pet to be boarded at a local animal care facility at the total expense of the resident.

Pets cannot be kept, bred or used for any commercial purpose.

A pet owner shall confine his/her pet during the times when NHA employees, agents of the NHA or others must enter the pet owner's apartment to conduct business, provide services, enforce lease, etc.

If a pet causes harm to any person, the pet's owner shall be required to permanently remove the pet from the NHA property within 24 hours of written notice from the NHA. The pet owner may also be subject to termination of his/her dwelling lease.

SECTION 15. REPAYMENT AGREEMENTS

When a resident owes the NHA back charges and is unable to pay the balance by the due date, the resident may request that the NHA allow them to enter into a Repayment Agreement. The NHA has the sole discretion of whether to accept such an agreement. All Repayment Agreements must assure that the full payment is made within a period not to exceed twelve (12) months. All Repayment Agreements must be in writing and signed by both parties. Failure to comply with the Repayment Agreement terms may subject the Resident to eviction procedures.

SECTION 16. TERMINATION

16.0 TERMINATION BY TENANT

The tenant may terminate the lease at any time upon submitting a 30-day written notice. If the tenant vacates prior to the end of the thirty (30) days, they will be responsible for rent through the end of the notice period or until the unit is re-rented, whichever occurs first.

16.1 TERMINATION BY THE HOUSING AUTHORITY

Twelve months after the NHA has implemented the mandated Community Service Requirement, it will not renew the lease of any non-exempt family that is not in compliance with the Community Service Requirement or approved Agreement to Cure. If they do not voluntarily leave the property, eviction proceedings will begin.

Pursuant to 24 CFR § 966.4, the NHA will terminate the lease for serious or repeated violations of material lease terms. Such violations include but are not limited to the following:

- A. Nonpayment of rent or other charges;
- B. A history of late rental payments;
- C. Failure to provide timely and accurate information regarding family composition, income circumstances, or other information related to eligibility or rent;

- D. Failure to allow inspection of the unit;
- E. Failure to maintain the unit in a safe and sanitary manner;
- F. Assignment or subletting of the premises;
- G. Use of the premises for purposes other than as a dwelling unit (other than for housing authority approved resident businesses);
- H. Destruction of property;
- I. Acts of destruction, defacement, or removal of any part of the premises or failure to cause guests to refrain from such acts;
- J. Any criminal activity on or near the premises. This includes any tenant, member of tenant's household or guest and any such activity engaged in or on the premises, by any other person under the tenant's control. This includes but is not limited to the manufacture of methamphetamine on the premises of the NHA or on the premises of any other federal or state assisted housing.
- K. Non-compliance with Non-Citizen Rule requirements;
- L. Permitting persons not on the lease to reside in the unit more than twenty-one (21) days each year without the prior written approval of the NHA; and
- M. Any activity that threatens the health, safety or right to peaceful enjoyment of the premises by other residents or employees of the authority by the resident, household members or guests of the resident or threatens the health, safety or right to peaceful enjoyment of their residences by persons residing in the immediate vicinity of the premises is grounds for termination of tenancy;
- N. Alcohol abuse that the NHA determines interferes with the health, safety or right to peaceful enjoyment of the premises by other residents;
- O. Failure to perform required community service or be exempt there from;
- P. The NHA will take immediate action to evict any household member occupant, or guest that includes an individual who is subject to a lifetime registration requirement under a State sex offender registration program.
- Q. Determination that a household member is illegally using a drug or when the NHA determines that a pattern of illegal use of a drug interferes with the health, safety or right to peaceful enjoyment of the premises by other residents;
- R. Criminal activity as shown by a criminal record. In such cases the NHA will notify the household of the proposed action to be based on the information and

will provide the subject of the record and the tenant with a copy of the criminal record before the NHA grievance hearing or court trial concerning the termination of tenancy or eviction. The tenant will be given an opportunity to dispute the accuracy and relevance of that record in the grievance hearing or court trial;

- S. Any activity that is prohibited by 24 CFR § 966.4 (f);
- T. Other good cause.

If an individual or family's lease is terminated for criminal activity, the NHA may notify the local post officer serving the development that the individual or family no longer lives there.

In deciding to terminate a tenancy for criminal activity or alcohol abuse, the NHA may consider circumstances relevant to the particular case such as the seriousness of the offending action, the extent of participation by the leaseholder in the offending action, the effects that the eviction would have on family members not involved in the offending activity and the extent to which the leaseholder has shown personal responsibility and has taken all reasonable steps to prevent or mitigate the offending actions.

The NHA will take immediate action to evict any household that includes an individual who is subject to a lifetime registration requirement under a State sex offender registration program.

16.2 ABANDONMENT

The NHA will consider a unit to be abandoned when a resident has both fallen behind in rent **AND** has clearly indicated by words or actions an intention not to continue living in the unit.

When a unit has been abandoned, an NHA representative may enter the unit and remove any abandoned property. It will be stored in a reasonably secure place. A notice will be mailed to the resident stating where the property is being stored and when it will be sold. If NHA does not have a new address for the resident, the notice will be mailed to the unit address so it can be forwarded by the post office. Abandoned property will be stored for 30 days before disposition.

If the total value of the property is estimated at less than **\$1,000.00**, the NHA will mail a notice of the sale or disposition to the resident and then wait **(30) days**. Family pictures, keepsakes, and personal papers cannot be sold or disposed of until **(30) days** after the NHA mails the notice of abandonment.

If the estimated value of the property is more than **\$1,000.00**, the NHA will mail a notice of the sale or disposition to the resident and then wait **(30) days** before sale or disposition. Personal papers, family pictures, and keepsakes can be sold or disposed of at the same time as other property.

Any money raised by the sale of the property goes to cover money owed by the family to the NHA such as back rent and the cost of storing and selling the goods. If there is any money left over and the family's forwarding address is known the NHA will mail it to the family. If the family's address is not known, the NHA will keep it for the resident for one year. If it is not claimed within that time, it belongs to the NHA.

Within **(30)** days of learning of an abandonment, the NHA will either return the deposit or provide a statement of why the deposit is being kept.

GLOSSARY

50058 Form: The HUD form that housing authorities are required to complete for each assisted household in public housing to record information used in the certification and re-certification process and, at the option of the housing authority, for interim reexaminations.

1937 Housing Act: The United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437 et seq.) (24 CFR 5.100)

Adjusted Annual Income: The amount of household income, after deductions for specified allowances, on which tenant rent is based. (24 CFR 5.611)

Adult: A household member who is 18 years or older or who is the head of the household, or spouse, or co-head.

Allowances: Amounts deducted from the household's annual income in determining adjusted annual income (the income amount used in the rent calculation). Allowances are given for elderly families, dependents, medical expenses for elderly families, disability expenses and childcare expenses for children under 13 years of age. Other allowance can be given at the discretion of the housing authority.

Annual Contributions Contract (ACC): The written contract between HUD and a housing authority under which HUD agrees to provide funding for a program under the 1937 Act, and the housing authority agrees to comply with HUD requirements for the program. (24 CFR 5.403)

Annual Income: All amounts, monetary or not, that:

- A. Go to (or on behalf of) the family head or spouse (even if temporarily absent) or to any other family member; or
- B. Are anticipated to be received from a source outside the family during the 12-month period following admission or annual reexamination effective date; and
- C. Are not specifically excluded from annual income.

Annual Income also includes amounts derived (during the 12-month period) from assets to which any member of the family has access. (1937 Housing Act; 24 CFR 5.609)

Applicant (applicant family): A person or family that has applied for admission to a program but is not yet a participant in the program. (24 CFR 5.403)

As-Paid States: States where the welfare agency adjusts the shelter and utility component of the welfare grant in accordance with actual housing costs. Currently, the four as-paid States are New Hampshire, New York, Oregon, and Vermont.

Assets: The value of equity in savings, checking, IRA and Keogh accounts, real property, stocks, bonds, and other forms of capital investment. The value of necessary items of personal property such as furniture and automobiles are not counted as assets. (Also see "net family assets.")

Asset Income: Income received from assets held by family members. If assets total more than \$5,000, income from the assets is "imputed" and the greater of actual asset income and imputed asset income is counted in annual income. (See "imputed asset income" below.)

Assistance applicant: A family or individual that seeks admission to the public housing program.

Ceiling Rent: Maximum rent allowed for some units in public housing projects.

Certification: The examination of a household's income, expenses, and family composition to determine the family's eligibility for program participation and to calculate the family's share of rent.

Child: For purposes of citizenship regulations, a member of the family other than the family head or spouse who is under 18 years of age. (24 CFR 5.504(b))

Childcare 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 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. (24 CFR 5.603(d))

Citizen: A citizen or national of the United States. (24 CFR 5.504(b))

Community Service: The performance of voluntary work or duties that are a public benefit and that serve to improve the quality of life, enhance resident self-sufficiency, or increase resident self-responsibility in the community. Community service is not employment and may not include political activities.

Consent Form: Any consent form approved by HUD to be signed by assistance applicants and participants for the purpose of obtaining income information from employers and SWICAs, return information from the Social Security Administration, and return information for unearned income from the Internal Revenue Service. The consent forms may authorize the collection of other information from assistance applicants or participant to determine eligibility or level of benefits. (24 CFR 5.214)

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.

Decent, Safe, and Sanitary: Housing is decent, safe, and sanitary if it satisfies the applicable housing quality standards.

Department: The Department of Housing and Urban Development. (24 CFR 5.100)

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. (24 CFR 5.603(d))

Dependent Allowance: An amount, equal to \$480 multiplied by the number of dependents, that is deducted from the household's annual income in determining adjusted annual income.

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. (24 CFR 5.603(d))

Disability Assistance Expense Allowance: In determining adjusted annual income, the amount of disability assistance expenses deducted from annual income for families with a disabled household member.

Disabled Family: A family whose head, 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. (24 CFR 5.403(b)) (Also see "person with disabilities.")

Disabled Person: See "person with disabilities."

Displaced Family: A family in which each member, or whose sole member, is a person displaced by governmental action (such as urban renewal), 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. (24 CFR 5.403(b))

Displaced Person: 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. [1937 Act]

Drug-Related Criminal Activity: Drug trafficking or the illegal use, or possession for personal use, of a controlled substance as defined in Section 102 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 802).

Economic self-sufficiency program: Any program designed to encourage, assist, train or facilitate the economic independence of HUD-assisted families or to provide work for such families. These programs include programs for job training, employment counseling, work placement, basic skills training, education, English proficiency, workfare, financial or household management, apprenticeship and any program necessary to ready a participant for work (including a substance abuse or mental health treatment program), or other work activities.

Elderly Family: A family whose head, 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. (24 CFR 5.403)

Elderly Family Allowance: For elderly families, an allowance of \$400 is deducted from the household's annual income in determining adjusted annual income.

Elderly Person: A person who is at least 62 years of age. (1937 Housing Act)

Extremely low-income families: Those families whose incomes do not exceed 30% of the median income for the area, as determined by HUD with adjustments for smaller and larger families, except that HUD may establish income ceilings higher or lower than 30% of the median income for the area if HUD finds that such variations are necessary because of unusually high or low family incomes.

Fair Housing Act: Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, as amended by the Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988 (42 U.S.C. 3601 et seq.). (24 CFR 5.100)

Family includes but is not limited to:

- A. A family with or without children;
- B. An elderly family;
- C. A near-elderly family;
- D. A disabled family;
- E. A displaced family;
- F. The remaining member of a tenant family; and
- G. A single person who is not an elderly or displaced person, a person with disabilities, or the remaining member of a tenant family. (24 CFR 5.403)

Family Members: All members of the household other than live-in aides, foster children, and foster adults. All family members permanently reside in the unit, though they may be temporarily absent. All family members are listed on the lease.

Family Self-Sufficiency Program (FSS Program): The program established by a housing authority to promote self-sufficiency among participating families, including the coordination of supportive services. (24 CFR 984.103(b))

Flat Rent: A rent amount the family may choose to pay in lieu of having their rent determined under the income method. The flat rent is established by the housing authority set at the lesser of the market value for the unit or the cost to operate the unit. Families selecting the flat rent option have their income evaluated once every three years, rather than annually.

Full-Time Student: A person who is attending school or vocational training on a full-time basis.

Head of Household: The adult member of the family who is the head of the household for purposes of determining income eligibility and rent. (24 CFR 5.504(b))

Household Members: All members of the household including members of the family, live-in aides, foster children, and foster adults. All household members are listed on the lease, and no one other than household members are listed on the lease.

Housing Assistance Plan: A housing plan that is submitted by a unit of general local government and approved by HUD as being acceptable under the standards of 24 CFR 570.

Imputed Income: For households with net family assets of more than \$5,000, the amount calculated by multiplying net family assets by a HUD-specified percentage. If imputed income is more than actual income from assets, the imputed amount is used as income from assets in determining annual income.

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.

In-Kind Payments: Contributions other than cash made to the family or to a family member in exchange for services provided or for the general support of the family (e.g., groceries provided on a weekly basis, baby sitting provided on a regular basis).

Income Method: A means of calculating a family's rent based on 10% of their monthly income, 30% of their adjusted monthly income, the welfare rent, or the minimum rent. Under the income method, rents may be capped by a ceiling rent. Under this method, the family's income is evaluated at least annually.

Interim (examination): A reexamination of a family income, expenses, and household composition conducted between the regular annual recertifications when a change in a household's circumstances warrants such a reexamination.

Live-In Aide: A person who resides with one or more elderly persons, near-elderly persons, or persons with disabilities and who:

- A. Is determined to be essential to the care and well-being of the persons;
- B. Is not obligated for the support of the persons; and
- C. Would not be living in the unit except to provide the necessary supportive services. (24 CFR 5.403(b))

Low-Income Families: Those families whose incomes do not exceed 80% of the median income for the area, as determined by HUD with adjustments for smaller and larger families, except that HUD may establish income ceilings higher or lower than 80% of the median for the area on the basis of HUD's findings that such variations are necessary because of unusually high or low family incomes.

Medical Expenses: Medical expenses (of all family members of an elderly or disabled family), including medical insurance premiums, that are anticipated during the period for which annual income is computed and that are not covered by insurance. (24 CFR 5.603(d)). These expenses include, but are not limited to, prescription and non-

prescription drugs, costs for doctors, dentists, therapists, medical facilities, care for a service animals, transportation for medical purposes.

Mixed Family: A family whose members include those with citizenship or eligible immigration status and those without citizenship or eligible immigration status. (24 CFR 5.504(b))

Mixed population development: A public housing development, or portion of a development, that was reserved for elderly and disabled families at its inception (and has retained that Character). If the development was not so reserved at its inception, the PHA has obtained HUD approval to give preference in tenant selection for all units in the development (or portion of development) to elderly families and disabled families. These developments were formerly known as elderly projects.

Monthly Adjusted Income: One twelfth of adjusted income. (24 CFR 5.603(d))

Monthly Income: One twelfth of annual income. (24 CFR 5.603(d))

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. (24 CFR 5.504(b))

National Service: one who has served successfully in Peace Corps, AmeriCorps, Citizens Corps, Learn and Serve Corps or other such recognized national service organization.

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; 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. (24 CFR 5.403(b))

Net Family Assets:

- A. 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.
- B. 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.
- C. In determining net family assets, housing authorities 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 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 important consideration not measurable in dollar terms. (24 CFR 5.603(d))

Non-Citizen: A person who is neither a citizen nor national of the United States. (24 CFR 5.504(b))

Occupancy Standards: The standards that a housing authority establishes for determining the appropriate number of bedrooms needed to house families of different sizes or composition.

Participant: A family or individual that is assisted by the public housing program.

Person with Disabilities: A person who:

- A. Has a disability as defined in 42 U.S.C. 423
- B. Is determined, pursuant to HUD regulations, to have a physical, mental, or emotional impairment that:
 - 1. Is expected to be of long-continued and indefinite duration;
 - 2. Substantially impedes his or her ability to live independently; and
 - 3. Is of such a nature that the ability to live independently could be improved by more suitable housing conditions.
- C. Has a developmental disability as defined in 42 U.S.C. 6001.

This definition does not exclude persons who have the disease of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome or any conditions arising from the etiologic agent for acquired immunodeficiency syndrome.

For purposes of qualifying for low-income housing, it does not include a person whose disability is based solely on any drug or alcohol dependence.

Previously unemployed: This includes a person 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.

Processing Entity: The person or entity that is responsible for making eligibility and related determinations and an income reexamination. In the Section 8 and public housing programs, the processing entity is the responsibility entity.

Proration of Assistance: The reduction in a family's housing assistance payment to reflect the proportion of family members in a mixed family who are eligible for assistance. (24 CFR 5.520)

Public Housing: Housing assisted under the 1937 Act, other than under Section 8. Public housing includes dwelling units in a mixed-finance project that are assisted by a PHA with capital or operating funds.

Public Housing Agency (PHA): Any State, county, municipality, or other governmental entity or public body (or agency or instrumentality thereof) which is authorized to engage in or assist in the development or operation of low-income housing under the 1937 Housing Act. (24 CFR 5.100)

Recertification: The annual reexamination of a family's income, expenses and composition to determine the family's rent.

Remaining Member of a Tenant Family: A member of the family listed on the lease who continues to live in the public housing dwelling after all other family members have left. (Handbook 7565.1 REV-2, 3-5b.)

Responsible Entity:

- A. For the public housing program, the Section 8 tenant-based assistance program (24CFR 982), and the Section 8 project-based certificate or voucher program (24 CFR 983), and the Section 8 moderate rehabilitation program (24 CFR 882), responsible entity means the PHA administering the program under an ACC with HUD;
- B. For all other Section 8 programs, responsible entity means the Section 8 project owner.

Self-Declaration: A type of verification statement by the tenant as to the amount and source of income, expenses, or family composition. Self-declaration is acceptable verification only when third-party verification or documentation cannot be obtained.

Shelter Allowance: That portion of a welfare benefit (e.g., TANF) that the welfare agency designates to be used for rent and utilities.

Single Person: Someone living alone or intending to live alone who does not qualify as an elderly family, a person with disabilities, a displaced person, or the remaining member of a tenant family. (Public Housing: Handbook 7465.1 REV-2, 3-5)

Specified Welfare Benefit Reduction:

- A. 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.
- B. "Specified welfare benefit reduction" does not include a reduction or termination of welfare benefits by the welfare agency:
 - 1. at the expiration of a lifetime or other time limit on the payment of welfare benefits;
 - 2. 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
 - 3. because a family member has not complied with other welfare agency requirements.

State Wage Information Collection Agency (SWICA): The State agency receiving 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. (24 CFR 5.214)

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF): The program that replaced the Assistance to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) that provides financial assistance to needy families who meet program eligibility criteria. Benefits are limited to a specified time period.

Tenant: The person or family renting or occupying an assisted dwelling unit. (24 CFR 5.504(b))

Tenant Rent: The amount payable monthly by the family as rent to the housing authority. Where all utilities (except telephone) and other essential housing services are supplied by the housing authority or owner, tenant rent equals total tenant payment. Where some or all utilities (except telephone) and other essential housing services are supplied by the housing authority and the cost thereof is not included in the amount paid as rent, tenant rent equals total tenant payment less the utility allowance. (24 CFR 5.603(d))

Third-Party (verification): Written or oral confirmation of a family's income, expenses, or household composition provided by a source outside the household.

Total Tenant Payment (TTP):

- A. Total tenant payment for families whose initial lease is effective on or after August 1, 1982:
 - 1. Total tenant payment is the amount calculated under Section 3(a)(1) of the 1937 Act which is the higher of:
 - a. 30% of the family's monthly adjusted income;
 - b. 10% of the family's monthly income; or

- c. If the family is receiving payments for welfare assistance from a public agency and a part of such payments, adjusted in accordance with the family's actual housing costs, is specifically designated by such agency to meet the family's housing costs, the portion of such payments which is so designated.

If the family's welfare assistance is ratably reduced from the standard of need by applying a percentage, the amount calculated under section 3(a)(1) shall be the amount resulting from one application of the percentage.

- 2. Total tenant payment for families residing in public housing does not include charges for excess utility consumption or other miscellaneous charges.
- B. Total tenant payment for families residing in public housing whose initial lease was effective before August 1, 1982: Paragraphs (b) and (c) of 24 CFR 913.107, as it existed immediately before November 18, 1996), will continue to govern the total tenant payment of families, under a public housing program, whose initial lease was effective before August 1, 1982.

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 by a housing authority 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. (24 CFR 5.603)

Utility Reimbursement: The amount, if any, by which the utility allowance for the unit, if applicable, exceeds the total tenant payment for the family occupying the unit. (24 CFR 5.603)

Very Low-Income Families: Families whose incomes do not exceed 50% of the median family income for the area, as determined by HUD with adjustments for smaller and larger families, except that HUD may establish income ceilings higher or lower than 50% of the median for the area if HUD finds that such variations are necessary because of unusually high or low family incomes.

Welfare Assistance: Welfare or other payments to families or individuals, based on need, that are made under programs funded by Federal, State or local governments (including assistance provided under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, as that term is defined under the implementing regulations issued by the Department of Health and Human Services at 45 CFR 260.31).

45 CFR 260.31 defines the term "assistance" to include cash, payments, vouchers, and other forms of benefits designed to meet a family's ongoing basic needs (i.e., for food, clothing, shelter, utilities, household goods, personal care items, and general incidental expenses).

It includes such benefits even when they are:

- A. Provided in the form of payments by a TANF agency, or other agency on its behalf, to individual recipients; and
- B. Conditioned on participation in work experience or community services (or any other work activity under 45 CFR 261.30).

Except where excluded later in this definition, it also includes supportive services such as transportation and childcare provided to families who are not employed.

The term "assistance" excludes:

- A. Nonrecurrent, short-term benefits that:

1. Are designed to deal with a specific crisis situation or episode of need;
 2. Are not intended to meet recurrent or ongoing needs; and
 3. Will not extend beyond four months.
-
- B. Work subsidies (i.e., payments to employers or third parties to help cover the costs of employee wages, benefits, supervision, and training);
 - C. Supportive services such as child care and transportation provided to families who are employed;
 - D. Refundable earned income tax credits;
 - E. Contributions to, and distributions from, Individual Development Accounts;
 - F. Services such as counseling, case management, peer support, childcare information and referral, transitional services, job retention, job advancement and other employment-related services that do not provide basic income support; and
 - G. Transportation benefits provided under a Job Access or Reverse Commute project, pursuant to section 404 (k) of the Act, to an individual who is not otherwise receiving assistance.

Welfare Rent: In "as-paid" welfare programs, the amount of the welfare benefit designated for shelter and utilities.

Acronyms

ACC	Annual Contributions Contract
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
FSS	Family Self Sufficiency (program)
HCDA	Housing and Community Development Act
HQS	Housing Quality Standards
HUD	Department of Housing and Urban Development
INS	(U.S.) Immigration and Naturalization Service
NAHA	(Cranston-Gonzalez) National Affordable Housing Act
NOFA	Notice of Funding Availability
OMB	(U.S.) Office of Management and Budget
PHA	Public Housing Agency
QHWRA	Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act of 1998
SSA	Social Security Administration
TTP	Total Tenant Payment