

Chapter 14

PROGRAM INTEGRITY

INTRODUCTION

The GRHC is committed to ensuring that subsidy funds made available to the GRHC are spent in accordance with HUD requirements.

This chapter covers HUD and GRHC policies designed to prevent, detect, investigate, and resolve instances of program abuse or fraud. It also describes the actions that will be taken in the case of unintentional errors and omissions.

Part I: Preventing, Detecting, and Investigating Errors and Program Abuse. This part presents GRHC policies related to preventing, detecting, and investigating errors and program abuse.

Part II: Corrective Measures and Penalties. This part describes the corrective measures the GRHC must and may take when errors or program abuses are found.

PART I: PREVENTING, DETECTING, AND INVESTIGATING ERRORS AND PROGRAM ABUSE

14-I.A. PREVENTING ERRORS AND PROGRAM ABUSE

HUD created the Enterprise Income Verification (EIV) system to provide GRHCs with a powerful tool for preventing errors and detecting program abuse. GRHCs are required to use the EIV system in its entirety in accordance with HUD administrative guidance [24 CFR 5.233]. GRHCs are further required to:

- Provide applicants and participants with form HUD-52675, “Debts Owed to GRHCs and Terminations”
- Require all adult members of an applicant or participant family to acknowledge receipt of form HUD-52675 by signing a copy of the form for retention in the family file

GRHC Policy

To ensure that the GRHC’s HCV program is administered according to the highest ethical and legal standards, the GRHC will employ a variety of techniques to ensure that both errors and intentional program abuse are rare.

The GRHC will discuss program compliance and integrity issues during the voucher briefing sessions described in Chapter 5.

The GRHC will provide each applicant and participant with a copy of “Is Fraud Worth It?” (form HUD-1141-OIG), which explains the types of actions a family must avoid and the penalties for program abuse.

The GRHC will provide each applicant and participant with a copy of “What You Should Know about EIV,” a guide to the Enterprise Income Verification (EIV) system published by HUD as an attachment to Notice PIH 2010-19. In addition, the GRHC will require the head of each household to acknowledge receipt of the guide by signing a copy for retention in the family file.

The GRHC will place a warning statement about the penalties for fraud (as described in 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 1010) on key GRHC forms and form letters that request information from a family or owner.

GRHC staff will be required to review and explain the contents of all HUD- and GRHC-required forms prior to requesting family member signatures.

At every regular reexamination, GRHC staff will explain any changes in HUD regulations or GRHC policy that affect program participants.

The GRHC will require first-time owners (or their agents) to participate in a briefing session on HAP contract requirements.

The GRHC will provide owners with ongoing information about the program, with an emGRHCsis on actions and situations to avoid.

The GRHC will provide each GRHC employee with the necessary training on program rules and the organization’s standards of conduct and ethics.

For purposes of this chapter the term *error* refers to an unintentional error or omission. *Program abuse or fraud* refers to a single act or pattern of actions that constitute a false statement, omission, or concealment of a substantial fact, made with the intent to deceive or mislead.

14-I.B. DETECTING ERRORS AND PROGRAM ABUSE

In addition to taking steps to prevent errors and program abuse, the GRHC will use a variety of activities to detect errors and program abuse.

Quality Control and Analysis of Data

Under the Section 8 Management Assessment Program (SEMAP), HUD requires the GRHC to review a random sample of tenant records annually to determine if the records conform to program requirements and to conduct quality control inspections of a sample of units to ensure HQS compliance [24 CFR, Part 985]. (See Chapter 16 for additional information about SEMAP requirements).

GRHC Policy

In addition to the SEMAP quality control requirements, the GRHC will employ a variety of methods to detect errors and program abuse.

The GRHC routinely will use HUD and other non-HUD sources of up-front income verification. This includes The Work Number and any other private or public databases available to the GRHC.

At each annual reexamination, current information provided by the family will be compared to information provided at the last annual reexamination to identify inconsistencies and incomplete information.

The GRHC will compare family-reported income and expenditures to detect possible unreported income.

Independent Audits and HUD Monitoring

OMB Circular A-133 requires all GRHCs that expend \$500,000 or more in federal awards annually to have an independent audit (IPA). In addition, HUD conducts periodic on-site and automated monitoring of GRHC activities and notifies the GRHC of errors and potential cases of program abuse.

GRHC Policy

The GRHC will use the results reported in any IPA or HUD monitoring reports to identify potential program abuses as well as to assess the effectiveness of the GRHC's error detection and abuse prevention efforts.

Individual Reporting of Possible Errors and Program Abuse

GRHC Policy

The GRHC will encourage staff, program participants, and the public to report possible program abuse.

Chapter 16

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses administrative policies and practices that are relevant to the activities covered in this plan. The policies are discussed in seven parts as described below:

Part I: Administrative Fee Reserve. This part describes the GRHC's policies with regard to oversight of expenditures from its administrative fee reserve.

Part II: Setting Program Standards and Schedules. This part describes what payment standards are, and how they are updated, as well as how utility allowances are established and revised.

Part III: Informal Reviews and Hearings. This part outlines the requirements and procedures for informal reviews and hearings, and for informal hearings regarding citizenship status.

Part IV: Owner or Family Debts to the GRHC. This part describes policies for recovery of monies that the GRHC has overpaid on behalf of families, or to owners, and describes the circumstances under which the GRHC will offer repayment agreements to owners and families. Also discussed are the consequences for failure to make payments in accordance with a repayment agreement.

Part V: Section 8 Management Assessment Program (SEMAP). This part describes what the SEMAP scores represent, how they are established, and how those scores affect a GRHC.

Part VI: Record-Keeping. All aspects of the program involve certain types of record-keeping. This part outlines the privacy rights of applicants and participants and record retention policies the GRHC will follow.

Part VII: Reporting and Record Keeping for Children with Environmental Intervention Blood Lead Level. This part describes the GRHC's responsibilities for reporting, data collection, and record keeping relative to children with environmental intervention blood lead levels that are less than six years of age, and are receiving HCV assistance.

Part VIII: Determination of Insufficient Funding. This part describes the GRHC's policies for determining if there is sufficient funding to issue vouchers, to approve moves to higher cost units or areas, and to continue assistance for all participant families.

Part IX: Violence against Women Act (VAWA): Notification, Documentation, Confidentiality. This part contains key terms used in VAWA and describes requirements related to notifying families and owners about their rights and responsibilities under VAWA; requesting documentation from victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking; and maintaining the confidentiality of information obtained from victims.

16-II.C. UTILITY ALLOWANCES [24 CFR 982.517]

A GRHC-established utility allowance schedule is used in determining family share and GRHC subsidy. The GRHC must maintain a utility allowance schedule for (1) all tenant-paid utilities, (2) the cost of tenant-supplied refrigerators and ranges, and (3) other tenant-paid housing services such as trash collection.

The utility allowance schedule must be determined based on the typical cost of utilities and services paid by energy-conservative households that occupy housing of similar size and type in the same locality. In developing the schedule, the GRHC must use normal patterns of consumption for the community as a whole, and current utility rates.

The utility allowance must include the utilities and services that are necessary in the locality to provide housing that complies with housing quality standards. Costs for telephone, cable/satellite television, and internet services are not included in the utility allowance schedule.

In the utility allowance schedule, the GRHC must classify utilities and other housing services according to the following general categories: space heating; air conditioning; cooking; water heating; water; sewer; trash collection; other electric; cost of tenant-supplied refrigerator; cost of tenant-supplied range; and other specified housing services.

The cost of each utility and housing service must be stated separately by unit size and type. Chapter 18 of the *HCV Guidebook* provides detailed guidance to the GRHC about establishing utility allowance schedules.

Air Conditioning

An allowance for air-conditioning must be provided when the majority of housing units in the market have central air-conditioning or are wired for tenant-installed air conditioners.

GRHC Policy

The majority of housing units in the GRHC's jurisdiction does not include central air-conditioning and is not wired for tenant-installed air conditioners. Therefore, the GRHC has not included an allowance for air-conditioning in its utility allowance schedule.

Reasonable Accommodation

HCV program regulations require a GRHC to approve a utility allowance amount higher than shown on the GRHC's schedule if a higher allowance is needed as a reasonable accommodation for a family member with a disability. For example, if a family member with a disability requires such an accommodation, the GRHC will approve an allowance for air-conditioning, even if the GRHC has determined that an allowance for air-conditioning generally is not needed (See Chapter 2 for policies regarding the request and approval of reasonable accommodations).

Utility Allowance Revisions

The GRHC must review its schedule of utility allowances each year, and must revise the schedule if there has been a change of 10 percent or more in any utility rate since the last time the allowance for that utility was revised.

The GRHC must maintain information supporting its annual review of utility allowance and any revisions made in its utility allowance schedule.

Chapter 18

PROJECT BASED VOUCHERS (PBV) UNDER THE RENTAL ASSISTANCE DEMONSTRATION (RAD) PROGRAM

INTRODUCTION

This chapter describes HUD regulations and PHA policies related to the Project-Based Voucher (PBV) program under the Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) program in eight parts:

Part I: General Requirements. This part describes general provisions of the PBV program, including maximum budget authority requirements, relocation requirements, and equal opportunity requirements.

Part II: PBV Project Selection. This part describes the cap on assistance at projects receiving PBV assistance, ownership and control, and site selection standards.

Part III: Dwelling Units. This part describes requirements related to housing quality standards, the type and frequency of inspections, and housing accessibility for persons with disabilities.

Part IV: Housing Assistance Payments Contract. This part discusses HAP contract requirements and policies including the execution and term of the HAP contract.

Part V: Selection of PBV Program Participants. This part describes the requirements and policies governing how the PHA and the owner will select a family to receive PBV assistance.

Part VI: Occupancy. This part discusses occupancy requirements related to the lease, and describes under what conditions families are allowed or required to move.

Part VII: Determining Contract Rent. This part describes how the initial rent to owner is determined, and how rent will be redetermined throughout the life of the HAP contract.

Part VIII: Payments to Owner. This part describes the types of payments owners may receive under this program.

PART I: GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

18-I.A. OVERVIEW AND HISTORY OF THE RAD PROGRAM

The Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) program was authorized in 2012 in order to assess the effectiveness of converting public housing, moderate rehabilitation properties, and units under the rent supplement and rental assistance payments programs to long-term, project-based Section 8 rental assistance. The program's four primary objectives are to:

- Preserve and improve public and other assisted housing.
- Standardize the administration of the plethora of federally subsidized housing programs and rules. The conversions are intended to promote operating efficiency by using a Section 8 project-based assistance model that has proven successful and effective for over 30 years. In other words, RAD aligns eligible properties more closely with other affordable housing programs.
- Attract private market capital for property renovations. Through the use of this model, properties may be able to leverage private debt and equity to make capital repairs.
- Increase tenant mobility opportunities.

Under the first component, a PHA with public housing units may submit an application to HUD to convert some or all of their public housing units to long-term, project-based Section 8 HAP contracts under either:

- Project-based rental assistance (PBRA) under HUD's Office of Multifamily Housing Programs.
- Project-based vouchers (PBVs) under HUD's Office of Public and Indian Housing (PIH).

This chapter will focus on public housing conversions to the PBV program under RAD. In order to distinguish between requirements for public housing conversion under RAD and PBV units under the standard PBV program, we will refer to the standard PBV program and the RAD PBV program.

18-I.B. APPLICABLE REGULATIONS

On the whole, the regulations for both the standard and RAD PBV programs generally follow the regulations for the tenant-based HCV program found at 24 CFR Part 982. However, important parts of the tenant-based regulations do not apply to the project-based program. 24 CFR Part 983 outlines the sections of 24 CFR Part 982 that are not applicable to the project-based program.

For the RAD PBV program, Congress authorized HUD to waive certain statutory and regulatory provisions or establish alternative requirements from the standard PBV program. These provisions are identified in Notice PIH 2012-32, REV-2 (issued June 15, 2015) and Notice PIH 2012-32, REV-3 (issued January 12, 2017).

Otherwise, all regulatory and statutory requirements for the standard PBV program in 24 CFR Part 983 and Section 8(o)(13) of the Housing Act of 1937, and all applicable standing and subsequent Office of Public and Indian Housing (PIH) guidance, including related handbooks, apply to RAD PBV. This includes environmental review, Davis-Bacon, and fair housing requirements.

RAD is authorized by the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-55, approved November 18, 2011), as amended by the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-76, approved January 17, 2014), and the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act of 2015 (Public Law 113-235, approved December 6, 2014), and Division L, Title II, Section 237 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act (Public Law 114-113, enacted December 18, 2015) collectively, the “RAD Statute.” Requirements specific to the RAD program may be found in the following:

- Generally, public housing projects converting assistance under RAD are bound by the terms of the notice in effect at the time of closing. Notice PIH 2012-32, REV-3 is applicable to projects converting assistance through RAD, including those where a CHAP has already been issued, upon the expiration of the 30-day comment period after publication of the notice. Notice PIH 2012-32, REV-3 was published January 12, 2017.
- Notice PIH 2012-32, REV-2, RAD – Final Implementation, REV-2 is applicable to projects converting assistance through RAD upon the expiration of the 30-day comment period after publication of the Notice. PIH Notice 2012-32, REV-2 was published June 15, 2015.

NOTE: The policies in this chapter follow Notice PIH 2012-32, REV-3. If your project falls under REV-2, applicable policies may be found in the applicable sections of the Instruction Guide for Chapter 18.

- RAD Quick Reference Guide for Public Housing Converting to PBV Assistance (10/14)
- RAD Welcome Guide for New Awardees: RAD 1st Component (3/15)
- Notice PIH 2016-17, Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) Notice Regarding Fair Housing and Civil Rights Requirements and Relocation Requirements Applicable to RAD First Component – Public Housing Conversions.
 - This Notice applies to all projects that have applied for RAD conversion but have not yet converted as of November 10, 2016.
- Notice PIH 2014-17, Relocation Requirements under the RAD Program, Public Housing in the First Component.
 - This notice may apply to projects that have converted to RAD prior to November 10, 2016 , AND who have requested and received approval from HUD to be governed by this notice. See PIH Notice 2016-17, Section 1, Paragraph 1.3 for applicability.

NOTE: The policies in this chapter follow Notice PIH 2016-17. If your project falls under PIH 2014-17, applicable policies may be found in Section 18-I.D.

- RAD FAQs (<http://www.radresource.net/search.cfm>)

In other words, the standard PBV program follows many of the same regulations as the tenant-based HCV program, but not all of them, and the RAD PBV program follows many of the same regulations as the standard PBV program, but not all of them.

MTW agencies are able to apply activities impacting the PBV program that are approved in the MTW Plan to properties converting under RAD, provided they do not conflict with RAD requirements.

18-I.C. TENANT-BASED VS. PROJECT-BASED VOUCHER ASSISTANCE [24 CFR 983.2]

Much of the tenant-based voucher program regulations also apply to the PBV program. Consequently, many of the PHA policies related to tenant-based assistance also apply to RAD PBV assistance. The provisions of the tenant-based voucher regulations that do not apply to the PBV program are listed at 24 CFR 983.2.

PHA Policy

Except as otherwise noted in this chapter, or unless specifically prohibited by PBV program regulations, the PHA policies for the tenant-based voucher program contained in this administrative plan also apply to the RAD PBV program and its participants. This chapter is intended to address requirements specific to the RAD PBV program only.

18-I.D. RELOCATION REQUIREMENTS [Notice PIH 2016-17]

In some developments, in-place residents may need to be relocated as a result of properties undergoing repairs, being demolished and rebuilt, or when assistance is transferred from one site to another. RAD program rules prohibit the permanent, involuntary relocation of residents as a result of conversion. Residents that are temporarily relocated retain the right to return to the project once it has been completed.

Relocation assistance provided to residents will vary depending on the length of time relocation is required. Residents must be properly notified in advance of relocation requirements in accordance with RAD program rules and Uniform Relocation Act (URA) requirements. Sample informing notices are provided in Appendices 2–5 of Notice PIH 2014-17. A written relocation plan is required if the RAD conversion involves permanent relocation (including a move in connection with a transfer of assistance) or temporary relocation anticipated to last longer than a year. While the PHA is not required to have a written relocation plan for temporary relocation lasting one year or less, HUD strongly encourages PHAs to prepare one. Appendix II of Notice PIH 2016-17 contains recommended contents for a relocation plan.

In addition, PHAs must undertake a planning process that complies with the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, as amended (URA), although not all relocations under RAD will trigger requirements under URA. URA statute and implementing regulations may be found at 49 CFR Part 24. The obligation due to relocating residents under RAD are broaded than URA relocation assistance and payments.

Any residents that may need to be temporarily relocated to facilitate rehabilitation or construction will have a right to return to either: a) a unit at the development once rehabilitation or construction is completed, provided the resident's household is not under-housed; or b) a unit in the development which provides the same major features as the resident's unit in the development prior to the implementation of the RAD conversion.

Where the transfer of assistance to a new site is warranted and approved, residents of the converting development will have the right to reside in an assisted unit at the new site once rehabilitation or construction is complete.

If the PHA's proposed plans for conversion would preclude a resident from returning to the development, the resident must be given an opportunity to comment and/or object to such plans. PHAs must alter the project plans to accommodate the resident's right to return to the development if the resident would be precluded from returning to the development.

Examples of project plans that may preclude a resident from returning to the development include, but are not limited to:

- Changes in the development's bedroom distribution that decrease the size of the units, resulting in the resident being under-housed;
- The resident cannot be accommodated in the remaining assisted units due to a reduction in the number of assisted units at the development;
- Income limit eligibility requirements associated with the LIHTC program or another program; and
- Failure to provide a reasonable accommodation, in violation of applicable law, where reasonable accommodation may include installation of accessibility features that are needed by the resident.

Residents of a development undergoing conversion that would be precluded from returning to the development may voluntarily accept a PHA or owner's offer to permanently relocate to alternative housing, and thereby waive their right to return to the development after rehabilitation or construction is completed. In this event, the PHA must secure the resident's written consent to a voluntary permanent relocation in lieu of returning to the development. PHAs are prohibited from employing any tactics to pressure residents into relinquishing their right to return or accepting other housing options. Additionally, a PHA may not terminate a resident's lease if the PHA fails to obtain the resident's consent and the resident seeks to exercise the right to return.

In the case of multi-phase RAD transactions, the resident has a right to return to the development or to other converted phases of the development that are available for occupancy at the time the resident is eligible to exercise their right of return. Generally, the resident's right to return must be accommodated within the development associated with the resident's original unit, however, the PHA may treat multiple converted developments on the same site as one for purposes of right to return. Should the PHA seek to have the resident exercise the right to return at a future phase, the PHA must secure the resident's consent in writing.

Alternative housing options may involve a variety of housing options, including but not limited to:

- Transfers to public housing
- Admission to other affordable housing properties subject to the applicable program rules
- Housing choice voucher (HCV) assistance
- Homeownership programs subject to the applicable program rules
- Other options identified by the PHA

18-I.E. EQUAL OPPORTUNITY REQUIREMENTS [24 CFR 983.8; Notice PIH 2012-32, REV-3]

RAD conversions are governed by the same civil rights authorities that govern HUD-assisted activities in general. PHAs must comply with all applicable fair housing and civil rights laws, including but not limited to the Fair Housing Act, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, when conducting relocation planning and providing relocation assistance. For example, persons with disabilities returning to the RAD project may not be turned away or placed on a waiting list due to a lack of accessible units. Their need for an accessible unit must be accommodated.

PART II: PBV PROJECT SELECTION

18-II.A. OVERVIEW

Unlike in the standard PBV program where the PHA typically selects the property through an owner proposal selection process, projects selected for assistance under RAD PBV are selected in accordance with the provisions in Notice PIH 2012-32, REV-3. Therefore, 24 CFR 983.51 does not apply since HUD selects RAD properties through a competitive selection process.

18-II.B. OWNERSHIP AND CONTROL [Notice PIH 2012-32, REV-3]

Except where permitted to facilitate the use of low-income housing tax credits, during both the initial term and renewal terms of the HAP contract, ownership must be by a public or non-profit entity. The requirement for a public or non-profit entity is satisfied if a public or non-profit entity (or entities), directly or through a wholly-owned affiliate (1) holds a fee simple interest in the property; (2) is the lessor under a ground lease with the property owner; (3) has the direct or indirect legal authority to direct the financial and legal interest of the property owner with respect to the RAD units, (4) owns 51 percent or more of the general partner interests in a limited partnership or 51 percent or more of the managing member interests in a limited liability company with all powers of a general partner or managing member, as applicable; (5) owns a lesser percentage of the general partner or managing member interests and holds certain control rights as approved by HUD; (6) owns 51 percent or more of all ownership interests in a limited partnership or limited liability company and holds certain control rights as approved by HUD; or (7) other ownership and control arrangements approved by HUD.

If low-income housing tax credits will be used, HUD may allow ownership of the property to be transferred to a tax credit entity controlled by a for-profit entity if HUD determines that the PHA preserves its interest in the property. Preservation of PHA interest in the property includes but is not limited to the following:

- The PHA, or an affiliate under its sole control, is the general partner or managing member;
- The PHA retains fee ownership and leases the real estate to the tax credit entity pursuant to a long-term ground lease;
- The PHA retains control over leasing the property and determining program eligibility;
- The PHA enters into a control agreement by which the PHA retains consent rights over certain acts of the project owner and retains certain rights over the project;
- Other means that HUD finds acceptable

**18-II.C. PHA-OWNED UNITS [24 CFR 983.59; Notice PIH 2012-32, REV-3;
FR Notice 1/18/17]**

If the project is PHA-owned, rent-setting and inspection functions set out in 24 CFR 983.59 must be conducted by an independent entity approved by HUD.

The independent entity that performs these program services may be the unit of general local government for the PHA jurisdiction (unless the PHA is itself the unit of general local government or an agency of such government), or another HUD-approved public or private independent entity.

The PHA may compensate the independent entity from PHA ongoing administrative fee income (including amounts credited to the administrative fee reserve). The PHA may not use other program receipts to compensate the independent entity for its services. The PHA, and the independent entity, may not charge the family any fee for the services provided by the independent entity.

18-II.D. SUBSIDY LAYERING REQUIREMENTS [Notice PIH 2012-32, REV-3]

In the case of a PHA that is converting all of its ACC units, there is no restriction on the amount of public housing funds that may be contributed to the covered project at closing; the PHA may convey all program funds to the covered projects. In order to cover the cost of administrative activities required to terminate the ACC, once it no longer has units under the ACC and has no plans to develop additional public housing, the PHA may:

- Designate that a reserve associated with the project be available to fund any public housing closeout costs (such as an operating deficit reserve or a specific PHA close-out reserve). Any funds not needed for public housing close-out costs would remain in such reserve or may be transferred to another reserve associated with the project (such as the replacement reserve). Thereafter, these funds may be used at the project pursuant to the authorized use of the applicable reserve; or
- Retain funds under the public housing program for this purpose. However, HUD will recapture any public housing funds that a PHA does not expend for closeout costs.

In the case where the PHA will continue to maintain other units in its inventory under a public housing ACC, a contribution of operating funds to the covered project that exceeds the average amount the project has held in operating reserves over the past three years will trigger a subsidy layering review under 24 CFR 4.13. Similarly, any contribution of capital funds, including Replacement Housing Factor (RHF) or Demolition Disposition Transitional Funding (DDTF), will trigger a subsidy layering review. Notwithstanding the subsidy layering review, PHAs should be mindful of how the capital funds or operating reserves used in the financing of its RAD properties may impact the physical and financial health of properties that will remain in its public housing inventory.

In addition, following execution of the HAP contract, PHAs are authorized to use operating and capital funds to make HAP payments for the remainder of the first calendar year in which the HAP contract is effective. Otherwise, a PHA may not contribute public housing program funds to the covered project unless such funding has been identified in the approved financing plan and included in the approved “sources and uses” attached to the RCC.

18-II.E. PBV PERCENTAGE LIMITATION [Notice PIH 2012-32, REV-3]

Covered projects do not count against the maximum amount of assistance a PHA may utilize for the PBV program, which under the standard PBV program is set at 20 percent of the authorized units allocated to a PHA under the HCV program. To implement this provision, HUD is waiving section 8(o)(13)(B) of the 1937 Act as well as 24 CFR 983.6.

There is no cap on the number of units that may receive PBV assistance in a project.

18-II.F. SITE SELECTION STANDARDS [Notice PIH 2012-32, REV-3; Notice PIH 2016-17]

Site selection requirements set forth in 24 CFR 983.57 apply to RAD PBV, with the exception of 983.57(b)(1) and (c)(2). HUD waives the provisions regarding deconcentration of poverty and expanding housing and economic opportunity for existing housing sites.

HUD will conduct a front-end civil rights review of the PHA's proposed site in certain circumstances. For RAD PBV conversions that involve new construction located in an area of minority concentration (whether on the existing public housing site or on a new site) HUD will determine whether it meets one of the exceptions that would allow for new construction in an area of minority concentration.

The PHA must ensure that its RAD PBV conversion, including any associated new construction, is consistent with its certification to affirmatively further fair housing and complies with civil rights laws.

18-II.G. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW [Notice PIH 2012-32, REV-3]

HUD cannot approve an applicant's financing plan submission unless and until the required environmental review has been completed for the applicant's proposed conversion project and found to meet environmental review requirements. Environmental documents must be submitted as part of the financing plan. HUD will not issue a RAD Conversion Commitment (RCC) if the project plan does not meet the environmental review requirements described in Attachment 1A of Notice PIH 2012-32, REV-3.

PART III: DWELLING UNITS

18-III.A. OVERVIEW

This part identifies the special housing quality standards that apply to the RAD PBV program, housing accessibility for persons with disabilities, and special procedures for conducting housing quality standards inspections.

18-III.B. HOUSING QUALITY STANDARDS [24 CFR 983.101]

The housing quality standards (HQS) for the tenant-based program generally apply to the PBV program. HQS requirements for shared housing, manufactured home space rental, and the homeownership option do not apply because these housing types are not assisted under the PBV program.

The physical condition standards at 24 CFR 5.703 do not apply to the PBV program.

Lead-based Paint [24 CFR 983.101(c)]

The lead-based paint requirements for the tenant-based voucher program do not apply to the PBV program. Instead, The Lead-based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act (42 U.S.C. 4821-4846), the Residential Lead-based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 4851-4856), and implementing regulations at 24 CFR part 35, subparts A, B, H, and R, apply to the PBV program.

18-III.C. HOUSING ACCESSIBILITY FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

The housing must comply with program accessibility requirements of section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794) and implementing regulations at 24 CFR part 8. The PHA must ensure that the percentage of accessible dwelling units complies with the requirements of section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794), as implemented by HUD's regulations at 24 CFR 8, subpart C.

Housing first occupied after March 13, 1991, must comply with design and construction requirements of the Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988 and implementing regulations at 24 CFR 100.205, as applicable. (24 CFR 983.102)

18-III.D. INSPECTING UNITS

Initial Inspection [Notice PIH 2012-32, REV-3]

Under RAD, all units must meet HQS no later than the date of completion of the work as indicated in the RCC.

Turnover Inspections [24 CFR 983.103(c)]

Before providing assistance to a new family in a contract unit, the PHA must inspect the unit. The PHA may not provide assistance on behalf of the family until the unit fully complies with HQS.

Annual/Biennial Inspections [24 CFR 983.103(d); FR Notice 6/25/14]

At least once every 24 months during the term of the HAP contract, the PHA must inspect a random sample consisting of at least 20 percent of the contract units in each building, to determine if the contract units and the premises are maintained in accordance with HQS. Turnover inspections are not counted toward meeting this inspection requirement.

PHA Policy

The PHA will inspect on an annual basis a random sample consisting of at least 20 percent of the contract units in each building to determine if the contract units and the premises are maintained in accordance with HQS.

If more than 20 percent of the sample of inspected contract units in a building fail the initial inspection, the PHA must reinspect 100 percent of the contract units in the building.

Other Inspections [24 CFR 983.103(e)]

The PHA must inspect contract units whenever needed to determine that the contract units comply with HQS and that the owner is providing maintenance, utilities, and other services in accordance with the HAP contract. The PHA must take into account complaints and any other information coming to its attention in scheduling inspections.

The PHA must conduct follow-up inspections needed to determine if the owner (or, if applicable, the family) has corrected an HQS violation, and must conduct inspections to determine the basis for exercise of contractual and other remedies for owner or family violation of HQS.

In conducting PHA supervisory quality control HQS inspections, the PHA should include a representative sample of both tenant-based and project-based units.

Inspecting PHA-Owned Units [24 CFR 983.103(f)]

In the case of PHA-owned units, the inspections must be performed by an independent agency designated by the PHA and approved by HUD. The independent entity must furnish a copy of each inspection report to the PHA and to the HUD field office where the project is located. The PHA must take all necessary actions in response to inspection reports from the independent agency, including exercise of contractual remedies for violation of the HAP contract by the PHA-owner.

PART IV: HOUSING ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS (HAP) CONTRACT

18-IV.A. OVERVIEW

Public housing projects converting under RAD do not employ the PBV Agreement to Enter into a Housing Assistance Payments (AHAP) contract. Instead, following the execution of all requirements contained in the Commitment to Enter into a HAP (CHAP) contract and the RAD Conversion Commitment (RCC), a project is converted immediately to the RAD PBV HAP contract following the closing of any construction financing. Owners of public housing projects converted to PBV assistance via RAD enter into a HAP contract with the PHA that will administer the PBV assistance. Units assisted under a RAD PBV HAP contract must be subject to long-term, renewable use and affordability restrictions.

18-IV.B. HAP CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS

Contract Information [PBV Quick Reference Guide (10/14)]

The RAD PBV program uses the PBV HAP contract for new construction or rehabilitated housing (Form HUD-52530A), as modified by the RAD rider (Form HUD-52621). The distinction between “existing housing” and “rehabilitated and newly constructed housing” is overridden by RAD requirements. The RAD rider must be attached to the PBV HAP contract and effectuates the conversion of public housing to PBV under RAD PBV. The project must also have an initial RAD use agreement. All public housing RAD conversion properties financed with LIHTC are also required to include an LIHTC rider.

Execution and Effective date of the HAP Contract [*RADBlast!* 7/11/16]

RAD PBV projects do not employ an Agreement to Enter into a Housing Assistance Payments (AHAP) contract like in the standard PBV program. Rather, when the conditions of the CHAP and the RCC are met and the conversion has closed, the PHA executes the HAP contract. Project owners may select the effective date of the HAP contract as the first day of either of the two months following the completed closing.

Term of HAP Contract [Notice PIH 2012-32, REV-3]

The initial term of the HAP contract may not be for less than 15 years, and may be for a term of up to 20 years upon request of the owner and with approval of the administering voucher agency. Upon expiration of the initial term of the contract, and upon each renewal term of the contract, the owner must accept each offer to renew the contract, subject to the terms and conditions applicable at the time of each offer, and further subject to the availability of appropriations for each year of each such renewal. To implement this provision, HUD is waiving section 8(o)(13)(F) of The United States Housing Act of 1937, which established a maximum term of 15 years, as well as 24 CFR 983.205(a), which governs the contract term.

Agreement to Enter into a HAP (AHAP) Contract [Notice PIH 2012-32, REV-3]

For public housing conversions to PBV, there will be no agreement to enter into a Housing Assistance Payments (AHAP) contract. Therefore, all regulatory references to the Agreement (AHAP), including regulations under 24 CFR Part 983 Subpart D, are waived. The definitions for proposal selection date, new construction, rehabilitation, and existing housing are not applicable.

Mandatory Contract Renewal [Notice PIH 2012-32, REV-3]

By statute, upon contract expiration, the agency administering the vouchers will offer, and the PHA will accept, renewal of the contract subject to the terms and conditions applicable at the time of renewal and the availability of appropriations each year for such renewal. Consequently 24 CFR 983.205(b), governing the PHA discretion to renew the contract for term of up to 15 years, will not apply.

In the event that the HAP contract is removed due to breach, non-compliance or insufficiency of appropriations, for all units previously covered under the HAP contract, new tenants must have incomes at or below 80 percent of the area median income at the time of admission and rents may not exceed 30 percent of 80 percent of median income for an appropriate size unit for the remainder of the term of the RAD use agreement.

Remedies for HQS Violations [24 CFR 983.208(b)]

The PHA may not make any HAP payment to the owner for a contract unit during any period in which the unit does not comply with HQS. If the PHA determines that a contract does not comply with HQS, the PHA may exercise any of its remedies under the HAP contract, for any or all of the contract units. Available remedies include termination of housing assistance payments, abatement or reduction of housing assistance payments, reduction of contract units, and termination of the HAP contract.

PHA Policy

The PHA will abate and terminate PBV HAP contracts for noncompliance with HQS in accordance with the policies used in the tenant-based voucher program. These policies are contained in Section 8-II.G., Enforcing Owner Compliance.

18-IV.C. AMENDMENTS TO THE HAP CONTRACT

Floating Units [Notice PIH 2012-32, REV-3]

In certain mixed-finance projects, the PHA may ask HUD permission to have assistance float among units within the project that are the same bedroom size. The unit to which assistance is floated must be comparable to the unit being replaced in quality and amenities.

If the PHA chooses to float units, units are not specifically identified on the HAP contract, rather the HAP contract must specify the number and type of units in the property that are RAD PBV units, including any excepted units. The property must maintain the same number and type of RAD units from the time of the initial HAP contract execution forward.

PHA Policy

The PHA will not float assistance among unoccupied units within the project.

Reduction in HAP Contract Units [Notice PIH 2012-32, REV-3]

Project owners are required to make available for occupancy by eligible tenants the number of assisted units under the terms of the HAP contract.

The PHA may not reduce the number of assisted units without HUD approval. Any HUD approval of a PHA's request to reduce the number of assisted units under contract is subject to conditions that HUD may impose. MTW agencies may not alter this requirement.

If units are removed from the HAP contract because a new admission's TTP comes to equal or exceed the gross rent for the unit and if the project is fully assisted, the PHA must reinstate the unit after the family has vacated the property. If the project is partially assisted, the PHA may substitute a different unit for the unit on the HAP contract in accordance with 24 CFR 983.207, or where "floating" units have been permitted.

18-IV.D. HAP CONTRACT YEAR AND ANNIVERSARY DATES [24 CFR 983.302(e)]

The HAP contract year is the period of 12 calendar months preceding each annual anniversary of the HAP contract during the HAP contract term. The initial contract year is calculated from the first day of the first calendar month of the HAP contract term.

The annual anniversary of the HAP contract is the first day of the first calendar month after the end of the preceding contract year. There is a single annual anniversary date for all units under a particular HAP contract.

18-IV.E. OWNER RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THE HAP CONTRACT [24 CFR 983.210]

When the owner executes the HAP contract, he or she certifies that at such execution and at all times during the term of the HAP contract:

- All contract units are in good condition and the owner is maintaining the premises and contract units in accordance with HQS;
- The owner is providing all services, maintenance, equipment, and utilities as agreed to under the HAP contract and the leases;
- Each contract unit for which the owner is receiving HAP is leased to an eligible family referred by the PHA, and the lease is in accordance with the HAP contract and HUD requirements;
- To the best of the owner's knowledge, the family resides in the contract unit for which the owner is receiving HAP, and the unit is the family's only residence;
- The owner (including a principal or other interested party) is not the spouse, parent, child, grandparent, grandchild, sister, or brother of any member of a family residing in a contract unit;
- The amount of the HAP the owner is receiving is correct under the HAP contract;
- The rent for contract units does not exceed rents charged by the owner for comparable unassisted units;
- Except for HAP and tenant rent, the owner has not received and will not receive any other payment or consideration for rental of the contract unit;
- The family does not own or have any interest in the contract unit (this does not apply to the family's membership in a cooperative); and
- Repair work on the project selected as an existing project that is performed after HAP contract execution within such post-execution period as specified by HUD may constitute development activity, and if determined to be development activity, the repair work undertaken shall be in compliance with Davis-Bacon wage requirements.

18-IV.F. VACANCY PAYMENTS [24 CFR 983.352(b)]

At the discretion of the PHA, the HAP contract may provide for vacancy payments to the owner for a PHA-determined period of vacancy extending from the beginning of the first calendar month after the move-out month for a period not exceeding two full months following the move-out month. The amount of the vacancy payment will be determined by the PHA and cannot exceed the monthly rent to owner under the assisted lease, minus any portion of the rental payment received by the owner, including amounts available from the tenant's security deposit.

PHA Policy

The PHA will provide vacancy payments to the owner. The HAP contract with the owner will contain the amount of the vacancy payment and the period for which the owner will qualify for these payments.

PART V: SELECTION OF PBV PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

18-V.A. OVERVIEW

Many of the provisions of the tenant-based voucher regulations [24 CFR 982] also apply to the PBV program. This includes requirements related to determining eligibility and selecting applicants from the waiting list. Even with these similarities, there are requirements that are unique to the PBV program. This part describes the requirements and policies related to eligibility and admission to the PBV program.

18-V.B. PROHIBITED RESCREENING OF EXISTING TENANTS UPON CONVERSION [Notice PIH 2012-32, REV-3]

Current households cannot be excluded from occupancy at the covered project based on any rescreening, income eligibility, or income targeting provisions. Consequently, current households will be grandfathered for application of any eligibility criteria to conditions that occurred prior to conversion but will be subject to any ongoing eligibility requirements for actions that occur after conversion. Post-conversion, the tenure of all residents of the covered project is protected pursuant to PBV requirements regarding continued occupancy unless explicitly modified by Notice PIH 2012-32, REV-3 (e.g., rent phase-in provisions). For example, a unit with a household that was over-income at time of conversion would continue to be treated as an assisted unit. Thus, 24 CFR 982.201, concerning eligibility and targeting, will not apply for current households. Once that remaining household moves out, the unit must be leased to an eligible family. Existing residents at the time of conversion may not be rescreened for citizenship status or have their social security numbers reverified.

Further, so as to facilitate the right to return to the assisted property, this provision must apply to current public housing residents of the converting project that will reside in non-RAD PBV units placed in a project that contain RAD PBV units. Such families and such contract units will otherwise be subject to all requirements of the applicable program, specifically 24 CFR 983 for non-RAD PBV.

For the RAD PBV program, *in-place family* means a family who lived in a pre-conversion property at the time assistance was converted from public housing to PBV under RAD.

18-V.C. ELIGIBILITY FOR PBV ASSISTANCE [24 CFR 983.251(a) and (b)]

Applicants for PBV assistance must meet the same eligibility requirements as applicants for the tenant-based voucher program. Applicants must qualify as a family as defined by HUD and the PHA, have income at or below HUD-specified income limits, and qualify on the basis of citizenship or the eligible immigration status of family members [24 CFR 982.201(a) and 24 CFR 983.2(a)]. In addition, an applicant family must provide social security information for family members [24 CFR 5.216 and 5.218] and consent to the PHA's collection and use of family information regarding income, expenses, and family composition [24 CFR 5.230]. The PHA may also not approve a tenancy if the owner (including a principal or other interested party) of the unit is the parent, child, grandparent, grandchild, sister, or brother of any member of the family, unless needed as a reasonable accommodation. An applicant family must also meet HUD requirements related to current or past criminal activity.

PHA Policy

The PHA will determine an applicant family's eligibility for the RAD PBV program in accordance with the policies in Chapter 3.

**18-V.D. ORGANIZATION OF THE WAITING LIST [24 CFR 983.251(c);
Notice PIH 2012-32, REV-3]**

The standard PBV regulations at 24 CFR 983.251 set out program requirements related to establishing and maintaining a voucher-wide, PBV program-wide, or site-based waiting list from which residents will be admitted. These provisions will apply unless the project is covered by a remedial order or agreement that specifies the type of waiting list and other waiting list policies.

PHA Policy.

The PHA will establish and manage separate waiting lists for individual projects or buildings that are receiving RAD PBV assistance. The PHA currently has waiting lists for the following RAD PBV projects:

[Insert list of projects/buildings receiving PBV assistance for which separate waiting lists are maintained].

For any applicants on the public housing waiting list that are likely to be ineligible for admission to a covered project converting to PBV because the household's TTP is likely to exceed the RAD gross rent, the PHA will consider transferring such household, consistent with program requirements for administration of waiting lists, to the PHA's remaining public housing waiting lists or to another voucher waiting list, in addition to transferring such household to the waiting list for the covered project.

To the extent any wait list relies on the date and time of application, the applicants shall have priority on the wait lists to which their application was transferred in accordance with the date and time of their application to the original waiting list.

The PHA will maintain the project-specific waiting list in accordance with all applicable civil rights and fair housing regulations found at 24 CFR 903.7(b)(2)(ii)-(iv). The PHA will provide applicants full information about each development, including an estimate of the wait time, location, occupancy, number and size of accessible units, and amenities like day care, security, transportation, and training programs at each development with a site-based waiting list. The system for selection will be consistent with all applicable civil rights and fair housing laws and regulations and may not be in conflict with any imposed or pending court order, settlement agreement, or complaint brought by HUD.

The PHA will assess any changes in racial, ethnic or disability-related tenant composition at each PHA site that may have occurred during the implementation of the site-based waiting list, based on confirmed and accurate PIC occupancy data. At least every three years, the PHA will use independent testers to assure that the site-based system is not being implemented in a discriminatory manner.

18-V.E. SELECTION FROM THE WAITING LIST [24 CFR 983.251(c)]

After conversion to RAD PBV, applicants who will occupy units with RAD PBV assistance must be selected from the PHA's waiting list. The PHA may establish selection criteria or preferences for occupancy of particular PBV units.

Income Targeting [24 CFR 983.251(c)(6); Notice PIH 2012-32, REV-3]

At least 75 percent of the families admitted to the PHA's tenant-based and project-based voucher programs during the PHA fiscal year from the waiting list must be extremely-low income families. The income targeting requirement applies to the total of admissions to both programs.

Families in place at the time of the conversion are exempt from income targeting requirements. New admissions follow standard PBV requirements.

Units with Accessibility Features [24 CFR 983.251(c)(7)]

When selecting families to occupy PBV units that have special accessibility features for persons with disabilities, the PHA must first refer families who require such features to the owner.

Preferences [24 CFR 983.251(d); FR Notice 11/24/08; Notice PIH 2012-32, REV-3]

The PHA may use the same selection preferences that are used for the tenant-based voucher program, establish selection criteria or preferences for the PBV program as a whole, or for occupancy of particular PBV developments or units.

The PHA may establish a selection preference for families who qualify for voluntary services, including disability-specific services, offered in conjunction with assisted units, provided that preference is consistent with the PHA plan. The PHA may not, however, grant a preference to a person with a specific disability [FR Notice 1/18/17].

In advertising such a project, the owner may advertise the project as offering services for a particular type of disability; however, the project must be open to all otherwise eligible persons with disabilities who may benefit from services provided in the project. In these projects, residents with disabilities may not be required to accept the particular services offered as a condition of occupancy.

PHA Policy

The PHA will not offer any preferences for the RAD PBV program or for particular PBV projects or units.

18-V.F. OFFER OF PBV ASSISTANCE

Refusal of Offer [24 CFR 983.251(e)(3)]

The PHA is prohibited from taking any of the following actions against a family who has applied for, received, or refused an offer of PBV assistance:

- Refusing to list the applicant on the waiting list for tenant-based voucher assistance
- Denying any admission preference for which the applicant qualifies
- Changing the applicant's place on the waiting list based on preference, date, and time of application, or other factors affecting selection under the PHA's selection policy
- Removing the applicant from the tenant-based voucher waiting list

Disapproval by Landlord [24 CFR 983.251(e)(2)]

If a PBV owner rejects a family for admission to the owner's units, such rejection may not affect the family's position on the tenant-based voucher waiting list.

Acceptance of Offer [24 CFR 983.252]

Family Briefing

When a family accepts an offer for PBV assistance, the PHA must give the family an oral briefing. The briefing must include information on how the program works and the responsibilities of the family and owner. In addition to the oral briefing, the PHA must provide a briefing packet that explains how the PHA determines the total tenant payment for a family, the family obligations under the program, and applicable fair housing information.

Persons with Disabilities

If an applicant family's head or spouse is disabled, the PHA must assure effective communication, in accordance with 24 CFR 8.6, in conducting the oral briefing and in providing the written information packet. This may include making alternative formats available (see Chapter 2). In addition, the PHA must have a mechanism for referring a family that includes a member with a mobility impairment to an appropriate accessible PBV unit.

Persons with Limited English Proficiency

The PHA should take reasonable steps to assure meaningful access by persons with limited English proficiency in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Executive Order 13166 (see Chapter 2).

18-V.G. OWNER SELECTION OF TENANTS

The owner is responsible for developing written tenant selection procedures that are consistent with the purpose of improving housing opportunities for very low-income families and reasonably related to program eligibility and an applicant's ability to fulfill their obligations under the lease. An owner must promptly notify in writing any rejected applicant of the grounds for any rejection [24 CFR 983.253(a)(2) and (a)(3)].

Leasing [24 CFR 983.253(a)]

During the term of the HAP contract, the owner must lease contract units to eligible families that are selected and referred by the PHA from the PHA's waiting list. The contract unit leased to the family must be the appropriate size unit for the size of the family, based on the PHA's subsidy standards.

Filling Vacancies [24 CFR 983.254(a)]

The owner must promptly notify the PHA of any vacancy or expected vacancy in a contract unit. After receiving such notice, the PHA must make every reasonable effort to promptly refer a sufficient number of families for the owner to fill such vacancies. The PHA and the owner must make reasonable efforts to minimize the likelihood and length of any vacancy.

PHA Policy

The owner must notify the PHA in writing (mail, fax, or e-mail) within five business days of learning about any vacancy or expected vacancy.

The PHA will make every reasonable effort to refer families to the owner within 10 business days of receiving such notice from the owner.

18-V.H. TENANT SCREENING [24 CFR 983.255]

PHA Responsibility

The PHA is not responsible or liable to the owner or any other person for the family's behavior or suitability for tenancy. However, the PHA may opt to screen applicants for family behavior or suitability for tenancy and may deny applicants based on such screening.

PHA Policy

The PHA will not conduct screening to determine a PBV applicant family's suitability for tenancy.

The PHA must provide the owner with an applicant family's current and prior address (as shown in PHA records) and the name and address (if known by the PHA) of the family's current landlord and any prior landlords.

In addition, the PHA may offer the owner other information the PHA may have about a family, including information about the tenancy history of family members or about drug trafficking and criminal activity by family members. The PHA must provide applicant families a description of the PHA policy on providing information to owners, and the PHA must give the same types of information to all owners.

The PHA may not disclose to the owner any confidential information provided in response to a request for documentation of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, except at the written request or with the written consent of the individual providing the documentation [24 CFR 5.2007(c)].

PHA Policy

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

Owner Responsibility

The owner is responsible for screening and selection of the family to occupy the owner's unit. When screening families the owner may consider a family's background with respect to the following factors:

- Payment of rent and utility bills
- Caring for a unit and premises
- Respecting the rights of other residents to the peaceful enjoyment of their housing
- Drug-related criminal activity or other criminal activity that is a threat to the health, safety, or property of others
- Compliance with other essential conditions of tenancy

PART VI: OCCUPANCY

18-VI.A. OVERVIEW

After an applicant has been selected from the waiting list, determined eligible by the PHA, referred to an owner, and determined suitable by the owner, the family will sign the lease and occupancy of the unit will begin.

18-VI.B. LEASE [24 CFR 983.256; Notice PIH 2012-32, REV-3]

The tenant must have legal capacity to enter into a lease under state and local law. *Legal capacity* means that the tenant is bound by the terms of the lease and may enforce the terms of the lease against the owner.

The tenant and the owner must enter into a written lease agreement that is signed by both parties. The tenancy addendum must include, word-for-word, all provisions required by HUD.

Lease Requirements [24 CFR 983.256(c); Notice PIH 2012-32, REV-3]

The lease for a PBV unit must specify all of the following information:

- The names of the owner and the tenant;
- The unit rented (address, apartment number, if any, and any other information needed to identify the leased contract unit);
- The term of the lease (initial term and any provision for renewal);
- The amount of the tenant rent to owner, which is subject to change during the term of the lease in accordance with HUD requirements;
- A specification of the services, maintenance, equipment, and utilities that will be provided by the owner; and
- The amount of any charges for food, furniture, or supportive services.

The PHA must include resident procedural rights for termination notification and grievance procedures in the owner's lease. These requirements are not part of the regular PBV program but are required under RAD. An example of language that may be included can be found in Attachment-1E of Notice PIH 2012-32, REV-2.

Tenancy Addendum [24 CFR 983.256(d)]

The tenancy addendum in the lease must state:

- The program tenancy requirements
- The composition of the household as approved by the PHA (the names of family members and any PHA-approved live-in aide)

All provisions in the HUD-required tenancy addendum must be included in the lease. The terms of the tenancy addendum prevail over other provisions of the lease.

Initial Term and Lease Renewal [24 CFR 983.256(f); PBV Quick Reference Guide (10/14)]

Leases for residents who will remain in place (i.e., who will not be relocated solely as a result of conversion) must have an effective date that coincides with—and must be signed on or before—the effective date of the RAD PBV HAP contract.

The initial lease term must be for at least one year. The lease must provide for automatic renewal after the initial term of the lease in either successive definitive terms (e.g., month-to-month or year-to-year) or an automatic indefinite extension of the lease term. For automatic indefinite extension of the lease term, the lease terminates if any of the following occur:

- The owner terminates the lease for good cause
- The tenant terminates the lease
- The owner and tenant agree to terminate the lease
- The PHA terminates the HAP contract
- The PHA terminates assistance for the family

Changes in the Lease [24 CFR 983.256(e)]

If the tenant and owner agree to any change in the lease, the change must be in writing, and the owner must immediately give the PHA a copy of all changes.

The owner must notify the PHA in advance of any proposed change in the lease regarding the allocation of tenant and owner responsibilities for utilities. Such changes may only be made if approved by the PHA and in accordance with the terms of the lease relating to its amendment. The PHA must redetermine reasonable rent, in accordance with program requirements, based on any change in the allocation of the responsibility for utilities between the owner and the tenant. The redetermined reasonable rent will be used in calculation of the rent to owner from the effective date of the change.

Owner Termination of Tenancy [24 CFR 983.257; Notice PIH 2012-32, REV-3]

With two exceptions, the owner of a PBV unit may terminate tenancy for the same reasons an owner may in the tenant-based voucher program (see Section 12-III.B. and 24 CFR 982.310). In the PBV program, terminating tenancy for “good cause” does not include doing so for a business or economic reason, or a desire to use the unit for personal or family use or other non-residential purpose.

Projects converting from public housing to PBV under RAD have additional procedural rights that do not apply to the standard PBV program. These procedural rights must be included in the owner’s lease as well as the PHA’s administrative plan. In addition to the regulations at 24 CFR 983.257 related to project owner termination of tenancy and eviction (which MTW agencies may not alter) the termination procedure for RAD conversions to PBV will require that PHAs provide adequate written notice of termination of the lease which may not be less than:

- A reasonable period of time, but not to exceed 30 days:
 - If the health or safety of other tenants, PHA employees, or persons residing in the immediate vicinity of the premises is threatened; or
 - In the event of any drug-related or violent criminal activity or any felony conviction
- 14 days in the case of nonpayment of rent
- 30 days in any other case, except that if a state or local law provides for a shorter period of time, such shorter period will apply

Unlike in the standard PBV program, residents in converted projects have the right to request an informal hearing for issues that adversely affect the resident’s rights, obligations, welfare, or status with both the PHA and the project owner. See Chapter 16 Part III: Informal Reviews and Hearings for more information.

Tenant Absence from the Unit [24 CFR 983.256(g) and 982.312(a)]

The lease may specify a maximum period of family absence from the unit that may be shorter than the maximum period permitted by PHA policy. According to program requirements, the family’s assistance must be terminated if they are absent from the unit for more than 180 consecutive days. PHA termination of assistance actions due to family absence from the unit are subject to 24 CFR 982.312, except that the unit is not terminated from the HAP contract if the family is absent for longer than the maximum period permitted.

**Continuation of Housing Assistance Payments [24 CFR 983.258;
Notice PIH 2012-32, REV-3]**

Current residents living in the property prior to conversion are placed on and remain under the HAP contract when TTP equals or exceeds gross rent. In this case, until such time as the family's TTP falls below the gross rent, the family will pay the owner the lesser of their TTP minus the utility allowance or any applicable maximum rent under the LIHTC program. The family will continue to pay this amount until/if circumstances change and HAP is paid on their behalf. In other words, assistance may subsequently be reinstated if the tenant becomes eligible for assistance. In such cases, the resident is still considered a program participant. All of the family obligations and protections under RAD and standard PBV apply to the resident. Likewise, all requirements with respect to the unit, such as compliance with the HQS requirements, apply as long as the unit is under HAP contract.

Following conversion, 24 CFR 983.53(d) applies, and any new families referred to the RAD PBV project must be initially eligible for a HAP payment at admission to the program. Further, for any new families admitted after the conversion, assistance will be terminated 180 days after the last housing assistance payment on their behalf. The cessation of housing assistance payments does not affect the family's other rights under its lease, nor does it preclude the resumption of payments as a result of later changes in income, rents, or other relevant circumstances if such changes occur within the 180 day window. If a family's assistance is terminated as a result of their zero HAP status, the PHA must remove the unit from the HAP contract. If the project is fully assisted, the PHA must reinstate the unit after the family has vacated the property. If the project is partially assisted, the PHA may substitute a different unit for the unit on the HAP contract in accordance with 24 CFR 983.207.

PHA Policy

If a participating family who was admitted after the RAD conversion receive zero assistance and subsequently experiences a change in circumstances that would result in a HAP payment to the owner, the family must notify the PHA of the change and request an interim reexamination before the expiration of the 180-day period.

Security Deposits [24 CFR 983.259; PBV Quick Reference Guide (10/14)]

Owners are permitted to recognize security deposit amounts that have been previously provided by tenants who are in-place at the time of the RAD conversion. Otherwise the security deposit requirements for standard PBV apply.

The owner may collect a security deposit from the tenant. The PHA may prohibit security deposits in excess of private market practice, or in excess of amounts charged by the owner to unassisted tenants.

PHA Policy

The PHA will allow the owner to collect a security deposit amount the owner determines is appropriate.

When the tenant moves out of a contract unit, the owner, subject to state and local law, may use the security deposit, including any interest on the deposit, in accordance with the lease, as reimbursement for any unpaid tenant rent, damages to the unit, or other amounts owed by the tenant under the lease.

The owner must give the tenant a written list of all items charged against the security deposit and the amount of each item. After deducting the amount used to reimburse the owner, the owner must promptly refund the full amount of the balance to the tenant.

If the security deposit does not cover the amount owed by the tenant under the lease, the owner may seek to collect the balance from the tenant. The PHA has no liability or responsibility for payment of any amount owed by the family to the owner.

18-VLC. PUBLIC HOUSING FSS AND ROSS PARTICIPANTS [Notice PIH 2012-32, REV-3]

Current PH FSS participants will continue to be eligible for FSS once their housing is converted under RAD, and PHAs will be allowed to use any PH FSS funds granted previously or pursuant to the current fiscal year (FY) PH FSS notice of funding availability (NOFA), to serve those FSS participants who live in units converted to RAD and who will as a result be moving to the HCV FSS program. A PHA must convert the PH FSS program participants at the covered project to their HCV FSS program.

Residents who were converted from the PH FSS program to the HCV FSS program through RAD may not be terminated from the HCV FSS program or have HCV assistance withheld due to the participant's failure to comply with the contract of participation. Consequently, 24 CFR 984.303(b)(5)(iii) does not apply to FSS participants in converted properties.

At the completion of the FSS grant, PHAs should follow the normal closeout procedures outlined in the grant agreement. If the PHA continues to run an FSS program that serves PH and/or HCV participants, the PHA will continue to be eligible (subject to NOFA requirements) to apply for FSS funding and may use that funding to serve PH, HCV, and PBRA participants in its FSS program.

Current Resident Opportunities and Self-Sufficiency–Service Coordinators (ROSS–SC) program grantees will be able to finish out their current ROSS–SC grants once their housing is converted under RAD. However, once the property is converted, it will no longer be eligible to be counted towards the unit count for future public housing ROSS–SC grants.

At the completion of the ROSS-SC grant, PHAs should follow the normal closeout procedures outlined in the grant agreement. Please note that ROSS-SC grantees may be a non-profit or local resident association and this consequence of a RAD conversion may impact those entities.

18-VLD. RESIDENT PARTICIPATION AND FUNDING [Notice PIH 2012-32, REV-3]

Residents of covered projects converting assistance to PBVs will have the right to establish and operate a resident organization for the purpose of addressing issues related to their living environment and be eligible for resident participation funding.

18-VLE. MOVES

Overcrowded, Under-Occupied, and Accessible Units [24 CFR 983.260; Notice PIH 2012-32, REV-3]

All in-place tenants at the time of conversion are eligible to remain in the project. Over-housed families should be moved into appropriately sized units if such units are available in the new or rehabbed project. If appropriately sized units are not available, the existing tenants may continue to be over-housed until an appropriately sized unit becomes available or until the tenant leaves the project. Once the unit turns over, it must be leased to an appropriately sized family.

Following conversion, the standard PBV regulations apply. If the PHA determines that a family is occupying a wrong-size unit, based on the PHA's subsidy standards, or a unit with accessibility features that the family does not require, and the unit is needed by a family that does require the features, the PHA must promptly notify the family and the owner of this determination, and the PHA must offer the family the opportunity to receive continued housing assistance in another unit.

PHA Policy

The PHA will notify the family and the owner of the family's need to move based on the occupancy of a wrong-size or accessible unit within 10 business days of the PHA's determination. The PHA will offer the family the following types of continued assistance in the following order, based on the availability of assistance:

PBV assistance in the same building or project

PBV assistance in another project

Tenant-based voucher assistance

If the PHA offers the family a tenant-based voucher, the PHA must terminate the housing assistance payments for a wrong-size or accessible unit at the earlier of the expiration of the term of the family's voucher, including any extension granted by the PHA, or the date upon which the family vacates the unit. If the family does not move out of the wrong-size unit or accessible unit by the expiration of the term of the family's voucher, the PHA must remove the unit from the HAP contract.

If the PHA offers the family another form of assistance that is not a tenant-based voucher, and the family does not accept the offer, does not move out of the PBV unit within a reasonable time as determined by the PHA, or both, the PHA must terminate the housing assistance payments for the unit at the expiration of a reasonable period as determined by the PHA and remove the unit from the HAP contract.

PHA Policy

When the PHA offers a family another form of assistance that is not a tenant-based voucher, the family will be given 30 days from the date of the offer to accept the offer and move out of the PBV unit. If the family does not move out within this 30-day time frame, the PHA will terminate the housing assistance payments at the expiration of this 30-day period.

The PHA may make exceptions to this 30-day period if needed for reasons beyond the family's control such as death, serious illness, or other medical emergency of a family member.

Family Right to Move [24 CFR 983.261]

The family may terminate the lease at any time after the first year of occupancy. The family must give advance written notice to the owner in accordance with the lease and provide a copy of such notice to the PHA.

Choice Mobility [Notice PIH 2012-32, REV-3]

If the family wishes to move with continued tenant-based assistance, the family must contact the PHA to request the rental assistance prior to providing notice to terminate the lease. If the family terminates the lease in accordance with lease requirements, the PHA is required to offer the family the opportunity for continued tenant-based assistance, in the form of a voucher or other comparable tenant-based rental assistance. If a voucher or other comparable tenant-based assistance is not immediately available, the PHA must give the family priority to receive the next available opportunity for continued tenant-based assistance.

If the family terminates the assisted lease before the end of the first year, the family relinquishes the opportunity for continued tenant-based assistance.

PHA Policy:

Prior to providing notice to the owner to terminate the lease, the family may submit a written request to the PHA for a choice mobility voucher at any time after completing the 12-month occupancy requirement.

The family will remain eligible to request a choice mobility voucher as long as they continue living at the same covered project. If a family moves from one covered project to another covered project prior to completing their 12-month occupancy requirement, their 12-month clock will reset. The family must wait 12 months from the date of move at the new property before they may request another choice mobility voucher. If a family transfers to a different unit within the same covered project, the 12-month clock does not reset.

The PHA will maintain a combined, agency-wide waiting list for all standard PBV and RAD PBV families wishing to exercise mobility after one year of tenancy. This list will be maintained separately from the tenant-based HCV list. Families on the choice mobility waiting list will be given priority over families on the tenant-based waiting list. The choice mobility waiting list will be organized by date and time of the family's written request to exercise choice mobility. The list will also identify whether families live in standard or RAD PBV units.

Turnover Cap

If as a result of RAD, the total number of PBV units (including RAD PBV units) administered by the PHA exceeds 20 percent of the PHA's authorized units under its HCV ACC with HUD, the PHA may establish a turnover cap. The PHA is not required to provide more than three-quarters of its turnover vouchers in any single year to the residents of covered projects. If the PHA chooses to establish a turnover cap and the cap is implemented, the PHA must create and maintain a waiting list in the order requests from eligible households were received.

PHA Policy

As a result of RAD, the total number of PBV units (including RAD PBV units) administered by the PHA exceeds 20 percent of the PHA's authorized units under its HCV ACC with HUD. Therefore, the PHA will establish a choice mobility cap. The PHA will not provide more than three-quarters of its turnover vouchers in a single year to residents of covered projects.

Families who requested a choice mobility voucher and are denied due to the cap will be given priority the following year when choice mobility vouchers are again issued since the choice mobility list will be organized by the date and time of the family's request.

18-VI.F. REEXAMINATIONS [PBV Quick Reference Guide (10/14)]

A family living in a unit converted from public housing to RAD PBV may retain its certification date. Unless a family's annual reexamination is due at the same time as the effective date of the RAD PBV HAP contract, the PHA does not need to recertify tenants at the point of conversion. For each family residing in a unit undergoing conversion of assistance under RAD, the administering PHA will have to submit a form HUD-50058 reflecting the family's admission to the voucher program. The effective date of the new admission will be the same as the effective date of the RAD PBV HAP contract. The form should include the same information previously found on the public housing form 50058, including the next annual reexamination date.

18-VI.G. EARNED INCOME DISALLOWANCE [Notice PIH 2012-32, REV-3]

Tenants who are employed and are currently receiving the EID exclusion at the time of conversion will continue to receive the EID after conversion, in accordance with regulations at 24 CFR 5.617. Upon the expiration of the EID for such families, the rent adjustment will not be subject to rent phase-in; instead, the rent will automatically rise to the appropriate rent level based upon tenant income at that time.

Under the HCV program, the EID exclusion is limited to only persons with disabilities [24 CFR 5.617(b)]. In order to allow all tenants (including non-disabled persons) who are employed and currently receiving the EID at the time of conversion to continue to benefit from this exclusion in the PBV project, the provision in section 5.617(b) limiting EID to only persons with disabilities is waived. The waiver and resulting alternative requirement only applies to tenants receiving the EID at the time of conversion. No other tenant, such as tenants who at one time received the EID but are not receiving the EID exclusion at the time of conversion (e.g., due to loss of employment), tenants that move into the property following conversion, etc., is covered by this waiver.

18-VI.H. RESIDENTS' PROCEDURAL RIGHTS [Notice PIH 2012-32, REV-3]

HUD is incorporating additional termination notification requirements for public housing projects that convert assistance under RAD to PBV beyond those for the standard PBV program. In addition to the regulations at 24 CFR 983.257 related to owner termination of tenancy and eviction (which MTW agencies may not alter) the termination procedure for RAD conversions to PBV require that PHAs provide adequate written notice of termination of the lease, which is no less than:

- A reasonable period of time, but not to exceed 30 days:
 - If the health or safety of other tenants, project owner employees, or persons residing in the immediate vicinity of the premises is threatened; or
 - In the event of any drug-related or violent criminal activity or any felony conviction.
- Not less than 14 days in the case of nonpayment of rent
- Not less than 30 days in any other case, except that if a state or local law provides for a shorter period of time, such shorter period will apply

18-VI. INFORMAL REVIEWS AND HEARINGS [Notice PIH 2012-32, REV-3]

Unlike in the standard PBV program, residents in converted projects have the right to request an informal hearing for issues that adversely affect the resident's rights, obligations, welfare, or status with both the PHA and the project owner.

In addition to reasons for an informal hearing listed at 24 CFR 982.555(a)(1)(i)–(vi) (See 16-III.C. Informal Hearings for Participants), an opportunity for an informal hearing must be given to residents for any dispute that a resident may have with respect to an owner action in accordance with the individual's lease or the contract administrator in accordance with RAD PBV requirements that adversely affect the resident's rights, obligations, welfare, or status.

- For any hearing required under 24 CFR 982.555(a)(1)(i)–(vi), the contract administrator will perform the hearing, as is the current standard in the program.
- For any additional hearings required under RAD, the PHA (as owner) will perform the hearing.

An informal hearing will not be required for class grievances or for disputes between residents not involving the PHA (as owner) or contract administrator. This hearing requirement does not apply to and is not intended as a forum for initiating or negotiating policy changes between a group or groups of residents and the PHA (as owner) or contract administrator.

The PHA (as owner) must give residents notice of their ability to request an informal hearing as outlined in 24 CFR 982.555(c)(1) for informal hearings that will address circumstances that fall outside of the scope of 24 CFR 982.555(a)(1)(i)–(vi). (See Chapter 16)

The PHA (as owner) must provide an opportunity for an informal hearing before an eviction.

PART VII: DETERMINING CONTRACT RENT

18-VII.A. INITIAL CONTRACT RENTS [Notice PIH 2012-32, REV-3]

RAD conversions are intended to be cost-neutral, and therefore, should not exceed current public housing funding as adjusted for unit size. Since public housing units do not currently have contract rents, HUD provides an estimate of current contract rents for each PHA's public housing units based on current funding as adjusted by bedroom size. Current funding includes operating subsidy, tenant rents, capital funds, replacement housing factor funds (RHF), and demolition disposition transitional funding (DDTF). The funding may limit the amount of initial rent for a property. A detailed explanation of the determination of current funding may be found in Attachment 1C of Notice PIH 2012-32, REV-2. Once the current funding amount is calculated, the amount is adjusted by bedroom size to determine the current funding rent. HUD uses the same bedroom adjustment factors as in the metropolitan FMR schedules where the project is located.

PHAs may adjust subsidy (and contract rents) across multiple projects as long as the PHA does not exceed the aggregate subsidy for all of the projects the PHA has submitted for conversion under RAD. This use, which HUD refers to as "bundled" rents, is permissible when a PHA submits applications for two or more projects. There is no limit to the number of projects that a PHA may bundle.

Notwithstanding the current funding level, the initial rents are set at the lower of:

- 110 percent of the fair market rent (FMR) or the PHA's exception payment standard approved by HUD, or the alternate rent cap in a PHA's MTW agreement
- Reasonable rent in comparison to the unassisted housing market
- An amount determined by current funding
 - Adjusted through rent bundling or reconfiguration of units

18-VII.B. ADJUSTING CONTRACT RENTS [Notice PIH 2012-32, REV-3; PBV Quick Reference Guide (10/14)]

Contract rents will be adjusted annually by HUD's operating cost adjustment factor (OCAF) at each anniversary of the HAP contract, subject to the availability of appropriations for each year of the contract term. As such, section 8(o)(13)(I) of the 1937 Act, and 24 CFR 983.301 and 983.302, concerning rent determinations, do not apply when adjusting rents. The rent to owner may at no time exceed the reasonable rent charged for comparable unassisted units in the private market, as determined by the contract administrator in accordance with 24 CFR 983.303.

Contract rents may not exceed the reasonable rent, with the exception that the contract rent for each unit may not be reduced below the initial contract rent under the initial HAP contract.

However, the rent to owner may fall below the initial contract rent in the following situations:

- To correct errors in calculations in accordance with HUD requirements
- If additional housing assistance has been combined with PBV assistance after the execution of the initial HAP contract and a rent decrease is required pursuant to 983.55 (prohibition of excess public assistance)
- If a decrease in rent to owner is required based on changes in the allocation of responsibility for utilities between the owner and the tenant

The contract rent adjustment will be the lesser of:

- The current contract rent increased by the operating cost adjustment factor (OCAF), which is published annually in the *Federal Register*; or
- The reasonable rent

The administering PHA (or independent entity, if the project is PHA-owned) is responsible for processing rent adjustments, at each contract anniversary date, in accordance with the prevailing OCAF.

At least 120 days before the contract anniversary date, HUD recommends that the owner submit the OCAF rent adjustment worksheet (Form HUD-9625) to the PHA administering the PBV assistance (or the independent entity). The PHA will validate the data on the form and determine whether the rent exceeds the reasonable rent charged for comparable unassisted units in the private market, in accordance with 24 CFR 983.303. If rents would be unreasonable following application of the requested OCAF, then the rent can only be increased up to the reasonable rent. The approved rent adjustment will go into effect and the new rents to owner will take effect on the date of the contract anniversary.

Rent Decrease

Rents must not be reduced below the initial rent except to correct errors, for additional subsidy to the property, or to realign utility responsibilities.

**18-VII.C. UTILITY ALLOWANCES [Notice PIH 2012-32, REV-3;
PBV Quick Reference Guide (10/14)]**

When contract rent amounts are set initially, the amount does not include a utility allowance. In general, the utility allowances that are used on the initial HAP contract at closing are the public housing utility allowances that are in effect prior to conversion. The CHAP must be updated prior to conversion to reflect current public housing utility allowances. At its discretion, a PHA may use the FMRs and utility allowances in effect during the 30-day period immediately before the beginning date of the HAP contract. A PHA may request a waiver from HUD in order to establish a site-specific utility allowance schedule.

After conversion, unless a waiver is requested and approved by HUD, the PHA must maintain a utility allowance schedule for tenant-paid utilities in accordance with standard PBV and HCV utility allowance regulations at 24 CFR 983.301(f)(2)(ii) and 24 CFR 982.517 respectively. These utility allowances are effective for in-place families at recertification.

PHA Policy

The PHA will use the HCV utility allowance schedule for the RAD developments.

18-VII.D. REASONABLE RENT [24 CFR 983.303]

At the time the initial rent is established and all times during the term of the HAP contract, the rent to owner for a contract unit may not exceed the reasonable rent for the unit as determined by the PHA, except rents must not be reduced below the initial rent except to correct errors, for additional subsidy to the property, or to realign utility responsibilities.

How to Determine Reasonable Rent

The reasonable rent of a unit receiving PBV assistance must be determined by comparison to rent for other comparable unassisted units. When making this determination, the PHA must consider factors that affect market rent. Such factors include the location, quality, size, type and age of the unit, as well as the amenities, housing services maintenance, and utilities to be provided by the owner.

Comparability Analysis

For each unit, the comparability analysis must use at least three comparable units in the private unassisted market. This may include units in the premises or project that is receiving project-based assistance. The analysis must show how the reasonable rent was determined, including major differences between the contract units and comparable unassisted units, and must be retained by the PHA. The comparability analysis may be performed by PHA staff or by another qualified person or entity. Those who conduct these analyses or are involved in determining the housing assistance payment based on the analyses may not have any direct or indirect interest in the property.

PHA-Owned Units

For PHA-owned units, the amount of the reasonable rent must be determined by an independent agency approved by HUD in accordance with PBV program requirements. The independent entity must provide a copy of the determination of reasonable rent for PHA-owned units to the PHA and to the HUD field office where the project is located.

PART VIII: PAYMENTS TO OWNER

18-VIII.A. HOUSING ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS

During the term of the HAP contract, the PHA must make housing assistance payments to the owner in accordance with the terms of the HAP contract. During the term of the HAP contract, payments must be made for each month that a contract unit complies with HQS and is leased to and occupied by an eligible family. The housing assistance payment must be paid to the owner on or about the first day of the month for which payment is due, unless the owner and the PHA agree on a later date.

Except for discretionary vacancy payments, the PHA may not make any housing assistance payment to the owner for any month after the month when the family moves out of the unit (even if household goods or property are left in the unit).

The amount of the housing assistance payment by the PHA is the rent to owner minus the tenant rent (total tenant payment minus the utility allowance).

In order to receive housing assistance payments, the owner must comply with all provisions of the HAP contract. Unless the owner complies with all provisions of the HAP contract, the owner does not have a right to receive housing assistance payments.

18-VIII.B. VACANCY PAYMENTS [24 CFR 983.352]

If an assisted family moves out of the unit, the owner may keep the housing assistance payment for the calendar month when the family moves out. However, the owner may not keep the payment if the PHA determines that the vacancy is the owner's fault.

PHA Policy

If the PHA determines that the owner is responsible for a vacancy and as a result is not entitled to keep the housing assistance payment, the PHA will notify the landlord of the amount of housing assistance payment that the owner must repay. The PHA will require the owner to repay the amount owed in accordance with the policies in Section 16-IV.B.

At the discretion of the PHA, the HAP contract may provide for vacancy payments to the owner. The PHA may only make vacancy payments if:

- The owner gives the PHA prompt, written notice certifying that the family has vacated the unit and identifies the date when the family moved out (to the best of the owner's knowledge);
- The owner certifies that the vacancy is not the fault of the owner and that the unit was vacant during the period for which payment is claimed;
- The owner certifies that it has taken every reasonable action to minimize the likelihood and length of vacancy; and
- The owner provides any additional information required and requested by the PHA to verify that the owner is entitled to the vacancy payment.

The owner must submit a request for vacancy payments in the form and manner required by the PHA and must provide any information or substantiation required by the PHA to determine the amount of any vacancy payment.

PHA Policy

If an owner's HAP contract calls for vacancy payments to be made, and the owner wishes to receive vacancy payments, the owner must have properly notified the PHA of the vacancy in accordance with the policy in Section 18-V.G. regarding filling vacancies.

In order for a vacancy payment request to be considered, it must be made within 10 business days of the end of the period for which the owner is requesting the vacancy payment. The request must include the required owner certifications and the PHA may require the owner to provide documentation to support the request. If the owner does not provide the information requested by the PHA within 10 business days of the PHA's request, no vacancy payments will be made.

18-VIII.C. TENANT RENT TO OWNER [24 CFR 983.353]

The tenant rent is the portion of the rent to owner paid by the family. The amount of tenant rent is determined by the PHA in accordance with HUD requirements. Any changes in the amount of tenant rent will be effective on the date stated in the PHA notice to the family and owner.

The family is responsible for paying the tenant rent (total tenant payment minus the utility allowance). The amount of the tenant rent determined by the PHA is the maximum amount the owner may charge the family for rental of a contract unit. The tenant rent covers all housing services, maintenance, equipment, and utilities to be provided by the owner. The owner may not demand or accept any rent payment from the tenant in excess of the tenant rent as determined by the PHA. The owner must immediately return any excess payment to the tenant.

Tenant and PHA Responsibilities

The family is not responsible for the portion of rent to owner that is covered by the housing assistance payment and the owner may not terminate the tenancy of an assisted family for nonpayment by the PHA.

Likewise, the PHA is responsible only for making the housing assistance payment to the owner in accordance with the HAP contract. The PHA is not responsible for paying tenant rent, or any other claim by the owner, including damage to the unit. The PHA may not use housing assistance payments or other program funds (including administrative fee reserves) to pay any part of the tenant rent or other claim by the owner.

Utility Reimbursements

If the amount of the utility allowance exceeds the total tenant payment, the PHA must pay the amount of such excess to the tenant as a reimbursement for tenant-paid utilities, and the tenant rent to the owner must be zero.

The PHA may pay the utility reimbursement directly to the family or to the utility supplier on behalf of the family. If the PHA chooses to pay the utility supplier directly, the PHA must notify the family of the amount paid to the utility supplier.

PHA Policy

The PHA will make utility reimbursements directly to the family.

18-VIII.D. PHASE-IN OF TENANT RENT INCREASES [Notice PIH 2012-32, REV-3]

For in-place tenants, if a tenant's monthly rent increases by more than the greater of 10 percent or \$25 purely as a result of conversion, the rent increase will be phased in over three years. To implement this provision, HUD is waiving section 3(a)(1) of the 1937 Act, as well as 24 CFR 983.3 (definition of *total tenant payment (TTP)*) only to the extent necessary to allow for the phase-in of tenant rent increases. For families who were on EID at the time of conversion to RAD PBV, upon the expiration of the EID, the rent adjustment is not subject to rent phase-in.

PHA Policy

The PHA will implement a three-year phase-in for in-place families whose rent increases by more than the greater of 10 percent or \$25 as a result of the conversion as follows:

Year 1: Any recertification (interim or annual) performed prior to the second annual recertification after conversion: 33 percent of the difference between the most recently paid TTP and the calculated PBV TTP

Year 2: Year 2 annual recertification (AR) and any interim recertification (IR): 50 percent of the difference between the most recently paid TTP and the calculated PBV TTP

Year 3: Year 3 AR and all subsequent recertifications: Full calculated TTP

Once the standard TTP is equal to or less than the previous TTP, the phase-in ends and tenants will pay full TTP from that point forward.

18.VIII.E. OTHER FEES AND CHARGES [24 CFR 983.354]

Meals and Supportive Services

With the exception of PBV assistance in assisted living developments, the owner may not require the tenant to pay charges for meals or supportive services. Non-payment of such charges is not grounds for termination of tenancy.

In assisted living developments receiving PBV assistance, the owner may charge for meals or supportive services. These charges may not be included in the rent to owner, nor may the value of meals and supportive services be included in the calculation of the reasonable rent. However, non-payment of such charges is grounds for termination of the lease by the owner in an assisted living development.

Other Charges by Owner

The owner may not charge extra amounts for items customarily included in rent in the locality or provided at no additional cost to unsubsidized tenants in the premises.

**Certifications of Compliance with
PHA Plans and Related Regulations
(Standard, Troubled, HCV-Only, and
High Performer PHAs)**

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Office of Public and Indian Housing
OMB No. 2577-0226
Expires 02/29/2016

**PHA Certifications of Compliance with the PHA Plan and Related Regulations including
Required Civil Rights Certifications**

Acting on behalf of the Board of Commissioners of the Public Housing Agency (PHA) listed below, as its Chairman or other authorized PHA official if there is no Board of Commissioners, I approve the submission of the ___ 5-Year and/or ___ Annual PHA Plan for the PHA fiscal year beginning _____, hereinafter referred to as "the Plan", of which this document is a part and make the following certifications and agreements with the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in connection with the submission of the Plan and implementation thereof:

1. The Plan is consistent with the applicable comprehensive housing affordability strategy (or any plan incorporating such strategy) for the jurisdiction in which the PHA is located.
2. The Plan contains a certification by the appropriate State or local officials that the Plan is consistent with the applicable Consolidated Plan, which includes a certification that requires the preparation of an Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice, for the PHA's jurisdiction and a description of the manner in which the PHA Plan is consistent with the applicable Consolidated Plan.
3. ~~The PHA has established a Resident Advisory Board or Boards, the membership of which represents the residents assisted by the PHA, consulted with this Resident Advisory Board or Boards in developing the Plan, including any changes or revisions to the policies and programs identified in the Plan before they were implemented, and considered the recommendations of the RAB (24 CFR 903.13). The PHA has included in the Plan submission a copy of the recommendations made by the Resident Advisory Board or Boards and a description of the manner in which the Plan addresses these recommendations.~~
4. The PHA made the proposed Plan and all information relevant to the public hearing available for public inspection at least 45 days before the hearing, published a notice that a hearing would be held and conducted a hearing to discuss the Plan and invited public comment.
5. The PHA certifies that it will carry out the Plan in conformity with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Fair Housing Act, section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.
6. The PHA will affirmatively further fair housing by examining their programs or proposed programs, identifying any impediments to fair housing choice within those programs, addressing those impediments in a reasonable fashion in view of the resources available and work with local jurisdictions to implement any of the jurisdiction's initiatives to affirmatively further fair housing that require the PHA's involvement and by maintaining records reflecting these analyses and actions.
7. For PHA Plans that includes a policy for site based waiting lists:
 - The PHA regularly submits required data to HUD's 50058 PIC/IMS Module in an accurate, complete and timely manner (as specified in PIH Notice 2010-25);
 - The system of site-based waiting lists provides for full disclosure to each applicant in the selection of the development in which to reside, including basic information about available sites; and an estimate of the period of time the applicant would likely have to wait to be admitted to units of different sizes and types at each site;
 - Adoption of a site-based waiting list would not violate any court order or settlement agreement or be inconsistent with a pending complaint brought by HUD;
 - The PHA shall take reasonable measures to assure that such a waiting list is consistent with affirmatively furthering fair housing;
 - The PHA provides for review of its site-based waiting list policy to determine if it is consistent with civil rights laws and certifications, as specified in 24 CFR part 903.7(c)(1).
8. The PHA will comply with the prohibitions against discrimination on the basis of age pursuant to the Age Discrimination Act of 1975.
9. The PHA will comply with the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 and 24 CFR Part 41, Policies and Procedures for the Enforcement of Standards and Requirements for Accessibility by the Physically Handicapped.
10. The PHA will comply with the requirements of section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968, Employment Opportunities for Low-or Very-Low Income Persons, and with its implementing regulation at 24 CFR Part 135.
11. The PHA will comply with acquisition and relocation requirements of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 and implementing regulations at 49 CFR Part 24 as applicable.

12. The PHA will take appropriate affirmative action to award contracts to minority and women's business enterprises under 24 CFR 5.105(a).
13. The PHA will provide the responsible entity or HUD any documentation that the responsible entity or HUD needs to carry out its review under the National Environmental Policy Act and other related authorities in accordance with 24 CFR Part 58 or Part 50, respectively.
14. With respect to public housing the PHA will comply with Davis-Bacon or HUD determined wage rate requirements under Section 12 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 and the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act.
15. The PHA will keep records in accordance with 24 CFR 85.20 and facilitate an effective audit to determine compliance with program requirements.
16. The PHA will comply with the Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act, the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992, and 24 CFR Part 35.
17. The PHA will comply with the policies, guidelines, and requirements of OMB Circular No. A-87 (Cost Principles for State, Local and Indian Tribal Governments), 2 CFR Part 225, and 24 CFR Part 85 (Administrative Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements to State, Local and Federally Recognized Indian Tribal Governments).
18. The PHA will undertake only activities and programs covered by the Plan in a manner consistent with its Plan and will utilize covered grant funds only for activities that are approvable under the regulations and included in its Plan.
19. All attachments to the Plan have been and will continue to be available at all times and all locations that the PHA Plan is available for public inspection. All required supporting documents have been made available for public inspection along with the Plan and additional requirements at the primary business office of the PHA and at all other times and locations identified by the PHA in its PHA Plan and will continue to be made available at least at the primary business office of the PHA.
22. The PHA certifies that it is in compliance with applicable Federal statutory and regulatory requirements, including the Declaration of Trust(s).

Grand Rapids Housing Commission
 PHA Name

MI073
 PHA Number/HA Code

Annual PHA Plan for Fiscal Year 2019

5-Year PHA Plan for Fiscal Years 20__ - 20__

I hereby certify that all the information stated herein, as well as any information provided in the accompaniment herewith, is true and accurate. **Warning:** HUD will prosecute false claims and statements. Conviction may result in criminal and/or civil penalties. (18 U.S.C. 1001, 1010, 1012; 31 U.S.C. 3729, 3802).

Name of Authorized Official Bobbie Butler	Title President
Signature 	Date 3/20/19

ATTACHMENT R

Civil Rights Certification
(Qualified PHAs)

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Office of Public and Indian Housing
OMB Approval No. 2577-0226
Expires 02/29/2016

Civil Rights Certification

Annual Certification and Board Resolution

Acting on behalf of the Board of Commissioners of the Public Housing Agency (PHA) listed below, as its Chairman or other authorized PHA official, I approve the submission of the 5-Year PHA Plan for the PHA of which this document is a part, and make the following certification and agreements with the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in connection with the submission of the public housing program of the agency and implementation thereof:

The PHA certifies that it will carry out the public housing program of the agency in conformity with title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Fair Housing Act, section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and will affirmatively further fair housing by examining their programs or proposed programs, identifying any impediments to fair housing choice within those program, addressing those impediments in a reasonable fashion in view of the resources available and working with local jurisdictions to implement any of the jurisdiction's initiatives to affirmatively further fair housing that require the PHA's involvement and by maintaining records reflecting these analyses and actions.

Grand Rapids Housing Commission

PHA Name

MI073

PHA Number/HA Code

I hereby certify that all the information stated herein, as well as any information provided in the accompaniment herewith, is true and accurate. **Warning:** HUD will prosecute false claims and statements. Conviction may result in criminal and/or civil penalties. (18 U.S.C. 1001, 1010, 1012; 31 U.S.C. 3729, 3802)

Name of Authorized Official Bobbie Butler	Title President
Signature <i>Bobbie Butler</i>	Date <i>3/20/17</i>

ATTACHMENT S

MINUTES OF MARCH 13, 2018

RESIDENT ADVISORY BOARD

The meeting of the Resident Advisory Board was held on March 13, 2018 in the conference room of the administrative building, 1420 Fuller, S.E., Grand Rapids, Michigan. The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:42 p.m.

Roll Call: Present: Angela Bunn, Peter Ferwerda

Absent: JoAnn Morris, Tiana Ortiz, Virgie Young, Leonard Webster,
Barbara Jones, Teresa Boileau

Also attending the meeting Carlos Sanchez, Hattie Tinney

MINUTES:

There was not a quorum present to approve the Minutes of December 12, 2017.

STAFF REPORT:

1. The Director presented the Board with the Annual Agency Plan. Highlights of the plan include building a new 50 unit development on South Division near Campau Commons to accommodate veterans and applying for HUD's Moving To Work program. The Director opened up discussion on the plan.

Angela Bunn asked if the new veteran's building would be for veterans from Battle Creek. The Director responded that the residents could come from Battle Creek but would also be from the Grand Rapids area. Angela also asked if we were serving people displaced by the recent hurricanes. The Director responded that we have not had much activity with that population most likely because of our high northern location.

Peter Ferwerda asked about the city of Grand Rapids giving money to the Housing Commission. The Director responded that the Housing Commission is not receiving funds, but the City is giving one million dollars to the Affordable Housing Community Fund. Peter also asked if that money was going to be used to build apartments. The Director explained that the funds will likely be used for down payment assistance, permits, fees and anything else that is deemed helpful towards the goal of more affordable housing in the community. The Housing Commission will be involved in choosing members to be on the Board and in administering the fund.

2. The Director informed the Board that Adams Park is no longer staffed by the two Pine Rest employees whose jobs were financed through Network 180. Because of this cutback, the Housing Commission replaced the then current Resident Services Support employee with a different one who has a Masters of Social Work. This will enable Adams Park to have Social Work interns there to bolster the staff presence and cover more of the needs of the residents. The Director noted that the residents of Adams Park submitted a petition to avoid the change of RSS staff, but the changes were necessary to cover the loss of staff.

3. The Director informed the Board that in order to increase the security and safety of Adams Park residents new security cameras are being purchased to cover the fifth floor, stairwells, and other areas that were not previously covered.

4. The Director informed the Board that due to the Network 180 staffing cuts at Adams Park, the preference that was in place for applicants that came from Network 180 has been eliminated.

5. The Director informed the Board about lease revisions for Ransom Tower. There will no longer be a surcharge for air conditioning or freezers.

6. The Director presented the Board with a table of the 2018 utility rates which was updated to include rates for air conditioning.

7. The Director informed the Board that the Housing Commission is submitting an LIHTC application for improvements at Hope Community which would include a new roof and other needed remodeling.

8. The Director informed the Board that the Housing Commission received a Continuum of Care grant for \$159,663 for Hope Community that will be used for supportive staff services at that site.

9. The Director informed the Board about the Housing Commission's involvement with the Affordable Housing Community Fund, as was mentioned in the discussion about the Agency Annual Plan.

10. The Director informed the Board that the Grand Rapids Housing Commission will be going forward with the application with HUD for the EnVision Center, a program to increase self-sufficiency for our clients. Although there is no HUD money for funding, it will be good for public relations and may help us in our Moving To Work application. The Housing Commission is already engaging in many of the activities that will be covered by the EnVision Center.

Comments:

Leonard Terrace: Peter Ferwerda brought up that there is significant damage to the lawn that was caused by the construction equipment. It needs to be repaired.

Hattie Tinney reported that she went to Leonard Terrace to inspect the new construction and frustrations that were reported with some of the remodeling. She reports that the kitchens are much improved, but acknowledges that there is less kitchen storage and the dark tone of countertops may make it hard for people with vision limitations to keep them clean. She also inspected the windows and noted that while it is true that residents will have to be closer to the window to see below, the windows are attractive and energy efficient.

Sheldon Apartments: Hattie Tinney reported that she inspected the dumpster at Sheldon Apartments, found that it is in need of repair, and has seen to it that those repairs have been scheduled.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Peter Ferwerda, supported by Angela Bunn, moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:12 pm.

ATTACHMENT T

**Certification by State or Local
Official of PHA Plans Consistency
with the Consolidated Plan or
State Consolidated Plan
(All PHAs)**

U. S Department of Housing and Urban Development
Office of Public and Indian Housing
OMB No. 2577-0226
Expires 2/29/2016

**Certification by State or Local Official of PHA Plans
Consistency with the Consolidated Plan or State Consolidated Plan**

I, Eric DeLong, the Interim City Manager, City of Grand Rapids
Official's Name *Official's Title*

certify that the 5-Year PHA Plan and/or Annual PHA Plan of the

Grand Rapids Housing Commission

PHA Name

is consistent with the Consolidated Plan or State Consolidated Plan and the Analysis of

Impediments (AI) to Fair Housing Choice of the

City of Grand Rapids

Local Jurisdiction Name

pursuant to 24 CFR Part 91.

Provide a description of how the PHA Plan is consistent with the Consolidated Plan or State Consolidated Plan and the AI.

The Grand Rapids Housing Commission 2018 Annual Agency Plan supports the affordable housing needs detailed in the City of Grand Rapids 2017-2021 Consolidated Housing & Community Development Plan.

I hereby certify that all the information stated herein, as well as any information provided in the accompaniment herewith, is true and accurate. **Warning:** HUD will prosecute false claims and statements. Conviction may result in criminal and/or civil penalties. (18 U.S.C. 1001, 1010, 1012; 31 U.S.C. 3729, 3802)

Name of Authorized Official

Eric DeLong

Signature

Title

Interim City Manager

Date

March 5, 2018

ATTACHMENT U

**GRAND RAPIDS HOUSING
COMMISSION**

**ADMISSIONS AND CONTINUED
OCCUPANCY POLICY
RANSOM TOWER APARTMENTS
(EXCERPTS)**

ACOP TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.0 FAIR HOUSING.....	5
2.0 REASONABLE ACCOMODATION	5
2.1 COMMUNICATION	6
2.2 QUESTIONS TO ASK IN GRANTING THE ACCOMMODATION	6
3.0 SERVICES FOR NON-ENGLISH SPEAKING APPLICANTS AND RESIDENTS... 7	
4.0 FAMILY OUTREACH.....	7
5.0 RIGHT TO PRIVACY	8
6.0 REQUIRED POSTINGS.....	8
7.0 TAKING APPLICATIONS	9
8.0 ELIGIBILITY FOR ADMISSION	10
8.1 INTRODUCTION.....	10
8.2 ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA	10
8.3 SUITABILITY	16
8.4 GROUNDS FOR DENIAL	18
8.5 INFORMAL REVIEW.....	19
9.0 MANAGING THE WAITING LIST	20
9.1 OPENING AND CLOSING THE WAITING LIST	20
9.2 ORGANIZATION OF THE WAITING LIST	20
9.3 FAMILIES NEARING THE TOP OF THE WAITING LIST	20
9.4 PURGING THE WAITING LIST	21
9.5 REMOVAL OF APPLICANTS FROM THE WAITING LIST	21
9.6 MISSED APPOINTMENTS	21
9.7 NOTIFICATION OF NEGATIVE ACTIONS.....	21
10.0 TENANT SELECTION AND ASSIGNMENT PLAN.....	22
10.1 PREFERENCES.....	22
10.2 ASSIGNMENT OF BEDROOM SIZES	23
10.3 OFFER OF UNIT	23
10.4 REJECTION OF UNIT	24
10.5 ACCEPTANCE OF UNIT	24
11.0 INCOME, EXCLUSIONS FROM INCOME, AND DEDUCTIONS FROM INCOME	
.....	25
11.1 ANNUAL INCOME	25
11.2 EXCLUSIONS FROM INCOME	27

11.3	DEDUCTIONS FROM ANNUAL INCOME	30
12.0	VERIFICATION	30
12.1	ACCEPTABLE METHODS OF VERIFICATION	31
12.3	VERIFICATION OF CITIZENSHIP OR ELIGIBLE NONCITIZEN STATUS	34
12.4	VERIFICATION OF SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS	35
12.5	TIMING OF VERIFICATION	36
12.6	FREQUENCY OF OBTAINING VERIFICATION	36
13.0	DETERMINATION OF TOTAL TENANT PAYMENT AND TENANT RENT	36
13.1	MINIMUM RENT	37
13.2	RENT FOR FAMILIES UNDER THE NON-CITIZEN RULE	38
13.3	UTILITY ALLOWANCE SURCHARGES	39
13.4	PAYING RENT	39
14.0	OTHER PAYMENTS UNDER THE LEASE	39
15.0	RECERTIFICATIONS	39
15.1	GENERAL	40
15.2	MISSED APPOINTMENT	40
15.3	EFFECTIVE DATE OF RENT CHANGES FOR ANNUAL RE-EXAMINATIONS	40
15.4	INTERIM RE-EXAMINATIONS	41
15.5	SPECIAL RE-EXAMINATIONS	39
15.6	EFFECTIVE DATE OF RENT CHANGES DUE TO INTERIM OR SPECIAL RE-EXAMINATIONS	39
16.0	UNIT TRANSFERS	42
16.1	OBJECTIVES OF THE TRANSFER POLICY	42
16.2	CATEGORIES OF TRANSFERS	42
16.3	DOCUMENTATION	43
16.4	PROCESSING TRANSFERS	43
16.5	COST OF THE FAMILY'S MOVE	43
16.6	TENANTS IN GOOD STANDING	44
16.7	TRANSFER REQUESTS	44
16.8	RIGHT OF THE GRAND RAPIDS HOUSING COMMISSION IN TRANSFER POLICY	44
17.0	INSPECTIONS	45
17.1	MOVE-IN INSPECTIONS	45
17.2	ANNUAL INSPECTIONS	45
17.3	PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE INSPECTIONS	45
17.4	SPECIAL INSPECTIONS	45
17.5	HOUSEKEEPING INSPECTIONS	45
17.6	NOTICE OF INSPECTION	46
17.7	EMERGENCY INSPECTIONS	46
17.8	PRE MOVE-OUT INSPECTIONS	46
17.9	MOVE-OUT INSPECTIONS	46
18.1	PET POLICY	46
18.1	EXCLUSIONS	46

18.2	APPROVAL	46
19.0	REPAYMENT AGREEMENTS	47
20.1	TERMINATION	47
20.1	TERMINATION BY TENANT	47
20.2	TERMINATION BY THE HOUSING COMMISSION	47
20.3	ABANDONMENT	48
20.4	RETURN OF SECURITY DEPOSIT	49
GLOSSARY	50
ACRONYMS	57

ADMISSIONS AND CONTINUED OCCUPANCY POLICY

This Admissions and Continued Occupancy Policy defines the Grand Rapids Housing Commission's policies for the operation of Ransom Tower Apartments (a Section 8 New Construction housing program), incorporating Federal, State and local law. If there is any conflict between this policy and laws and regulations, the laws and regulations will prevail.

1.0 FAIR HOUSING

It is the policy of the Grand Rapids Housing Commission 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.

No person shall, on the grounds of race, color, sex, religion, national or ethnic origin, familial status, ~~or~~ disability, or actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under the Grand Rapids Housing Commission's program.

To further its commitment to full compliance with applicable Civil Rights laws, the Grand Rapids Housing Commission will provide Federal/State/local information to applicants/tenants of its Housing Programs 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 Grand Rapids Housing Commission office. In addition, all written information and advertisements will contain the appropriate Equal Opportunity language and logo.

The Grand Rapids Housing Commission will assist any family that believes they have suffered illegal discrimination by providing them copies of the appropriate housing discrimination forms. The Grand Raids Housing Commission 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.

2.0 REASONABLE ACCOMODATION

Sometimes people with disabilities may need a reasonable accommodation in order to take full advantage of the Grand Rapids Housing Commission 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 Grand Rapids Housing Commission will follow in determining whether it is reasonable to provide a requested accommodation. Because disabilities are not always apparent, the

Persons with disabilities who require a reasonable accommodation in completing an application may call the Grand Rapids Housing Commission to make special arrangements. A Telecommunication Device for the Deaf (TDD) is available for the deaf. The TDD telephone number is 1-800-649-3777.

The application process will involve two (2) 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 Grand Rapids Housing Commission will make a preliminary determination of eligibility. The Grand Rapids Housing Commission 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 Grand Rapids Housing Commission 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. If applicants move, they must immediately notify the Housing Commission in writing of their new address. The only means by which the Housing Commission can contact applicants is through the mail. The Grand Rapids Housing commission 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 Grand Rapids Housing Commission 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 Ransom Tower Apartments.

8.0 ELIGIBILITY FOR ADMISSION

8.1 INTRODUCTION

There are six (6) eligibility requirements for admission to the Ransom Tower Apartments: qualifies as an elderly family, has an income within the income limits, meets citizenship/eligible immigrant criteria, provides documentation of Social Security numbers, ~~and~~ signs consent authorization documents, and meet Enterprise Income Verification (EIV) eligibility requirements. In addition to the eligibility criteria, families must also meet the Grand Rapids Housing Commission's screening criteria in order to be admitted to the Ransom Tower Apartments.

8.2 ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

A. Family Status.

1. 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 (2) or more persons who are at least 62 years of age living together; or
 - c. One (1) or more persons who are at least 62 years of age living with one or more live-in aides.
2. 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.
3. A **remaining member of a tenant family**, which is a person who is considered a member of the family on the most recent certification.

B. Income Eligibility,

1. To be eligible for admission, 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 Ransom Tower Apartments from another assisted housing program (e.g., tenant-based Section 8) or from a public housing program without meeting the income requirements of the Grand Rapids Housing Commission.
4. Income limit restrictions do not apply to families transferring within the Ransom Tower Apartments.

C. Citizenship/Eligibility Status.

1. To be eligible each member of the family must be a citizen, national, or a noncitizen 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)).
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 in Paragraph 2b.
- 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 noncitizen 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. Determining Eligibility of Students for Assistance

- 1. Management must determine a student's eligibility for Section 8 assistance at move-in, annual recertification, initial certification (when an in-place tenant begins receiving Section 8), and at the time of an interim recertification if one of the family composition changes reported is that a household member is enrolled as a student.
- 2. Section 8 assistance shall not be provided to any individual who:
 - a. Is enrolled as either a part-time or full-time student at an institution of higher education for the purpose of obtaining a degree, certificate, or other program leading to a recognized education credential; *and*
 - b. Is under the age of 24; *and*
 - c. Is not married *and*
 - d. Is not a veteran of the United States Military; *and*
 - e. Does not have a dependent child; *and*
 - f. Is not a person with disabilities, as such term is defined in 3(b)(3)(E) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437a(b)(3)(E)) and was not receiving Section 8 assistance as of November 30, 2005. *and*
 - g. Is not living with his or her parents who are receiving Section 8 assistance; *and*
 - h. Is not individually eligible to receive Section 8 assistance *or* has parents (the parents individually or jointly) who are not income eligible to receive Section 8 assistance.
- 3. For a student to be considered an independent student (where the income of the parents is not relevant), the student must demonstrate the absence of, or his or her independence from, parents. While owners may use additional criteria for determining the student's independence from parents, owners must

use, and the student must meet, at a minimum all of the following criteria to be eligible for Section 8 assistance. The student must:

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

4. A student will also be considered as an independent student if any of the following apply:

- a. The individual is 24 years of age or older by December 31 of the award year;
- b. The individual is an orphan, in foster care, or a ward of the court or was an orphan, in foster care, or a ward of the court at any time when the individual was 13 years of age or older;
- c. The individual is, or was immediately prior to attaining the age of majority, an emancipated minor or in legal guardianship as determined by a court of competent jurisdiction in the individual's State of legal residence;
- d. The individual is a veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States (as defined in subsection (c)(1) of HEA) or is currently serving on active duty in the Armed Forces for other than training purposes;
- e. The individual is a graduate or professional student;
- f. The individual is a married individual;
- g. The individual has legal dependents other than a spouse;
- h. The individual has been verified during the school year in which the application is submitted as either an unaccompanied youth who is a homeless child or youth (as such terms are defined in section 725 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act) ([42 U.S.C. 11431](#) *et seq.*), or as unaccompanied, at risk of homelessness, and self-supporting, by—
 - (i) a local educational agency homeless liaison, designated pursuant to section 722(g)(1)(J)(ii) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act;

(ii) the director of a program funded under the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act or a designee of the director;

(iii) the director of a program funded under subtitle B of title IV of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (relating to emergency shelter grants) or a designee of the director; or

(iv) a financial aid administrator; or

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

5. Any financial assistance a student receives (1) under the Higher Education Act of 1965, (2) from private sources, or (3) from an institution of higher education that is in excess of amounts received for tuition is included in annual income, except if the student is over the age of 23 with dependent children or if the student is living with his or her parents who are receiving Section 8 assistance.

6. If an ineligible student is a member of an existing household receiving Section 8 assistance, the assistance for the household will not be prorated but will be terminated in accordance with the guidance in paragraph 8-6 A.

NOTE: An owner cannot evict or require an ineligible student to move from a unit as long as the student is in compliance with the terms of the lease.

E. Social Security Number Documentation.

To be eligible, all household members of the applicant family must disclose and verify their assigned Social Security number. The Grand Rapids Housing Commission will deny the eligibility of the applicant family for failure to meet this criteria. However, if the family is otherwise eligible to participate in the program, the family may maintain their position on the waiting list for a 90-day period to comply with the Social Security number disclosure and verification requirements. If all household members have not disclosed and verified their Social Security number at the time a unit becomes available, the Grand Rapids Housing Commission must offer the available unit to the next eligible applicant family on the waiting list. If the family is still unable to meet the Social Security number disclosure and verification requirements at the expiration of the 90-day period, the Housing Commission will default the application.

In accordance with 24 CFR 5.216, applicants are required to disclose their assigned Social Security number with the exception of the following individuals:

1. Those individuals who do not contend to have eligible immigration status (individuals who may be unlawfully present in the United States). These

individuals in most instances would not be eligible for a Social Security number.

- a. A family that consists of a single household member (including a pregnant individual) who does not have eligible immigration status is **not eligible** for housing assistance and cannot be housed.
- b. A family that consists of two (2) or more household members **and at least one** household member that has eligible immigration status, is classified as a mixed family, and **is eligible** for prorated assistance in accordance with 24 CFR 5.520. The Grand Rapids Housing Commission will not deny assistance to mixed families due to nondisclosure of a Social Security number by an individual who does not contend to have eligible immigration status.

Acceptable means of documentation to verify the Social Security number is the original Social Security card. If the card is not available, the Grand Rapids Housing Commission will accept an original Social Security Administration issued document, which contains the name and Social Security number of the individual or an original document issued by a federal, state, or local government agency, which contains the name and Social Security number of the individual.

The Grand Rapids Housing Commission may reject documentation of the Social Security number provided by the applicant for only the following reasons:

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

Should the documentation be found to be unacceptable, Housing Commission staff will advise the applicant the reason(s) the document is not acceptable and request the individual to obtain acceptable documentation of the Social Security number and submit it to the Grand Rapids Housing Commission within 90 days. Should the applicant be unable to provide the acceptable documentation within the 90-day period, the application will be defaulted.

F. 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 Grand Rapids Housing Commission to obtain from the National Directory of New Hires (NDNH) 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 Grand Rapids Housing Commission 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 or the Grand Rapids Housing Commission 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; and
- d. 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.

F. Meet EIV eligibility requirements

Management will not knowingly assist applicants who will maintain a residence in addition to the HUD-assisted unit. This prohibition does not prevent a person who is currently receiving assistance from applying to another property. However, the assisted tenancy in the unit being vacated must end the day before the subsidy begins in the new unit. Management will use the Enterprise Income Verification System (EIV) to determine if the applicant or any member of the applicant household is currently receiving HUD assistance. Management will use the Existing Tenant Report to determine if the applicant or any member of the applicant household is receiving HUD assistance. Copies of the report will be maintained in the applicant or resident file in accordance with HUD record keeping requirements.

8.3 *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 lease. The Grand Rapids Housing Commission 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, Grand Rapids Housing Commission 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 Grand Rapids Housing Commission will consider objective and reasonable aspects of the family's background, including the following:
 - 1. History of meeting financial obligations, especially rent;
 - 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 Federal housing assistance program, including the intentional misrepresentation of information related to their housing application or benefits derived there from; and
6. History of abusing alcohol, other legal substances, or illegal substances in a way that may interfere with the health, safety, or right to peaceful enjoyment by others.

C. The Grand Rapids Housing Commission will ask applicants to provide information demonstrating their ability to comply with the essential elements of the lease. The Grand Rapids Housing Commission will verify the information provided. Such verification will include but may not be limited to the following:

1. A credit check of the head, spouse, and co-head;
2. A rental history check of all adult family members;
3. A criminal background check on all adult household members, including live-in aides. This check will be made through State or local law enforcement or court records. Where the individual has lived outside the local area, the Grand Rapids Housing Commission will contact law enforcement agencies where the individual had lived or request a check through the FBI's National Crime Information Center (NCIC);
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 individual registered with this program will be admitted to the Ransom Tower Apartments.

8.4 GROUND FOR DENIAL

The Grand Rapids Housing Commission 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. Lack sufficient or have unacceptable landlord references;
- E. Have a history of not meeting financial obligations, especially rent;
- F. 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;
- G. 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;
- H. Have a history of disturbing neighbors, destruction of property or housekeeping habits which may adversely affect the health, safety or welfare of other tenants or staff;
- I. Currently owes rent or other amounts to any housing authority in connection with their public housing or Section 8 programs;
- J. 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;
- K. Were evicted from assisted housing within three (3) years of the projected date of admission because of drug-related criminal activity involving the personal use or possession for personal use;
- L. Were evicted from assisted housing within five (5) years of the projected date of admission because of drug-related criminal activity involving the illegal manufacture, sale, distribution, or possession with intent to manufacture, sell, or distribute a controlled substance as defined in Section 102 of the Controlled Substances Act, 21 U.S.C. 802;
- M. Are illegally using a controlled substance or are abusing alcohol or other legal substances in a way that may interfere with the health, safety, or right to peaceful

enjoyment of the premises by other residents. The Grand Rapids Housing Commission may waive this requirement if:

1. The person demonstrates to the Grand Rapids Housing Commission's satisfaction that the person is no longer engaging in drug-related criminal activity or abuse of alcohol or other legal substances;
 2. Has successfully completed a supervised substance abuse rehabilitation program;
 3. Has otherwise been rehabilitated successfully; or
 4. Is participating in a supervised substance abuse rehabilitation program.
- N. Have engaged in or threatened abusive or violent behavior towards any Grand Rapids Housing Commission staff or residents;
- O. Have a household member who has ever been evicted from public housing;
- P. Have a family household member who has been terminated under the Section 8 certificate or voucher program;
- Q. **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;
- R. **Denied for Life:** Has a lifetime registration under a State sex offender registration program.

8.5 INFORMAL REVIEW

- A. If the Grand Rapids Housing Commission determines that an applicant does not meet the criteria for receiving housing assistance, the Grand Rapids Housing Commission 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 fourteen (14) calendar days** of the denial. The Grand Rapids Housing Commission will describe how to obtain the informal review.

The informal review may be conducted by any person designated by the Grand Rapids Housing Commission, 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 Grand Rapids Housing Commission's decision. The Grand Rapids Housing Commission must notify the applicant of the final decision **within five (5) calendar days** after the informal review, including a brief statement of the reasons for the final decision.

Rapids Housing Commission 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 Grand Rapids Housing Commission will verify that there is in fact a disability and the disability caused the failure to respond, and 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.

10.0 TENANT SELECTION AND ASSIGNMENT PLAN

10.1 PREFERENCES

The Grand Rapids Housing Commission will select families based on the following preferences within each bedroom size category:

- A. Displaced person(s): Individuals or families displaced by government action or whose dwelling has been extensively damaged or destroyed as a result of circumstance such as fire or lead paint or a disaster declared or otherwise formally recognized pursuant to Federal Disaster Relief Laws.
- B. Families who live in, work in, or have been hired to work in or received an offer to work in the City limits of Grand Rapids whom are Veterans or surviving spouses of veterans.
- C. All other families who live in, work in, or have been hired to work in or received an offer to work in the City limits of Grand Rapids.
- D. Families who do not live in, work in, or have been hired to work in or received an offer to work in the City limits of Grand Rapids whom are Veterans or surviving spouses of Veterans.
- E. All other families that do not live in, work in, or have been hired to work in or received an offer to work in the City limits of Grand Rapids.

The date and time of application will be noted and utilized to determine the sequence within the above-prescribed preferences.

Notwithstanding the above, families who are elderly, disabled, or displaced will be offered housing before other single persons.

Buildings Designed for the Elderly and Disabled: Preference will be given to elderly and disabled families. If there are no elderly or disabled families on the list, preference will then be given to near-elderly families. If there are no near-elderly families on the waiting list, units will be offered to families who qualify for the appropriate bedroom size using these priorities. All such families will be selected from the waiting list using the preferences as outlined above.

Accessible Units: Accessible units will be first offered to families who may benefit from the accessible features. Applicants for these units will be selected utilizing the same preference system as outlined above. If there are no applicants who would benefit from the accessible features, the units will be offered to other applicants in the order that their names come to the top of the waiting list. Such applicants, however, must sign a release form stating they will accept a transfer (at their own expense) if, at a future time, a family requiring an accessible feature applies. Any family required to transfer will be given a 30 days notice.

10.2 INCOME TARGETING

In order to achieve compliance with HUD’s income targeting requirements, management, within the established preferences above, will move in at least 40% of its applicants in a given year with incomes at or below the 30% of median income level.

The Grand Rapids Housing Commission will meet the 40% rule by alternating between the first extremely low-income applicant on the waiting list and the applicant at the top of the waiting list in groups of 10. In chronological order, management will admit the first 4 extremely low-income families from the waiting list (which may mean “skipping over” some applicants with incomes above 30% of the area median) and then admit the next 6 families from the top of the waiting list, regardless of income. This procedure will result in 40% or more of admissions being extremely low-income. After filling the first 10 available units, owners again admit the first 4 extremely low-income families on the waiting list and then the next 6 families currently at the top of the waiting list.

10.3 ASSIGNMENT OF BEDROOM SIZES

The following guidelines will determine each family’s unit size without overcrowding or over-housing:

Number of Bedrooms	Number of Persons	
	Minimum	Maximum
0	1	1
1	1	2

These standards are based on the assumption that each bedroom will accommodate no more than two (2) persons. Two adults will share a bedroom unless related by blood.

10.4 OFFER OF UNIT

When the Grand Rapids Housing Commission discovers that a unit will become available, it will contact the first family on the waiting list who has the highest priority.

The family will be notified of a unit offer via first class mail. The family will be given five (5) business days from the date the letter was mailed to contact the Grand Rapids Housing Commission 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 Grand Rapids Housing Commission will send the family a letter documenting the offer and the rejection.

10.5 REJECTION OF UNIT

If in making the offer to the family the Grand Rapids Housing Commission skipped over other families on the waiting list in order to meet their deconcentration goal or offered the family any other deconcentration incentive and the family rejects the unit, the family will not lose their place on the waiting list and will not be otherwise penalized.

If the Grand Rapids Housing Commission did not skip over other families on the waiting list to reach this family, did not offer any other deconcentration incentive, 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 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.

10.6 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, and prior to occupancy.

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 applicant will be provided a copy of the lease, 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 Housing Commission 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 Grand Rapids Housing Commission will retain the original executed lease in the tenant's file.

The family will pay a security deposit at the time of lease signing. The security deposit will be equal to the Total Tenant Payment or that amount which is limited by Michigan Rent Security Deposit Law.

In exceptional situations, the Grand Raids Housing Commission 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 Housing Commission.

In the case of a move within Grand Rapids Housing Commission properties, the security deposit for the first unit will be transferred to the second unit.

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.

11.0 INCOME, EXCLUSIONS FROM INCOME, AND DEDUCTIONS FROM INCOME

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

11.1 ANNUAL 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 re-examination effective date; and
- C. Are not specifically excluded from annual income.

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, severance pay, AFDC and general welfare assistance. (However, lump sum additions such as insurance payments from worker's compensation are excluded.)
- F. Welfare assistance.

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:

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

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.

- 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.)
- I. Any financial assistance a student receives (1) under the Higher Education Act of 1965, (2) from private sources, or (3) from an institution of higher education that is in excess of amounts received for tuition (as defined by the institution) is included in annual income; except if the student is over the age of 23 with dependent children, or is living with his or her parents who are receiving assistance.

11.2 EXCLUSIONS FROM 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, except that lump sum payments caused by delays in processing periodic payments for unemployment or welfare assistance are included as income;
- 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. Student financial assistance paid directly to the student or to the educational institution, except any financial assistance a student receives (1) under the Higher Education Act of 1965, (2) from private sources, or (3) from an institution of higher education that is in excess of amounts received for tuition (as defined by the institution) is included in annual income; except if the student is over the age of 23 with dependent children, or is living with his or her parents who are receiving assistance.
- 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, child care, 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 Commission 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, and resident initiatives coordination. 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. Deferred periodic amounts from supplemental security income and Social Security benefits that are received in a lump sum amount or in prospective monthly amounts;
11. 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;
12. 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

13. 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 from sub-marginal land of the U.S. that is held in trust for certain Indian tribes
 - e. Payments made under Health and Human Services' Low-Income Energy Assistance Program
 - f. Payments received under the Job Training Partnership Act
 - g. Income from the disposition of funds of the Grand River Band of Ottawa Indians
 - h. The first \$2000 per capita received from judgment funds awarded for certain Indian claims
 - i. Amount of scholarships awarded under Title IV including Work Study
 - j. Payments received under the Older Americans Act of 1985
 - k. Payments from Agent Orange Settlement
 - l. Payments received under the Main Indian Claims Act
 - m. The value of child care under the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990
 - n. Earned income tax credit refund payments
 - o. Payments for living expenses under the Americorps Program
 - p. Payments by the Indian Claims Commission to the Confederated Tribes and Bands of Yakima Indian Nation or the Apache Tribe of Mescalero Reservation.
 - q. Any allowance paid under the provisions of 38 U.S.C. 1805 to a child suffering from spina bifida who is a child of a Vietnam veteran.

- r. Any amount of crime victim compensation under the Victims of Crime Act.
- s. Allowances, earnings and payments to individuals participating in Programs under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998.

The Grand Rapids Housing Commission will not provide exclusions from income in addition to those already provided for by HUD.

11.3 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. For any family that is not an elderly or disabled family but has a member (other than the head or spouse) who is a person with a disability, disability assistance expenses in excess of 3% of annual income. This allowance may not exceed the employment income received by family members who are 18 years of age or older as a result of the assistance to the person with disabilities.
- D. For any elderly or disabled family:
 - 1. That has no disability assistance expenses, an allowance for medical expenses equal to the amount by which the medical expenses exceed 3% of annual income.
 - 2. That has disability expenses greater than or equal to 3% of annual income, an allowance for disability assistance expenses computed in accordance with paragraph C, plus an allowance for medical expenses that equal the family's medical expenses.
 - 3. That has disability assistance expenses that are less than 3% of annual income, an allowance for combined disability assistance expenses and medical expenses that is equal to the total of these expenses less 3% of annual income.
- E. Child care expenses that enable a family member to be gainfully employed or to further his/her education.

12.0 VERIFICATION

The Grand Rapids Housing Commission 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 noncitizen status. Age and relationship will only be verified in those instances where needed to make a determination of level of assistance.

12.1 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, the family’s declaration will be accepted. Verification of the family’s declaration may be required. Documents that can be used as proof included a U.S. passport, U.S. birth certificate, a temporary resident card, or a document referred by the Department of Homeland Security.

Other information will be verified by third party verification. This type of verification includes written documentation with forms sent or faxed 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 Grand Rapids Housing Commission 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 Grand Rapids Housing Commission will accept documentation received from the applicant/tenant. Hand-carried documentation will be accepted if the Grand Rapids Housing Commission 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.

When neither third party verification nor hand-carried verification can be obtained, the GRHC will accept a notarized statement signed by the head of household, spouse or co-head of household. Such documents will be maintained in the file.

Verification Requirements for Individual Items		
Item to Be Verified	3 rd Party Verification	Hand-Carried Verification
General Eligibility Items		
Social Security Number		Social Security card. Original SSA document with name and SSN, original document issued by federal, state, or local government agency with name and SSN of the individual.

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 Grand Rapids Housing Commission determines that a family member has knowingly permitted an ineligible noncitizen (other than any ineligible noncitizens listed on the lease) to permanently reside in their unit, the family will be evicted. Such family will not be eligible to be readmitted for a period of 24 months from the date of eviction or termination.

12.4 VERIFICATION OF SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS

Prior to admission, each family member is required to disclose and provide verification of their assigned Social Security number. New family members must provide this verification prior to being added to the lease.

When a participant requests to add a new household member who is under the age of six (6) and does not have an assigned Social Security number, the participant must disclose the assigned Social Security number and provide the Grand Rapids Housing Commission with the documentation within 90 calendar days of the child being added to the household. **If a child under the age of 6 is added to an applicant household during the 6-month period prior to the household's date of admission, the assistance applicant may become a participant so long as the documentation as required in Appendix. 3 of HUD Handbook 43 50.3 REV-1, is provided to management within 90 calendar days from the date of admission to the program.**

If the family is unable to disclose and provide evidence of the Social Security number within 90 calendar days, the Grand Rapids Housing Commission will grant the family an additional 90-day period to comply with the Social Security number disclosure and documentation requirement, if the Grand Rapids Housing Commission determines that the family was unable to comply with the requirements due to circumstances that could not have reasonably been foreseen and were outside the control of the family (i.e., delayed processing of the Social Security number application by the Social Security Administration, natural disaster, fire, death in family, etc.).

The child will be included as part of the assisted household and entitled to all the benefits of being a household member during the allotted time for the family to comply with the Social Security number disclosure and documentation requirements. Upon expiration of the provided time period, if the family has not complied with the Social Security number disclosure and documentation requirements, the Grand Rapids Housing Commission will terminate the family's tenancy.

Acceptable means of documentation to verify the Social Security number is the original Social Security card. If the card is not available, the Grand Rapids Housing Commission will accept an original Social Security Administration-issued document, which contains the name and Social Security number of the individual or an original document issued by a federal, state, or local government agency, which contains the name and Social Security number of the individual.

the Grand Rapids Housing Commission will keep it for the resident for one year. If it is not claimed within that time, it belongs to the Grand Rapids Housing Commission.

When learning of an abandonment, the Grand Rapids Housing Commission will either return the deposit or provide a statement of why the deposit is being kept in accordance with State law.

20.4 RETURN OF SECURITY DEPOSIT

After a family moves out, the Grand Rapids Housing Commission will return the security deposit within the time frame established by State law or give the family a written statement of why all or part of the security deposit is being kept. The rental unit must be restored to the same conditions as when the family moved in, except for normal wear and tear. Deposits will not be used to cover normal wear and tear or damage that existed when the family moved in.

If State law requires the payment of interest on security deposits, it shall be complied with.

The Grand Rapids Housing Commission will be considered in compliance with the above if the required payment, statement, or both, are deposited in the U.S. mail with first class postage paid within the time frame established by State law.

21.0 VAWA Protections

The Grand Rapids Housing Commission may not consider incidents of domestic violence, dating violence or stalking as serious or repeated violations of the lease or other “good cause” for termination of assistance, tenancy or occupancy of a victim who is protected from acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction.

The Grand Rapids Housing Commission may not consider criminal activity directly relating to abuse, engaged in by a member of a tenant’s household or any guest or other person under the tenant’s control, cause for termination of assistance, tenancy, or occupancy rights if the tenant or an immediate member of the tenant’s family is the victim or threatened victim of that abuse.

The Grand Rapids Housing Commission may request in writing that the victim, or a family member on the victim’s behalf, certify that the individual is a victim of abuse and that the Certification of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence or Stalking, Form HUD-91066, or other documentation as noted on the certification form, be completed and submitted within 14 business days, or an agreed upon extension date, to receive protection under the VAWA. Failure to provide the certification or other supporting documentation within the specified timeframe may result in eviction