

Chapter 17

PROJECT-BASED VOUCHERS

INTRODUCTION

This chapter describes HUD regulations and GRHC policies related to the project-based voucher (PBV) program in nine 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 Owner Proposals. This part includes policies related to the submission and selection of owner proposals for PBV assistance. It describes the factors the GRHC will consider when selecting proposals, the type of housing that is eligible to receive PBV assistance, the cap on assistance at projects receiving PBV assistance, subsidy layering requirements, site selection standards, and environmental review requirements.

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: Rehabilitated and Newly Constructed Units. This part describes requirements and policies related to the development and completion of rehabilitated and newly constructed housing units that will be receiving PBV assistance.

Part V: Housing Assistance Payments Contract. This part discusses HAP contract requirements and policies including the execution, term, and termination of the HAP contract. In addition, it describes how the HAP contract may be amended and identifies provisions that may be added to the HAP contract at the GRHC's discretion.

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

Part VII: Occupancy. This part discusses occupancy requirements related to the lease, and describes under what conditions families are allowed or required to move. In addition, exceptions to the occupancy cap (which limits PBV assistance to 25 percent of the units in any project) are also discussed.

Part VIII: Determining Rent to Owner. This part describes how the initial rent to owner is determined, and how rent will be redetermined throughout the life of the HAP contract. Rent reasonableness requirements are also discussed.

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

PART I: GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

17-I.A. OVERVIEW [24 CFR 983.5]

The project-based voucher (PBV) program allows PHAs that already administer a tenant-based voucher program under an annual contributions contract (ACC) with HUD to take up to 20 percent of its voucher program budget authority and attach the funding to specific units rather than using it for tenant-based assistance [24 CFR 983.6]. GRHC may only operate a PBV program if doing so is consistent with the GRHC's Annual Plan, and the goal of deconcentrating poverty and expanding housing and economic opportunities [42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)(13)].

GRHC Policy

The GRHC will operate a project-based voucher program using up to 20 percent of its budget authority for project-based assistance.

PBV assistance may be attached to existing housing or newly constructed or rehabilitated housing [24 CFR 983.52]. If PBV units are already selected for project-based assistance either under an agreement to enter into HAP Contract (Agreement) or a HAP contract, the GRHC is not required to reduce the number of these units if the amount of budget authority is subsequently reduced. However, the GRHC is responsible for determining the amount of budget authority that is available for project-based vouchers and ensuring that the amount of assistance that is attached to units is within the amounts available under the ACC [24 CFR 983.6].

17-I.B. TENANT-BASED VS. PROJECT-BASED VOUCHER ASSISTANCE [24 CFR 983.2]

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

GRHC Policy

Except as otherwise noted in this chapter, or unless specifically prohibited by PBV program regulations, the GRHC policies for the tenant-based voucher program contained in this administrative plan also apply to the PBV program and its participants.

17-I.C. RELOCATION REQUIREMENTS [24 CFR 983.7]

Any persons displaced as a result of implementation of the PBV program must be provided relocation assistance in accordance with the requirements of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (URA)[42 U.S.C. 4201-4655] and implementing regulations at 49 CFR part 24.

The cost of required relocation assistance may be paid with funds provided by the owner, local public funds, or funds available from other sources. GRHC may not use voucher program funds to cover relocation costs, except that GRHC may use their administrative fee reserve to pay for relocation expenses after all other program administrative expenses are satisfied, and provided that payment of the relocation benefits is consistent with state and local law. Use of the

administrative fee for these purposes must also be consistent with other legal and regulatory requirements, including the requirement in 24 CFR 982.155 and other official HUD issuances.

The acquisition of real property for a PBV project is subject to the URA and 49 CFR part 24, subpart B. It is the responsibility of the GRHC to ensure the owner complies with these requirements.

17-I.D. EQUAL OPPORTUNITY REQUIREMENTS [24 CFR 983.8]

The GRHC must comply with all equal opportunity requirements under federal law and regulations in its implementation of the PBV program. This includes the requirements and authorities cited at 24 CFR 5.105(a). In addition, the GRHC must comply with the GRHC Plan certification on civil rights and affirmatively furthering fair housing, submitted in accordance with 24 CFR 903.7(o).

PART II: PBV OWNER PROPOSALS

17-II.A. OVERVIEW

The GRHC must describe the procedures for owner submission of PBV proposals and for GRHC selection of PBV proposals [24 CFR 983.51]. Before selecting a PBV proposal, the GRHC must determine that the PBV proposal complies with HUD program regulations and requirements, including a determination that the property is eligible housing [24 CFR 983.53 and 983.54], complies with the cap on the number of PBV units per project [24 CFR 983.56, FR Notice 11/24/08], and meets the site selection standards [24 CFR 983.57].

17-II.B. OWNER PROPOSAL SELECTION PROCEDURES [24 CFR 983.51]

The GRHC must select PBV proposals in accordance with the selection procedures in the GRHC administrative plan. The GRHC must select PBV proposals by either of the following two methods.

- GRHC request for PBV Proposals. The GRHC may solicit proposals by using a request for proposals to select proposals on a competitive basis in response to the GRHC request. The GRHC may not limit proposals to a single site or impose restrictions that explicitly or practically preclude owner submission of proposals for PBV housing on different sites.
- The GRHC may select proposal that were previously selected based on a competition. This may include selection of a proposal for housing assisted under a federal, state, or local government housing assistance program that was subject to a competition in accordance with the requirements of the applicable program, community development program, or supportive services program that requires competitive selection of proposals (e.g., HOME, and units for which competitively awarded LIHTCs have been provided), where the proposal has been selected in accordance with such program's competitive selection requirements within three years of the PBV proposal selection date, and the earlier competitive selection proposal did not involve any consideration that the project would receive PBV assistance.

Solicitation and Selection of PBV Proposals [24 CFR 983.51(b) and (c)]

GRHC procedures for selecting PBV proposals must be designed and actually operated to provide broad public notice of the opportunity to offer PBV proposals for consideration by the GRHC. The public notice procedures may include publication of the public notice in a local newspaper of general circulation and other means designed and actually operated to provide broad public notice. The public notice of the GRHC request for PBV proposals must specify the submission deadline. Detailed application and selection information must be provided at the request of interested parties.

GRHC Policy

GRHC Request for Proposals for Rehabilitated and Newly Constructed Units

The GRHC will advertise its request for proposals (RFP) for rehabilitated and newly constructed housing in the local newspaper.

In addition, the GRHC will post the RFP and proposal submission and rating and ranking procedures on its electronic web site.

The GRHC will publish its advertisement in the newspapers and trade journals mentioned above for at least one day per week for three consecutive weeks. The advertisement will specify the number of units the GRHC estimates that it will be able to assist under the funding the GRHC is making available.

In order for the proposal to be considered, the owner must submit the proposal to the GRHC by the published deadline date, and the proposal must respond to all requirements as outlined in the RFP. Incomplete proposals will not be reviewed.

The GRHC will rate and rank proposals for rehabilitated and newly constructed housing using the following criteria:

- Owner experience and capability to build or rehabilitate housing as identified in the RFP;

- Extent to which the project furthers the GRHC goal of deconcentrating poverty and expanding housing and economic opportunities;

- If applicable, the extent to which services for special populations are provided on site or in the immediate area for occupants of the property; and

GRHC Requests for Proposals for Existing Housing Units

The GRHC will advertise its request for proposals (RFP) for existing housing in the local newspaper.

In addition, the GRHC will post the notice inviting such proposal submission and the rating and ranking procedures on its electronic web site.

The GRHC will periodically publish its advertisement in the local newspaper for at least one day per week for three consecutive weeks. The advertisement will specify the number of units the GRHC estimates that it will be able to assist under the funding the GRHC is making available. Owner proposals will be accepted on a first-come first-served basis and will be evaluated using the following criteria:

Experience as an owner in the tenant-based voucher program and owner compliance with the owner's obligations under the tenant-based program;

Extent to which the project furthers the GRHC goal of deconcentrating poverty and expanding housing and economic opportunities;

If applicable, extent to which services for special populations are provided on site or in the immediate area for occupants of the property; and

Extent to which units are occupied by families that are eligible to participate in the PBV program.

GRHC Selection of Proposals Subject to a Previous Competition under a Federal, State, or Local Housing Assistance Program

The GRHC will accept proposals for PBV assistance from owners that were competitively selected under another federal, state or local housing assistance program, including projects that were competitively awarded Low-Income Housing Tax Credits on an ongoing basis.

The GRHC may periodically advertise that it is accepting proposals in the local newspaper.

In addition to, or in place of advertising, the GRHC may also directly contact specific owners that have already been selected for Federal, state, or local housing assistance based on a previously held competition, to inform them of available PBV assistance.

Proposals will be reviewed on a first-come first-served basis. The GRHC will evaluate each proposal on its merits using the following factors:

Extent to which the project furthers the GRHC goal of deconcentrating poverty and expanding housing and economic opportunities; and

Extent to which the proposal complements other local activities such as the redevelopment of a public housing site under the HOPE VI program, the HOME program, CDBG activities, other development activities in a HUD-designated Enterprise Zone, Economic Community, or Renewal Community.

GRHC-owned Units [24 CFR 983.51(e) and 983.59]

A GRHC-owned unit may be assisted under the PBV program only if the HUD field office or HUD-approved independent entity reviews the selection process and determines that the GRHC-owned units were appropriately selected based on the selection procedures specified in the GRHC administrative plan. If the GRHC selects a proposal for housing that is owned or controlled by the GRHC, the GRHC must identify the entity that will review the GRHC proposal selection process and perform specific functions with respect to rent determinations and inspections.

In the case of GRHC-owned units, the initial contract rent must be approved by an independent entity based on an appraisal by a licensed, state-certified appraiser. In addition, housing quality standards inspections must be conducted by an independent entity.

The independent entity that performs these program services may be the unit of general local government for the GRHC jurisdiction (unless the GRHC is itself the unit of general local

government or an agency of such government) or another HUD-approved public or private independent entity.

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

GRHC Notice of Owner Selection [24 CFR 983.51(d)]

The GRHC must give prompt written notice to the party that submitted a selected proposal and must also give prompt public notice of such selection. Public notice procedures may include publication of public notice in a local newspaper of general circulation and other means designed and actually operated to provide broad public notice.

GRHC Policy

Within 10 business days of the GRHC making the selection, the GRHC will notify the selected owner in writing of the owner's selection for the PBV program. The GRHC will also notify in writing all owners that submitted proposals that were not selected and advise such owners of the name of the selected owner.

In addition, the GRHC will publish its notice for selection of PBV proposals for two consecutive days in the same newspapers and trade journals the GRHC used to solicit the proposals. The announcement will include the name of the owner that was selected for the PBV program. The GRHC will also post the notice of owner selection on its electronic web site.

The GRHC will make available to any interested party its rating and ranking sheets and documents that identify the GRHC basis for selecting the proposal. These documents will be available for review by the public and other interested parties for one month after publication of the notice of owner selection. The GRHC will not make available sensitive owner information that is privileged, such as financial statements and similar information about the owner.

The GRHC will make these documents available for review at the GRHC during normal business hours. The cost for reproduction of allowable documents will be \$.25 per page.

17-II.C. HOUSING TYPE [24 CFR 983.52]

The GRHC may attach PBV assistance for units in existing housing or for newly constructed or rehabilitated housing developed under and in accordance with an agreement to enter into a housing assistance payments contract that was executed prior to the start of construction. A housing unit is considered an existing unit for purposes of the PBV program, if, at the time of notice of GRHC selection, the units substantially comply with HQS. Units for which new construction or rehabilitation was started in accordance with PBV program requirements do not qualify as existing housing.

The GRHC must decide what housing type, new construction, rehabilitation, or existing housing, will be used to develop project-based housing. The GRHC choice of housing type must be reflected in its solicitation for proposals.

17-II.D. PROHIBITION OF ASSISTANCE FOR CERTAIN UNITS

Ineligible Housing Types [24 CFR 983.53]

The GRHC may not attach or pay PBV assistance to shared housing units; units on the grounds of a penal reformatory, medical, mental, or similar public or private institution; nursing homes or facilities providing continuous psychiatric, medical, nursing services, board and care, or intermediate care (except that assistance may be provided in assisted living facilities); units that are owned or controlled by an educational institution or its affiliate and are designated for occupancy by students; manufactured homes; and transitional housing. In addition, the GRHC may not attach or pay PBV assistance for a unit occupied by an owner and the GRHC may not select or enter into an agreement to enter into a HAP contract or HAP contract for a unit occupied by a family ineligible for participation in the PBV program.

Subsidized Housing [24 CFR 983.54]

The GRHC may not attach or pay PBV assistance to units in any of the following types of subsidized housing:

- A public housing unit;
- A unit subsidized with any other form of Section 8 assistance;
- A unit subsidized with any governmental rent subsidy;
- A unit subsidized with any governmental subsidy that covers all or any part of the operating costs of the housing;
- A unit subsidized with Section 236 rental assistance payments (except that a GRHC may attach assistance to a unit subsidized with Section 236 interest reduction payments);
- A Section 202 project for non-elderly with disabilities;
- Section 811 project-based supportive housing for persons with disabilities;
- Section 202 supportive housing for the elderly;
- A Section 101 rent supplement project;
- A unit subsidized with any form of tenant-based rental assistance;
- A unit with any other duplicative federal, state, or local housing subsidy, as determined by HUD or the GRHC in accordance with HUD requirements.

17-II.E. SUBSIDY LAYERING REQUIREMENTS [24 CFR 983.55, FR Notice 11/24/08]

The GRHC may provide PBV assistance only in accordance with HUD subsidy layering regulations [24 CFR 4.13] and other requirements.

The subsidy layering review is intended to prevent excessive public assistance by combining (layering) housing assistance payment subsidy under the PBV program with other governmental housing assistance from federal, state, or local agencies, including assistance such as tax concessions or tax credits.

The GRHC must submit the necessary documentation to HUD for a subsidy layering review. Except in cases of HAP contracts for existing structures, or if such reviews have been conducted

by the applicable state and local agencies, the GRHC may not enter into an agreement to enter into a HAP contract or a HAP contract until HUD (or an independent entity approved by HUD) has conducted any required subsidy layering review and determined that the PBV assistance is in accordance with HUD subsidy layering requirements.

The HAP contract must contain the owner's certification that the project has not received and will not receive (before or during the term of the HAP contract) any public assistance for acquisition, development, or operation of the housing other than assistance disclosed in the subsidy layering review in accordance with HUD requirements.

17-II.F. CAP ON NUMBER OF PBV UNITS IN EACH PROJECT

25 Percent per Project Cap [24 CFR 983.56(a), FR Notice 11/24/08]

In general, the GRHC may not select a proposal to provide PBV assistance for units in a project or enter into an agreement to enter into a HAP or a HAP contract to provide PBV assistance for units in a project, if the total number of dwelling units in the project that will receive PBV assistance during the term of the PBV HAP contract is more than 25 percent of the number of dwelling units (assisted or unassisted) in the project.

Exceptions to 25 Percent per Project Cap [24 CFR 983.56(b), FR Notice 11/24/08]

Exceptions are allowed and PBV units are not counted against the 25 percent per project cap if:

- The units are in a single-family building (one to four units);
- The units are *excepted units* in a multifamily building because they are specifically made available for elderly or disabled families or families receiving supportive services (also known as *qualifying families*).

GRHC must include in the GRHC administrative plan the type of services offered to families for a project to qualify for the exception and the extent to which such services will be provided. It is not necessary that the services be provided at or by the project, if they are approved services. To qualify, a family must have at least one member receiving at least one qualifying supportive service. A GRHC may not require participation in medical or disability-related services other than drug and alcohol treatment in the case of current abusers as a condition of living in an excepted unit, although such services may be offered.

If a family at the time of initial tenancy is receiving, and while the resident of an excepted unit has received, FSS supportive services or any other supportive services as defined in the GRHC administrative plan, and successfully completes the FSS contract of participation or the supportive services requirement, the unit continues to count as an excepted unit for as long as the family resides in the unit.

The GRHC must monitor the excepted family's continued receipt of supportive services and take appropriate action regarding those families that fail without good cause to complete their supportive services requirement. The GRHC administrative plan must state the form and frequency of such monitoring.

GRHC Policy

The GRHC will not provide PBV assistance for excepted units.

Promoting Partially-Assisted Buildings [24 CFR 983.56(c)]

A GRHC may establish local requirements designed to promote PBV assistance in partially assisted buildings. A *partially assisted building* is a building in which there are fewer units covered by a HAP contract than residential units [24 CFR 983.3].

A GRHC may establish a per-building cap on the number of units that will receive PBV assistance or other project-based assistance in a multifamily building containing excepted units or in a single-family building. A GRHC may also determine not to provide PBV assistance for excepted units, or the GRHC may establish a per-building cap of less than 25 percent.

GRHC Policy:

The GRHC will not provide assistance for excepted units. Beyond that, the GRHC will not impose any further cap on the number of PBV units assisted per building.

17-II.G. SITE SELECTION STANDARDS

Compliance with PBV Goals, Civil Rights Requirements, and HQS Site Standards [24 CFR 983.57(b)]

The GRHC may not select a proposal for existing, newly constructed, or rehabilitated PBV housing on a site or enter into an agreement to enter into a HAP contract or HAP contract for units on the site, unless the GRHC has determined that PBV assistance for housing at the selected site is consistent with the goal of deconcentrating poverty and expanding housing and economic opportunities. The standard for deconcentrating poverty and expanding housing and economic opportunities must be consistent with the GRHC Plan under 24 CFR 903 and the GRHC administrative plan.

In addition, prior to selecting a proposal, the GRHC must determine that the site is suitable from the standpoint of facilitating and furthering full compliance with the applicable Civil Rights Laws, regulations, and Executive Orders, and that the site meets the HQS site and neighborhood standards at 24 CFR 982.401(l).

GRHC Policy

It is the GRHC goal to select sites for PBV housing that provide for deconcentrating poverty and expanding housing and economic opportunities. In complying with this goal the GRHC will limit approval of sites for PBV housing in census tracts that have poverty concentrations of 20 percent or less.

However, the GRHC will grant exceptions to the 20 percent standard where the GRHC determines that the PBV assistance will complement other local redevelopment activities designed to deconcentrate poverty and expand housing and economic opportunities in census tracts with poverty concentrations greater than 20 percent, such as sites in:

A census tract in which the proposed PBV development will be located in a HUD-designated Enterprise Zone, Economic Community, or Renewal Community;

A census tract where the concentration of assisted units will be or has decreased as a result of public housing demolition and HOPE VI redevelopment;

A census tract in which the proposed PBV development will be located is undergoing significant revitalization as a result of state, local, or federal dollars invested in the area;

A census tract where new market rate units are being developed where such market rate units will positively impact the poverty rate in the area;

A census tract where there has been an overall decline in the poverty rate within the past five years; or

A census tract where there are meaningful opportunities for educational and economic advancement.

Existing and Rehabilitated Housing Site and Neighborhood Standards [24 CFR 983.57(d)]

The GRHC may not enter into an agreement to enter into a HAP contract nor enter into a HAP contract for existing or rehabilitated housing until it has determined that the site complies with the HUD required site and neighborhood standards. The site must:

- Be adequate in size, exposure, and contour to accommodate the number and type of units proposed;
- Have adequate utilities and streets available to service the site;
- Promote a greater choice of housing opportunities and avoid undue concentration of assisted persons in areas containing a high proportion of low-income persons;
- Be accessible to social, recreational, educational, commercial, and health facilities and services and other municipal facilities and services equivalent to those found in neighborhoods consisting largely of unassisted similar units; and
- Be located so that travel time and cost via public transportation or private automobile from the neighborhood to places of employment is not excessive.

New Construction Site and Neighborhood Standards [24 CFR 983.57(e)]

In order to be selected for PBV assistance, a site for newly constructed housing must meet the following HUD required site and neighborhood standards:

- The site must be adequate in size, exposure, and contour to accommodate the number and type of units proposed;
- The site must have adequate utilities and streets available to service the site;
- The site must not be located in an area of minority concentration unless the GRHC determines that sufficient, comparable opportunities exist for housing for minority families in the income range to be served by the proposed project outside areas of minority concentration or that the project is necessary to meet overriding housing needs that cannot be met in that housing market area;
- The site must not be located in a racially mixed area if the project will cause a significant increase in the proportion of minority to non-minority residents in the area.
- The site must promote a greater choice of housing opportunities and avoid undue concentration of assisted persons in areas containing a high proportion of low-income persons;

- The neighborhood must not be one that is seriously detrimental to family life or in which substandard dwellings or other undesirable conditions predominate;
- The housing must be accessible to social, recreational, educational, commercial, and health facilities and services and other municipal facilities and services equivalent to those found in neighborhoods consisting largely of unassisted similar units; and
- Except for housing designed for elderly persons, the housing must be located so that travel time and cost via public transportation or private automobile from the neighborhood to places of employment is not excessive.

17-II.H. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW [24 CFR 983.58]

The GRHC activities under the PBV program are subject to HUD environmental regulations in 24 CFR parts 50 and 58. The *responsible entity* is responsible for performing the federal environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.). The GRHC may not enter into an agreement to enter into a HAP contract nor enter into a HAP contract until it has complied with the environmental review requirements.

In the case of existing housing, the responsible entity that is responsible for the environmental review under 24 CFR part 58 must determine whether or not PBV assistance is categorically excluded from review under the National Environmental Policy Act and whether or not the assistance is subject to review under the laws and authorities listed in 24 CFR 58.5.

The GRHC may not enter into an agreement to enter into a HAP contract or a HAP contract with an owner, and the GRHC, the owner, and its contractors may not acquire, rehabilitate, convert, lease, repair, dispose of, demolish, or construct real property or commit or expend program or local funds for PBV activities under this part, until the environmental review is completed.

The GRHC must supply all available, relevant information necessary for the responsible entity to perform any required environmental review for any site. The GRHC must require the owner to carry out mitigating measures required by the responsible entity (or HUD, if applicable) as a result of the environmental review.

PART III: DWELLING UNITS

17-III.A. OVERVIEW

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

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

The housing quality standards (HQS) for the tenant-based program, including those for special housing types, 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.

17-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 GRHC 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)

17-III.D. INSPECTING UNITS

Pre-selection Inspection [24 CFR 983.103(a)]

The GRHC must examine the proposed site before the proposal selection date. If the units to be assisted already exist, the GRHC must inspect all the units before the proposal selection date, and must determine whether the units substantially comply with HQS. To qualify as existing housing, units must substantially comply with HQS on the proposal selection date. However, the GRHC may not execute the HAP contract until the units fully comply with HQS.

Pre-HAP Contract Inspections [24 CFR 983.103(b)]

The GRHC must inspect each contract unit before execution of the HAP contract. The GRHC may not enter into a HAP contract covering a unit until the unit fully complies with HQS.

Turnover Inspections [24 CFR 983.103(c)]

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

Annual Inspections [24 CFR 983.103(d)]

At least annually during the term of the HAP contract, the GRHC 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 annual inspection requirement.

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

Other Inspections [24 CFR 983.103(e)]

The GRHC 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 GRHC must take into account complaints and any other information coming to its attention in scheduling inspections.

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

Inspecting GRHC-owned Units [24 CFR 983.103(f)]

In the case of GRHC-owned units, the inspections must be performed by an independent agency designated by the GRHC and approved by HUD. The independent entity must furnish a copy of each inspection report to the GRHC and to the HUD field office where the project is located. The GRHC 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 GRHC-owner.

PART IV: REHABILITATED AND NEWLY CONSTRUCTED UNITS

17-IV.A. OVERVIEW [24 CFR 983.151]

There are specific requirements that apply to PBV assistance for newly constructed or rehabilitated housing that do not apply to PBV assistance in existing housing. This part describes the requirements unique to this type of assistance.

Housing selected for this type of assistance may not at a later date be selected for PBV assistance as existing housing.

17-IV.B. AGREEMENT TO ENTER INTO HAP CONTRACT

In order to offer PBV assistance in rehabilitated or newly constructed units, the GRHC must enter into an agreement to enter into HAP contract (Agreement) with the owner of the property. The Agreement must be in the form required by HUD [24 CFR 983.152(a)].

In the Agreement the owner agrees to develop the PBV contract units to comply with HQS, and the GRHC agrees that upon timely completion of such development in accordance with the terms of the Agreement, the GRHC will enter into a HAP contract with the owner for the contract units [24 CFR 983.152(b)].

Content of the Agreement [24 CFR 983.152(c)]

At a minimum, the Agreement must describe the following features of the housing to be developed and assisted under the PBV program:

- Site and the location of the contract units;
- Number of contract units by area (size) and number of bedrooms and bathrooms;
- Services, maintenance, or equipment to be supplied by the owner without charges in addition to the rent;

- Utilities available to the contract units, including a specification of utility services to be paid by the owner and utility services to be paid by the tenant;
- An indication of whether or not the design and construction requirements of the Fair Housing Act and section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 apply to units under the Agreement. If applicable, any required work item resulting from these requirements must be included in the description of work to be performed under the Agreement;
- Estimated initial rents to owner for the contract units;
- Description of the work to be performed under the Agreement. For rehabilitated units, the description must include the rehabilitation work write up and, where determined necessary by the GRHC, specifications and plans. For new construction units, the description must include the working drawings and specifications.
- Any additional requirements for quality, architecture, or design over and above HQS.

Execution of the Agreement [24 CFR 983.153, FR Notice 11/24/08]

The Agreement must be executed promptly after GRHC notice of proposal selection to the selected owner. Generally, the GRHC may not enter into the Agreement with the owner until the subsidy layering review is completed. Likewise, the GRHC may not enter into the Agreement until the environmental review is completed and the GRHC has received environmental approval. However, the GRHC does not need to conduct a subsidy layering review in the case of a HAP contract for an existing structure or if the applicable state or local agency has conducted such a review. Similarly, environmental reviews are not required for existing structures unless otherwise required by law or regulation.

GRHC Policy

The GRHC will enter into the Agreement with the owner within 10 business days of receiving both environmental approval and notice that subsidy layering requirements have been met, and before construction or rehabilitation work is started.

17-IV.C. CONDUCT OF DEVELOPMENT WORK

Labor Standards [24 CFR 983.154(b)]

If an Agreement covers the development of nine or more contract units (whether or not completed in stages), the owner and the owner's contractors and subcontractors must pay Davis-Bacon wages to laborers and mechanics employed in the development of housing. The HUD-prescribed form of the Agreement will include the labor standards clauses required by HUD, such as those involving Davis-Bacon wage rates.

The owner, contractors, and subcontractors must also comply with the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act, Department of Labor regulations in 29 CFR part 5, and other applicable federal labor relations laws and regulations. The GRHC must monitor compliance with labor standards.

Equal Opportunity [24 CFR 983.154(c)]

The owner must comply with Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 and the implementing regulations at 24 CFR part 135. The owner must also comply with federal equal employment opportunity requirements.

Owner Disclosure [24 CFR 983.154(d) and (e)]

The Agreement and HAP contract must include a certification by the owner that the owner and other project principals are not on the U.S. General Services Administration list of parties excluded from federal procurement and non-procurement programs.

The owner must also disclose any possible conflict of interest that would be a violation of the Agreement, the HAP contract, or HUD regulations.

17-IV.D. COMPLETION OF HOUSING

The Agreement must specify the deadlines for completion of the housing, and the owner must develop and complete the housing in accordance with these deadlines. The Agreement must also specify the deadline for submission by the owner of the required evidence of completion.

Evidence of Completion [24 CFR 983.155(b)]

At a minimum, the owner must submit the following evidence of completion to the GRHC in the form and manner required by the GRHC:

- Owner certification that the work has been completed in accordance with HQS and all requirements of the Agreement; and
- Owner certification that the owner has complied with labor standards and equal opportunity requirements in development of the housing.

At the GRHC's discretion, the Agreement may specify additional documentation that must be submitted by the owner as evidence of housing completion.

GRHC Policy

The GRHC will determine the need for the owner to submit additional documentation as evidence of housing completion on a case-by-case basis depending on the nature of the PBV project. The GRHC will specify any additional documentation requirements in the Agreement to enter into HAP contract.

GRHC Acceptance of Completed Units [24 CFR 983.156]

Upon notice from the owner that the housing is completed, the GRHC must inspect to determine if the housing has been completed in accordance with the Agreement, including compliance with HQS and any additional requirements imposed under the Agreement. The GRHC must also determine if the owner has submitted all required evidence of completion.

If the work has not been completed in accordance with the Agreement, the GRHC must not enter into the HAP contract.

If the GRHC determines the work has been completed in accordance with the Agreement and that the owner has submitted all required evidence of completion, the GRHC must submit the HAP contract for execution by the owner and must then execute the HAP contract.

PART V: HOUSING ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS CONTRACT (HAP)

17-V.A. OVERVIEW

The GRHC must enter into a HAP contract with an owner for units that are receiving PBV assistance. The purpose of the HAP contract is to provide housing assistance payments for eligible families. Housing assistance is paid for contract units leased and occupied by eligible families during the HAP contract term. The HAP contract must be in the form required by HUD [24 CFR 983.202].

17-V.B. HAP CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS

Contract Information [24 CFR 983.203, FR Notice 11/24/08]

The HAP contract must specify the following information:

- The total number of contract units by number of bedrooms;
- The project's name, street address, city or county, state and zip code, block and lot number (if known), and any other information necessary to clearly identify the site and the building;
- The number of contract units in each building, the location of each contract unit, the area of each contract unit, and the number of bedrooms and bathrooms in each contract unit;
- Services, maintenance, and equipment to be supplied by the owner and included in the rent to owner;
- Utilities available to the contract units, including a specification of utility services to be paid by the owner (included in rent) and utility services to be paid by the tenant;
- Features provided to comply with program accessibility requirements of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and implementing regulations at 24 CFR part 8;
- The HAP contract term;
- The number of units in any project that will exceed the 25 percent per project cap, which will be set-aside for occupancy by qualifying families; and
- The initial rent to owner for the first 12 months of the HAP contract term.

Execution of the HAP Contract [24 CFR 983.204]

The GRHC may not enter into a HAP contract until each contract unit has been inspected and the GRHC has determined that the unit complies with the Housing Quality Standards (HQS). For existing housing, the HAP contract must be executed promptly after the GRHC selects the owner proposal and inspects the housing units. For newly constructed or rehabilitated housing the HAP contract must be executed after the GRHC has inspected the completed units and has determined that the units have been completed in accordance with the agreement to enter into HAP, and the owner furnishes all required evidence of completion.

GRHC Policy

For existing housing, the HAP contract will be executed within 10 business days of the GRHC determining that all units pass HQS.

For rehabilitated or newly constructed housing, the HAP contract will be executed within 10 business days of the GRHC determining that the units have been completed in accordance with the agreement to enter into HAP, all units meet HQS, and the owner has submitted all required evidence of completion.

Term of HAP Contract [FR Notice 11/24/08]

The GRHC may enter into a HAP contract with an owner for an initial term of no less than one year and no more than 15 years.

GRHC Policy

The term of all PBV HAP contracts will be negotiated with the owner on a case-by-case basis.

At any time before expiration of the HAP contract, the GRHC may extend the term of the contract for an additional term of up to 15 years if the GRHC determines an extension is appropriate to continue providing affordable housing for low-income families or to expand housing opportunities. Subsequent extensions are subject to the same limitations. All extensions must be on the form and subject to the conditions prescribed by HUD at the time of the extension.

GRHC Policy

When determining whether or not to extend an expiring PBV contract, the GRHC will consider several factors including, but not limited to:

- The cost of extending the contract and the amount of available budget authority;
- The condition of the contract units;
- The owner's record of compliance with obligations under the HAP contract and lease(s);
- Whether the location of the units continues to support the goals of deconcentrating poverty and expanding housing opportunities; and
- Whether the funding could be used more appropriately for tenant-based assistance.

Termination by GRHC [24 CFR 983.205(c)]

The HAP contract must provide that the term of the GRHC's contractual commitment is subject to the availability of sufficient appropriated funding as determined by HUD or by the GRHC in accordance with HUD instructions. For these purposes, sufficient funding means the availability of appropriations, and of funding under the ACC from such appropriations, to make full payment of housing assistance payments payable to the owner for any contract year in accordance with the terms of the HAP contract.

If it is determined that there may not be sufficient funding to continue housing assistance payments for all contract units and for the full term of the HAP contract, the GRHC may terminate the HAP contract by notice to the owner. The termination must be implemented in accordance with HUD instructions.

Termination by Owner [24 CFR 983.205(d) , FR Notice 11/24/08]

If in accordance with program requirements the amount of rent to an owner for any contract unit is reduced below the amount of the rent to owner at the beginning of the HAP contract term, the owner may terminate the HAP contract by giving notice to the GRHC. In this case, families living in the contract units must be offered tenant-based assistance.

At their discretion GRHCs may specify in the HAP contract that the maximum rent on a unit will not be less than the initial rent.

Remedies for HQS Violations [24 CFR 983.207(b)]

The GRHC 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 GRHC determines that a contract does not comply with HQS, the GRHC 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.

GRHC Policy

The GRHC will abate and terminate PBV HAP contracts for non-compliance 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.

17-V.C. AMENDMENTS TO THE HAP CONTRACT

Substitution of Contract Units [24 CFR 983.206(a)]

At the GRHC's discretion and subject to all PBV requirements, the HAP contract may be amended to substitute a different unit with the same number of bedrooms in the same building for a previously covered contract unit. Before any such substitution can take place, the GRHC must inspect the proposed unit and determine the reasonable rent for the unit.

Addition of Contract Units [24 CFR 983.206(b)]

At the GRHC's discretion and subject to the restrictions on the number of dwelling units that can receive PBV assistance per building and on the overall size of the GRHC's PBV program, a HAP contract may be amended during the three-year period following the execution date of the HAP contract to add additional PBV units in the same building. This type of amendment is subject to all PBV program requirements except that a new PBV proposal is not required.

GRHC Policy

The GRHC will consider adding contract units to the HAP contract when the GRHC determines that additional housing is needed to serve eligible low-income families. Circumstances may include, but are not limited to:

The local housing inventory is reduced due to a disaster (either due to loss of housing units, or an influx of displaced families); and

Voucher holders are having difficulty finding units that meet program requirements.

17-V.D. HAP CONTRACT YEAR, ANNIVERSARY AND EXPIRATION DATES [24 CFR 983.206(c) and 983.302(e)]

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

The annual anniversary of the HAP contract is the first day of the first calendar month after the end of the preceding contract year.

There is a single annual anniversary and expiration date for all units under a particular HAP contract, even in cases where contract units are placed under the HAP contract in stages (on different dates) or units are added by amendment. The anniversary and expiration dates for all units coincide with the dates for the contract units that were originally placed under contract.

17-V.E. OWNER RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THE HAP [24 CFR 983.209]

When the owner executes the HAP contract s/he certifies that at such execution and at all times during the term of the HAP contract:

- All contract units are in good condition and the owner is maintaining the premises and contract units in accordance with 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 GRHC, 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; and
- The family does not own or have any interest in the contract unit.

17-V.F. ADDITIONAL HAP REQUIREMENTS

Housing Quality and Design Requirements [24 CFR 983.101(e) and 983.207(a)]

The owner is required to maintain and operate the contract units and premises in accordance with HQS, including performance of ordinary and extraordinary maintenance. The owner must provide all the services, maintenance, equipment, and utilities specified in the HAP contract with the GRHC and in the lease with each assisted family. In addition, maintenance, replacement and redecoration must be in accordance with the standard practice for the building as established by the owner.

The GRHC may elect to establish additional requirements for quality, architecture, or design of PBV housing. Any such additional requirements must be specified in the Agreement to enter into a HAP contract and the HAP contract. These requirements must be in addition to, not in place of, compliance with HQS.

GRHC Policy

The GRHC will identify the need for any special features on a case-by-case basis depending on the intended occupancy of the PBV project. The GRHC will specify any special design standards or additional requirements in the invitation for PBV proposals, the agreement to enter into HAP contract, and the HAP contract.

Vacancy Payments [24 CFR 983.352(b)]

At the discretion of the GRHC, the HAP contract may provide for vacancy payments to the owner for a GRHC-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 GRHC 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).

GRHC Policy

The GRHC will decide on a case-by-case basis if the GRHC will provide vacancy payments to the owner. The HAP contract with the owner will contain any such agreement, including the amount of the vacancy payment and the period for which the owner will qualify for these payments.

PART VI: SELECTION OF PBV PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

17-VI.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.

17-VI.B. ELIGIBILITY FOR PBV ASSISTANCE [24 CFR 983.251(a) and (b)]

The GRHC may select families for the PBV program from those who are participants in the GRHC's tenant-based voucher program and from those who have applied for admission to the voucher program. For voucher participants, eligibility was determined at original admission to the voucher program and does not need to be redetermined at the commencement of PBV

assistance. For all others, eligibility for admission must be determined at the commencement of PBV assistance.

Applicants for PBV assistance must meet the same eligibility requirements as applicants for the tenant-based voucher program. Applicants must qualify as a family as defined by HUD and the GRHC, 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 GRHC's collection and use of family information regarding income, expenses, and family composition [24 CFR 5.230]. An applicant family must also meet HUD requirements related to current or past criminal activity.

GRHC Policy

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

In-Place Families [24 CFR 983.251(b)]

An eligible family residing in a proposed PBV contract unit on the date the proposal is selected by the GRHC is considered an "in-place family." These families are afforded protection from displacement under the PBV rule. If a unit to be placed under contract (either an existing unit or a unit requiring rehabilitation) is occupied by an eligible family on the date the proposal is selected, the in-place family must be placed on the GRHC's waiting list. Once the family's continued eligibility is determined (the GRHC may deny assistance to an in-place family for the grounds specified in 24 CFR 982.552 and 982.553), the family must be given an absolute selection preference and the GRHC must refer these families to the project owner for an appropriately sized PBV unit in the project. Admission of eligible in-place families is not subject to income targeting requirements.

This regulatory protection from displacement does not apply to families that are not eligible to participate in the program on the proposal selection date.

17-VLC. ORGANIZATION OF THE WAITING LIST [24 CFR 983.251(c)]

The GRHC may establish a separate waiting list for PBV units or it may use the same waiting list for both tenant-based and PBV assistance. The GRHC may also merge the PBV waiting list with a waiting list for other assisted housing programs offered by the GRHC. If the GRHC chooses to offer a separate waiting list for PBV assistance, the GRHC must offer to place applicants who are listed on the tenant-based waiting list on the waiting list for PBV assistance.

If a GRHC decides to establish a separate PBV waiting list, the GRHC may use a single waiting list for the GRHC's whole PBV program, or it may establish separate waiting lists for PBV units in particular projects or buildings or for sets of such units.

GRHC Policy

The GRHC will establish and manage separate waiting lists for individual projects or buildings that are receiving PBV assistance.

17-VLD. SELECTION FROM THE WAITING LIST [24 CFR 983.251(c)]

Applicants who will occupy units with PBV assistance must be selected from the GRHC's waiting list. The GRHC may establish selection criteria or preferences for occupancy of particular PBV units. The GRHC may place families referred by the PBV owner on its PBV waiting list.

Income Targeting [24 CFR 983.251(c)(6)]

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

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

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

Preferences [24 CFR 983.251(d) , FR Notice 11/24/08]

The GRHC 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 GRHC must provide an absolute selection preference for eligible in-place families as described in Section 17-VI.B. above.

Although the GRHC is prohibited from granting preferences to persons with a specific disability, the GRHC may give preference to disabled families who need services offered at a particular project or site if the preference is limited to families (including individuals):

- With disabilities that significantly interfere with their ability to obtain and maintain themselves in housing;
- Who, without appropriate supportive services, will not be able to obtain or maintain themselves in housing; and
- For whom such services cannot be provided in a non-segregated setting.

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

If the GRHC has projects with more than 25 percent of the units receiving project-based assistance because those projects include "excepted units" (units specifically made available for elderly or disabled families, or families receiving supportive services), the GRHC must give preference to such families when referring families to these units [24 CFR 983.261(b)].

GRHC Policy

The GRHC will provide a selection preference for eligible in-place families, qualifying families for "excepted units," and mobility impaired persons for accessible units.

17-VLE. OFFER OF PBV ASSISTANCE

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

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

- Refuse to list the applicant on the waiting list for tenant-based voucher assistance;
- Deny any admission preference for which the applicant qualifies;
- Change the applicant's place on the waiting list based on preference, date, and time of application, or other factors affecting selection under the GRHC's selection policy;
- Remove the applicant from the tenant-based voucher waiting list.

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

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

Acceptance of Offer [24 CFR 983.252]

Family Briefing

When a family accepts an offer for PBV assistance, the GRHC 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 GRHC must provide a briefing packet that explains how the GRHC 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 GRHC 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 GRHC 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 GRHC 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).

17-VLF. 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(b)].

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 GRHC from the GRHC'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 GRHC's subsidy standards.

Filling Vacancies [24 CFR 983.254(a)]

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

Reduction in HAP Contract Units Due to Vacancies [24 CFR 983.254(b)]

If any contract units have been vacant for 120 or more days since owner notice of the vacancy, the GRHC may give notice to the owner amending the HAP contract to reduce the number of contract units by subtracting the number of contract units (according to the bedroom size) that have been vacant for this period.

17-VI.G. TENANT SCREENING [24 CFR 983.255]

GRHC Responsibility

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

GRHC Policy

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

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

In addition, the GRHC may offer the owner other information the GRHC 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 GRHC must provide applicant families a description of the GRHC policy on providing information to owners, and the GRHC must give the same types of information to all owners.

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; and
- Compliance with other essential conditions of tenancy.

PART VII: OCCUPANCY

17-VII.A. OVERVIEW

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

17-VII.B. LEASE [24 CFR 983.256]

The tenant must have legal capacity to enter 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.

Form of Lease [24 CFR 983.256(b)]

The tenant and the owner must enter into a written lease agreement that is signed by both parties. If an owner uses a standard lease form for rental units to unassisted tenants in the locality or premises, the same lease must be used for assisted tenants, except that the lease must include a HUD-required tenancy addendum. The tenancy addendum must include, word-for-word, all provisions required by HUD.

If the owner does not use a standard lease form for rental to unassisted tenants, the owner may use another form of lease, such as a GRHC model lease.

The GRHC may review the owner's lease form to determine if the lease complies with state and local law. If the GRHC determines that the lease does not comply with state or local law, the GRHC may decline to approve the tenancy.

Lease Requirements [24 CFR 983.256(c)]

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

- The names of the owner and the tenant;
- The unit rented (address, apartment number, if any, and any other information needed to identify the leased contract unit);
- The term of the lease (initial term and any provision for renewal);
- The amount of the tenant rent to 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 provide by the owner; and
- The amount of any charges for food, furniture, or supportive services.

Tenancy Addendum [24 CFR 983.256(d)]

The tenancy addendum in the lease must state:

- The program tenancy requirements;

- The composition of the household as approved by the GRHC (the names of family members and any GRHC-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) and 983.257(b)]

The initial lease term must be for at least one year. Upon expiration of the lease, an owner may renew the lease, refuse to renew the lease for “good cause,” or refuse to renew the lease without good cause. If the owner refuses to renew the lease without good cause, the GRHC must provide the family with a tenant-based voucher and remove the unit from the PBV HAP contract.

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 GRHC a copy of all changes.

The owner must notify the GRHC 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 GRHC and in accordance with the terms of the lease relating to its amendment. The GRHC 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]

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.

Non-Compliance with Supportive Services Requirement [24 CFR 983.257(c), FR Notice 11/24/08]

If a family is living in a project-based unit that is excepted from the 25 percent per project cap on project-basing because of participation in a supportive services program (e.g., Family Self-Sufficiency), and the family fails to complete its supportive services requirement without good cause, such failure is grounds for lease termination by the owner.

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

The owner may specify in the lease a maximum period of tenant absence from the unit that is shorter than the maximum period permitted by GRHC 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.

Security Deposits [24 CFR 983.258]

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

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 GRHC has no liability or responsibility for payment of any amount owed by the family to the owner.

17-VII.C. MOVES

Overcrowded, Under-Occupied, and Accessible Units [24 CFR 983.259]

If the GRHC determines that a family is occupying a wrong size unit, based on the GRHC'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 GRHC must promptly notify the family and the owner of this determination, and the GRHC must offer the family the opportunity to receive continued housing assistance in another unit.

GRHC Policy

The GRHC 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 GRHC's determination. The GRHC will offer the family the following types of continued assistance in the following order, based on the availability of assistance:

PBV assistance in the same building or project;

PBV assistance in another project; and

Tenant-based voucher assistance.

If the GRHC offers the family a tenant-based voucher, the GRHC must terminate the housing assistance payments for a wrong-sized or accessible unit at expiration of the term of the family's voucher (including any extension granted by the GRHC).

If the GRHC 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 GRHC, or both, the GRHC must terminate the housing assistance payments for the unit at the expiration of a reasonable period as determined by the GRHC.

Family Right to Move [24 CFR 983.260]

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 GRHC. If the family wishes to move with continued tenant-based assistance, the family must contact the GRHC to request the rental assistance prior to providing notice to terminate the lease.

If the family terminates the lease in accordance with these requirements, the GRHC is required to offer the family the opportunity for continued tenant-based assistance, in the form of a voucher

or other comparable tenant-based rental assistance. If voucher or other comparable tenant-based assistance is not immediately available upon termination of the family's lease in the PBV unit, the GRHC 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.

17-VII.D. EXCEPTIONS TO THE OCCUPANCY CAP [24 CFR 983.261, FR Notice 11/24/08]

The GRHC may not pay housing assistance under a PBV HAP contract for more than 25 percent of the number of dwelling units in a project unless the units are [24 CFR 983.56]:

- In a single-family building;
- Specifically made available for elderly or disabled families; or
- Specifically made available for families receiving supportive services as defined by the GRHC. At least one member must be receiving at least one qualifying supportive service.

If a family at the time of initial tenancy is receiving and while the resident of an excepted unit has received Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) supportive services or any other service as defined as defined by the GRHC and successfully completes the FSS contract of participation or the supportive services requirement, the unit continues to count as an excepted unit for as long as the family resides in the unit.

A family (or remaining members of a family) residing in an excepted unit that no longer meets the criteria for a "qualifying family" in connection with the 25 percent per project cap exception (e.g., the family does not successfully complete supportive services requirements, or due to a change in family composition the family is no longer elderly or disabled), must vacate the unit within a reasonable period of time established by the GRHC, and the GRHC must cease paying housing assistance payments on behalf of the non-qualifying family.

If the family fails to vacate the unit within the established time, the unit must be removed from the HAP contract unless the project is partially assisted, and it is possible for the HAP contract to be amended to substitute a different unit in the building in accordance with program requirements; or the owner terminates the lease and evicts the family. The housing assistance payments for a family residing in an excepted unit that is not in compliance with its family obligations to comply with supportive services requirements must be terminated by the GRHC.

PART VIII: DETERMINING RENT TO OWNER

17-VIII.A. OVERVIEW

The amount of the initial rent to an owner of units receiving PBV assistance is established at the beginning of the HAP contract term. Although for rehabilitated or newly constructed housing, the agreement to enter into HAP Contract (Agreement) states the estimated amount of the initial rent to owner, the actual amount of the initial rent to owner is established at the beginning of the HAP contract term.

During the term of the HAP contract, the rent to owner is redetermined at the owner's request in accordance with program requirements, and at such time that there is a five percent or greater decrease in the published FMR.

17-VIII.B. RENT LIMITS [24 CFR 983.301]

Except for certain tax credit units (discussed below), the rent to owner must not exceed the lowest of the following amounts:

- An amount determined by the GRHC, not to exceed 110 percent of the applicable fair market rent (or any HUD-approved exception payment standard) for the unit bedroom size minus any utility allowance;
- The reasonable rent; or
- The rent requested by the owner.

Certain Tax Credit Units [24 CFR 983.301(c), FR Notice 11/24/08]

For certain tax credit units, the rent limits are determined differently than for other PBV units. These different limits apply to contract units that meet all of the following criteria:

- The contract unit receives a low-income housing tax credit under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986;
- The contract unit is not located in a qualified census tract;
- There are comparable tax credit units of the same bedroom size as the contract unit in the same building, and the comparable tax credit units do not have any form of rental assistance other than the tax credit; and
- The tax credit rent exceeds a GRHC-determined amount (not to exceed 110 percent of the fair market rent or any approved exception payment standard);

For contract units that meet all of these criteria, the rent to owner must not exceed the lowest of:

- The tax credit rent minus any utility allowance;
- The reasonable rent; or
- The rent requested by the owner.

However, GRHCs are permitted to use the higher Section 8 rent for a tax credit unit if the tax credit rent is less than the amount that would be permitted under Section 8. In these cases, Section 8 rent reasonableness requirements must continue to be met.

Definitions

A *qualified census tract* is any census tract (or equivalent geographic area defined by the Bureau of the Census) in which at least 50 percent of households have an income of less than 60 percent of Area Median Gross Income (AMGI), or where the poverty rate is at least 25 percent and where the census tract is designated as a qualified census tract by HUD.

Tax credit rent is the rent charged for comparable units of the same bedroom size in the building that also receive the low-income housing tax credit but do not have any additional rental assistance (e.g., tenant-based voucher assistance).

Use of FMRs, Exception Payment Standards, and Utility Allowances [24 CFR 983.301(f)]

When determining the initial rent to owner, the GRHC must use the most recently published FMR in effect and the utility allowance schedule in effect at execution of the HAP contract. When redetermining the rent to owner, the GRHC must use the most recently published FMR and the utility allowance schedule in effect at the time of redetermination. At its discretion, the GRHC may for initial rent, use the amounts in effect at any time during the 30-day period immediately before the beginning date of the HAP contract, or for redeterminations of rent, the 30-day period immediately before the redetermination date.

Any HUD-approved exception payment standard amount under the tenant-based voucher program also applies to the project-based voucher program. HUD will not approve a different exception payment stand amount for use in the PBV program.

Likewise, the GRHC may not establish or apply different utility allowance amounts for the PBV program. The same utility allowance schedule applies to both the tenant-based and project-based voucher programs.

Redetermination of Rent [24 CFR 983.302, FR Notice 11/24/08]

The GRHC must redetermine the rent to owner upon the owner's request or when there is a five percent or greater decrease in the published FMR.

Rent Increase

If an owner wishes to request an increase in the rent to owner from the GRHC, it must be requested at the annual anniversary of the HAP contract (see Section 17-V.D.). The request must be in writing and in the form and manner required by the GRHC. The GRHC may only make rent increases in accordance with the rent limits described previously. There are no provisions in the PBV program for special adjustments (e.g., adjustments that reflect increases in the actual and necessary expenses of owning and maintaining the units which have resulted from substantial general increases in real property taxes, utility rates, or similar costs).

GRHC Policy

An owner's request for a rent increase must be submitted to the GRHC 60 days prior to the anniversary date of the HAP contract, and must include the new rent amount the owner is proposing.

The GRHC may not approve and the owner may not receive any increase of rent to owner until and unless the owner has complied with requirements of the HAP contract, including compliance

with HQS. The owner may not receive any retroactive increase of rent for any period of noncompliance.

Rent Decrease

If there is a decrease in the rent to owner, as established in accordance with program requirements such as a change in the FMR or exception payment standard, or reasonable rent amount, the rent to owner must be decreased regardless of whether the owner requested a rent adjustment. However, the GRHC may stipulate in the HAP contract that the maximum rent on a unit will not be less than the initial rent.

Notice of Rent Change

The rent to owner is redetermined by written notice by the GRHC to the owner specifying the amount of the redetermined rent. The GRHC notice of rent adjustment constitutes an amendment of the rent to owner specified in the HAP contract. The adjusted amount of rent to owner applies for the period of 12 calendar months from the annual anniversary of the HAP contract.

GRHC Policy

The GRHC will provide the owner with at least 30 days written notice of any change in the amount of rent to owner.

GRHC-owned Units [24 CFR 983.301(g)]

For GRHC-owned PBV units, the initial rent to owner and the annual redetermination of rent at the anniversary of the HAP contract are determined by the independent entity approved by HUD. The GRHC must use the rent to owner established by the independent entity.

17-VIII.C. 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 GRHC.

When Rent Reasonable Determinations are Required

The GRHC must redetermine the reasonable rent for a unit receiving PBV assistance whenever any of the following occur:

- There is a five percent or greater decrease in the published FMR in effect 60 days before the contract anniversary (for the unit sizes specified in the HAP contract) as compared with the FMR that was in effect one year before the contract anniversary date;
- The GRHC approves a change in the allocation of responsibility for utilities between the owner and the tenant;
- The HAP contract is amended to substitute a different contract unit in the same building; or
- There is any other change that may substantially affect the reasonable rent.

How to Determine Reasonable Rent

The reasonable rent of a unit receiving PBV assistance must be determined by comparison to rent for other comparable unassisted units. When making this determination, the GRHC 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 GRHC. The comparability analysis may be performed by GRHC 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.

GRHC-owned Units

For GRHC-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 GRHC-owned units to the GRHC and to the HUD field office where the project is located.

Owner Certification of Reasonable Rent

By accepting each monthly housing assistance payment, the owner certifies that the rent to owner is not more than rent charged by the owner for other comparable unassisted units in the premises. At any time, the GRHC may require the owner to submit information on rents charged by the owner for other units in the premises or elsewhere.

17-VIII.D. EFFECT OF OTHER SUBSIDY AND RENT CONTROL

In addition to the rent limits discussed in Section 17-VIII.B above, other restrictions may limit the amount of rent to owner in a PBV unit. In addition, certain types of subsidized housing are not even eligible to receive PBV assistance (see Section 17-II.D).

Other Subsidy [24 CFR 983.304]

At its discretion, a GRHC may reduce the initial rent to owner because of other governmental subsidies, including grants and other subsidized financing.

For units receiving assistance under the HOME program, rents may not exceed rent limits as required by that program.

For units in any of the following types of federally subsidized projects, the rent to owner may not exceed the subsidized rent (basic rent) or tax credit rent as determined in accordance with requirements for the applicable federal program:

- An insured or non-insured Section 236 project;
- A formerly insured or non-insured Section 236 project that continues to receive Interest Reduction Payment following a decoupling action;
- A Section 221(d)(3) below market interest rate (BMIR) project;
- A Section 515 project of the Rural Housing Service;
- Any other type of federally subsidized project specified by HUD.

Combining Subsidy

Rent to owner may not exceed any limitation required to comply with HUD subsidy layering requirements.

Rent Control [24 CFR 983.305]

In addition to the rent limits set by PBV program regulations, the amount of rent to owner may also be subject to rent control or other limits under local, state, or federal law.

PART IX: PAYMENTS TO OWNER

17-IX.A. HOUSING ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS [24 CFR 983.351]

During the term of the HAP contract, the GRHC 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 GRHC agree on a later date.

Except for discretionary vacancy payments, the GRHC 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 GRHC 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.

17-IX.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 GRHC determines that the vacancy is the owner's fault.

GRHC Policy

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

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

- The owner gives the GRHC 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 GRHC 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 GRHC and must provide any information or substantiation required by the GRHC to determine the amount of any vacancy payment.

GRHC 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 GRHC of the vacancy in accordance with the policy in Section 17-VI.F. 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 GRHC may require the owner to provide documentation to support the request. If the owner does not provide the information requested by the GRHC within 10 business days of the GRHC's request, no vacancy payments will be made.

17-IX.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 GRHC in accordance with HUD requirements. Any changes in the amount of tenant rent will be effective on the date stated in the GRHC 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 GRHC 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 GRHC. The owner must immediately return any excess payment to the tenant.

Tenant and GRHC 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 GRHC.

Likewise, the GRHC is responsible only for making the housing assistance payment to the owner in accordance with the HAP contract. The GRHC is not responsible for paying tenant rent, or any other claim by the owner, including damage to the unit. The GRHC 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 GRHC 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 GRHC may pay the utility reimbursement directly to the family or to the utility supplier on behalf of the family.

GRHC Policy

The GRHC will make utility reimbursements to the family.

17-IX.D. 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.