



CHA

CHICAGO HOUSING
AUTHORITY™

FY2024 ADMISSIONS AND CONTINUED OCCUPANCY POLICY (ACOP)



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FY2024 Admissions and Continued Occupancy Policy

This Admissions and Continued Occupancy Policy (“ACOP”) is the policy of the Chicago Housing Authority (“CHA”) governing admissions to and continued occupancy in public housing units owned by the CHA. Unless otherwise stated, this policy does not apply to public housing units in mixed-income/mixed-finance communities with site-specific tenant/resident selection plans. The ACOP sets forth the requirements for CHA staff and private property management agents as it relates to admissions and occupancy-related work. Site staff cannot alter or amend this ACOP. The ACOP can only be revised by a Chicago Housing Authority Board of Commissioner’s resolution. The ACOP is subject to the provisions set forth in the CHA Leaseholder Housing Choice and Relocation Rights Contract 10/1/99 and the CHA Relocation Rights Contract for Families with Initial Occupancy after 10/1/99.

The citations to applicable U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (“HUD”) regulations follow the text in which they are referenced. Footnotes are denoted with superscript numbers and are presented at the end of each page.

I. Nondiscrimination

It is the policy of the CHA to comply with all equal opportunity requirements and nondiscrimination laws, rules, ordinances, and regulations set forth by local, state, and federal governments. Applicable Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity laws and regulations provide that no person shall, on the grounds of race, color, sex, age, familial status, religion, disability, national origin, ancestry, sexual orientation (including gender identity), marital status, housing status, order of protection status, military discharge status or source of income be excluded from participation in, or denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under CHA’s public housing program.

A. Complying with Civil Rights Laws

1. Civil Rights laws protect the rights of applicants and residents and afford them equal treatment by the CHA in operating its programs. When more than one civil rights law applies to a situation, to the extent the laws do not contradict each other; the laws will be read and applied together. It is the policy of the CHA to comply with all Civil Rights laws now in effect and subsequently enacted, including but not limited to:
 - a. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which forbids discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin in programs or activities receiving federal financial assistance; **24 CFR § 1 and 100.**
 - b. Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, as amended by the 1974 Housing and Community Development Act and the Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988 (“Fair Housing Act”), which extend protection against discrimination beyond federally funded housing and includes religion, sex, disability, and familial status as additional protected classes. The law also provides examples of prohibited discrimination; **24 CFR § 100.**
 - c. Executive Order 11063, which calls for equal opportunities in housing;
 - d. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which describes specific housing

- rights of persons with disabilities living in federally funded housing; **24 CFR § 8.**
- e. Age Discrimination Act of 1975, which establishes certain rights of the elderly; **24 CFR § 146.**
 - f. Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Americans with Disabilities Amendment Act; **24 CFR § 570.614.**
 - g. Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization Act of 2022 (VAWA), signed into law March 15, 2022, which establishes the rights of victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking, living in federally funded housing; and **24 CFR § 92.359.**
 - h. All applicable state laws and local ordinances including, but not limited to, the Cook County Human Rights Ordinance (Code of Ordinances for Cook County Chapter 42 Article II), the Illinois Human Rights Act (775 ILCS 5/3-101) and the Chicago Human Rights Ordinance (Municipal Code 5-8-010).
2. The CHA shall not discriminate because of race, color, sex, age (when age eligibility is not a factor), familial status, religion, disability, national origin, ancestry, sexual orientation (including gender identity), marital status, housing status, order of protection status, military discharge status or source of income or other protected classes under state or local laws in the leasing, rental, occupancy, use, or other disposition of housing or related facilities, including land that is part of a development under the jurisdiction of the CHA covered by a public housing Annual Contributions Contract (ACC) with HUD; **24 CFR § 100.**
 3. The CHA will not deny admission to otherwise qualified applicants because of their membership in a group to which negative behavior may be imputed. Each applicant will be treated as an individual, based on their personal attributes and behavior; **24 CFR § 960.203(a).**
 4. The CHA shall not permit these policies to be subverted to perform personal or political favors; **24 CFR § 960.203¹.**
 5. The CHA will offer units only in the order prescribed by this policy. Modifications of the ACOP for individuals with qualified disabilities may be allowed as a reasonable accommodation; **24 CFR § 960.206(e).**
 6. The CHA shall not deny admissions to any applicant or assistance to any resident on the basis that the applicant or resident is or has been a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual violence, or stalking, if the applicant or resident otherwise qualifies for assistance or admission.

B. Reasonable Accommodations Policy²

1. An applicant or resident with a disability may request and qualify for a reasonable accommodation at any time. Section XIV contains the definition of an individual with a disability, a person with a disability and a qualified individual with disabilities for the purpose of determining if someone may obtain a reasonable accommodation; **24 CFR § 8.3.**

¹ 24 CFR § 960.203 does not reference this CHA initiated policy directly but the CHA uses the tenant selection criteria as a guideline.

² A copy of the CHA's Reasonable Accommodation Policy and Procedure manual is available upon request.

2. A qualified applicant or resident is defined as an applicant or resident who qualifies for a reasonable accommodation.
3. The CHA, as a public agency, has an obligation to provide “reasonable accommodations” to qualified applicants and residents if they or any members of their household have a disability; **24 CFR § 8.24**.
4. A reasonable accommodation is a modification or change the CHA can make to its units, buildings, policies and procedures that will assist an otherwise qualified applicant or resident with a disability to take full advantage of and use CHA programs, including those that are operated by other agencies in CHA-owned public space; **24 CFR § 8.20**.
5. A qualified applicant or resident with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation from the time of the application screening up until the time that the resident voluntarily vacates or is forcibly evicted from the dwelling unit.
6. The CHA will not permit the use of medical marijuana as a reasonable accommodation.
7. Under **24 CFR § 8.24**, examples of reasonable accommodations include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Making alterations to a CHA unit to make it accessible so that it can be used by a resident with disabilities or a member of the resident’s family;
 - b. Transferring a resident from a unit that cannot be made accessible to a unit that is accessible;
 - c. Widening the door of a community room or public restroom so a person with mobility impairment may use the facility;
 - d. Adding or altering unit or common area features so it may be used by a qualified applicant or resident with a disability, including but not limited to:
 - i. Installing strobe-type flashing light smoke detectors in a unit for a family with a hearing-impaired member;
 - ii. Adding structural grab bars in the bathroom;
 - iii. Changing the doorknobs to lever-type door handles;
 - iv. Modifying a kitchen to make it accessible;
 - v. Providing accessible kitchen appliances;
 - vi. Installing a visual aid for necessary utilities;
 - vii. Modifying a bathroom to make it accessible; or
 - viii. Lowering the peephole on the door
 - e. Permitting a family to have an assistance animal for a resident family member with a disability in a development where no pets are allowed or the size and/or type of the animal is limited;
 - f. Offering programs and services at locations accessible to individuals with disabilities; **24 CFR § 8.21**.
 - g. Making sure that CHA policies are accessible to applicants and residents with disabilities or cognitive impairments. Upon request, the CHA may make adjustments such as the following as allowed under **24 CFR § 8.6**:
 - i. Making large-type documents, Braille documents, cassettes, or a reader available to an applicant or resident with a vision or cognitive impairment

- during interviews or meetings with CHA staff;
 - ii. Making a sign language interpreter available to an applicant or resident with a hearing impairment upon request, and at no expense to the applicant or resident, during interviews or meetings with CHA staff; and
 - iii. Permitting an applicant or resident with a disability to be accompanied or represented by a family member, friend, or advocate at all meetings and interviews with the CHA if the individual desires such representation.
 - iv. Permitting an outside agency or individual to assist an applicant with a disability to successfully complete the applicant screening; or
 - v. Permitting an outside agency or individual to assist a resident with a disability to meet the essential obligations of tenancy.
- 8. An accommodation is not reasonable if it:
 - a. Causes an undue financial and administrative burden; or
 - b. Represents a fundamental alteration in the nature of the program of the CHA; **24 CFR § 8.21(b), § 8.21(c) and 24 CFR § 8.24(a) (2).**
- 9. An applicant or resident family who has a qualified member with a disability must be able to meet the essential obligations of tenancy in the **CHA Residential Lease Agreement, 24 CFR § 8.3³**.
- 10. If a qualified applicant or resident family member requests assistance with one of the essential obligations of tenancy, the CHA may, as a reasonable accommodation, make a referral to an individual or agency that can provide such assistance; **24 CFR § 8.20.**
- 11. If a qualified applicant or resident receives a referral to an agency or individual who can assist the applicant or resident with complying with the essential obligations of tenancy, the applicant or resident is not obligated to accept the service. However, if the essential obligations of tenancy cannot be met or a lease violation continues, the CHA may deny the applicant or terminate the lease of the resident.
- 12. If a qualified applicant or resident would prefer not to discuss their disability with the CHA, that is their right.

C. Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing

- 1. The CHA is committed to developing and implementing initiatives to affirmatively further fair housing as mandated by the Fair Housing Act.
- 2. The CHA will use federal financial assistance and other program resources to overcome barriers to fair housing for public housing applicants and residents, including but not limited to:
 - a. Development of an analysis of impediments
 - b. Action planning and implementation
 - c. Recordkeeping and assessment

³ Qualified individual with disabilities 24 C.F.R. § 8.3(c)

3. The CHA will display the Fair Housing poster at its main office and all property management offices; **24 CFR § 110.**
4. The CHA will include the Fair Housing advertising logo on all documents distributed to applicants and residents and any advertising materials.
5. The CHA will comply with all data collection requirements for recipients based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, handicap, and family characteristics; **24 CFR § 121.**
6. The CHA will utilize HUD's Fair Housing Planning Guide when making decisions regarding fair housing policy.

D. Making Programs and Facilities Accessible to People with Disabilities

1. To permit people with disabilities to take full advantage of CHA housing programs and activities, in accordance with Section 504 and the Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988, the CHA will comply with requirements and prohibitions in applicable law. Reasonable accommodations are subject to the undue burden and fundamental alteration tests. If the requested reasonable accommodation does not cause an undue burden or fundamental alteration, the CHA will work to make physical modifications or revise procedures that create a barrier to equal housing opportunities for all.
2. Facilities and programs used by applicants and residents shall be accessible to persons with mobility and sensory impairments and other persons with disabilities. These facilities include but are not limited to: application and management offices, hearing rooms, community centers, laundry facilities, craft and game rooms, etc. (to the extent that the CHA has such facilities). If the CHA offers such facilities, and none are accessible, some will be made so, subject to the undue financial and administrative burden test. It is not required that all public and common areas be made accessible so long as persons with disabilities have full access to all the types of facilities and activities available. For example, not all laundry facilities need to be accessible so long as there are sufficient accessible laundry facilities for use by persons with disabilities at each development that provides laundry facilities; **24 CFR § 8.21.**
3. Documents used by applicants and residents will be offered in an alternative format upon request and will be accessible for those with vision, hearing, or other sensory impairments. In addition, documents will be written in simple and clear language to enable applicants and residents with learning or cognitive disabilities to understand as much as possible; **24 CFR § 8.6.**

E. Violence Against Women Act

1. The Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 applies to both men and women equally.
2. The CHA and its private property management companies must keep information regarding Victims of Domestic Violence, Sexual Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault or Stalking confidential and in accordance with Privacy Laws:
 - a. Any VAWA documentation provided shall not be entered into any shared database.

- b. Employees and/or property management will not have access to VAWA documentation unless explicitly authorized by designated VAWA staff.
 - c. The CHA shall not disclose VAWA documentation to any other entities or outside agencies unless the disclosure of the documentation is:
 - i. Requested or consented to by the individual, in writing, who is requesting VAWA protections; or
 - ii. Required for use in an eviction proceeding; or
 - iii. Otherwise required by applicable law.
3. Documenting Domestic Violence, Sexual Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault or Stalking
- a. To provide a resident or applicant who is a victim of domestic violence, sexual violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking the considerations outlined in this ACOP and Lease, the victim must document that the resident or applicant is indeed a victim. The Property Manager and/or the CHA shall verify all the information given to them regarding the above.
 - b. A victim may submit unconventional evidence to document domestic violence, sexual violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking. However, depending on the arrangements and/or modification requested, different types of documented evidence may be required. Documentation that may be requested, includes but is not limited to:
 - i. The HUD-approved certification form signed by the resident or applicant;
 - ii. A certified statement from an employee, agent, or volunteer of a victim services provider, an attorney, or medical professional from whom the victim has sought assistance in addressing domestic violence, sexual violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking;
 - iii. A Federal, state, or local police report;
 - iv. A current Order of Protection; and/or
 - v. A letter(s) from administrative agencies and/or mental health professionals from whom the victim has sought assistance.
4. The CHA may remove a household member from a lease without regard to whether the household member is a signatory to the lease (through lease bifurcation), to evict or terminate occupancy rights of any tenant or lawful occupant who engages in criminal acts of physical violence against other authorized household members without evicting or terminating the occupancy rights of the victim of such violence; **24 CFR § 5.2007.**
5. The CHA and its private property management companies shall not discriminate against any person because that person has opposed any act or practice made unlawful by the housing title of VAWA (34 U.S.C. chapter 121, subchapter III, Part L), or because that person testified, assisted, or participated in any related matter. The CHA and its private property management companies shall not coerce, intimidate, threaten, interfere with, or retaliate against any person who exercises or assists or encourages a person to exercise any rights or protections under the housing title of VAWA.

F. Persons with Limited English Proficiency (LEP)

- 1. Persons who do not speak English as their primary language and who have a

limited ability to read, write, speak, or understand English (Limited English proficient, or “LEP”) may be entitled to language assistance with respect to a particular type of service, benefit, or encounter; **24 CFR § 1 & 100**.

2. The CHA will follow the policies and procedures in its [Language Access Plan](#) to ensure that LEP persons have access to its programs.

II. Processing of Applications and Eligibility for Admission

The CHA maintains individual site-based waitlists for its public housing and applies a preference and an income tiering system in the selection of applicants from its waitlists. When units become available and an applicant's name nears the top of the waitlist, the CHA will conduct a review to determine eligibility and suitability for admission. CHA property management staff will review and verify all information provided by the family. Upon verification of applicant information, a final determination of qualification for admission is made. If found ineligible for housing, applicants will have the opportunity to explain mitigating circumstances and provide additional information. Only families that meet the CHA eligibility criteria and pass applicant screening will receive a unit offer for public housing. The CHA will house applicants in accordance with both their site-based preference and the available housing stock.

A. Affirmative Marketing 24 CFR § 960.103.

1. It is the policy of the CHA to administer its housing programs affirmatively, to achieve a condition in which housing is made available to eligible individuals regardless of their race, color, sex, age (when age eligibility is not a factor), familial status, religion, disability, national origin, ancestry, sexual orientation (including gender identity), marital status, housing status, order of protection status, military discharge status or source of income. The CHA shall pursue affirmative fair housing marketing policies in soliciting applicants, in determining their eligibility, and in concluding rental transactions.

B. Qualifying for Admission Eligibility

1. The CHA will **only** admit applicants who are qualified⁴ according to the following criteria:
 - a. Are a family, as defined in Section XIV of this policy, with the head of household age 18 or older, or who is an emancipated minor;
 - b. Meet HUD requirements on citizenship or eligible immigration status; **24 CFR § 5.506.**
 - c. Are low-income with an annual gross income that does not exceed 80% of area median income (AMI) or the income limits established by HUD by family size; **24 CFR § 960.102.**
 - d. Provide documentation of Social Security numbers (SSN) for all family members or sign a certification under penalties of perjury for each family member that does not have a SSN; and **24 CFR § 5.216.**
 - i. Eligible applicants may become residents even if they lack the SSN documentation for children under the age of 6, but must verify the SSN within 90 days;

⁴ The term "qualified" refers to applicants who are eligible and able to meet the applicant selection criteria. This term is taken from the Section 504 regulations. "Qualified Individual with Handicaps"; **24 CFR § 8.3.**

- ii. An additional 90-day grace period will be extended, if merited, due to unforeseen or uncontrollable circumstances.
- e. Meet the admissions screening criteria in Section II.G. of this policy; **24 CFR § 960.202 and 203.**

C. Processing Applications for Admission

1. The CHA will accept and process applications in accordance with applicable HUD regulations, when the applicant is eligible to apply. For the purpose of placing applications on the waitlists, the CHA will assume that the facts, as self-certified to by the applicant in their application, are correct. All facts provided on the application will be verified later when screening applicants for suitability.
2. As units become available, applicants at the top of each selected site waitlist whose family composition and accessibility requirements match the features ⁵ of the available units will be required to attend an interview to complete their applicant file, confirm eligibility and be screened to determine suitability.
 - a. Applicants who fail to attend their scheduled interview or who do not respond to the outreach to schedule an interview will have their applications withdrawn, subject to reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities.
3. Every application file for admission to public housing shall include: the applicant's name, SSN, date of application, application number, applicant's race and ethnicity (if disclosed), amount and source of income, family compositions so that a unit bedroom size can be assigned, eligibility determination, the date, location, identification, and circumstances of each vacancy that was offered but refused, accessibility requirements, if any, and admissions preference, if any.
 - a. The following information will be verified to determine qualification for admission to CHA housing:
24 CFR § 960.259.
 - i. Family composition and type (e.g., elderly, non-elderly, etc.);
 - ii. Annual income;
 - iii. Assets and asset income;
 - iv. Deductions from income;
 - v. Social Security numbers of all family members ⁶;
 - vi. Citizenship or eligible immigration status of all family members;
 - vii. CHA Work Requirement criteria;
 - viii. Admissions preferences;
 - ix. Compliance with admissions screening criteria;
 - x. Criminal background; and
 - xi. History of payment of rent and utilities.

⁵ For example, bedroom size or accessibility features of the unit.

⁶ If a member of the applicant's family does not have eligible immigration status, the member will not need to provide a Social Security number but will be required to sign a certification for every family member who does not have a Social Security number and the resident's rent will be prorated accordingly.

- b. Third-party verification is required for the information listed above. Any other form of verification requires notation in the file explaining its use; **24 CFR § 960.259**.
4. Emergency applicants, who are victims of federally declared disasters, will be processed on an as needed basis before applications from the site-based waitlists.

D. Establishing and Maintaining the Waitlist

1. The CHA will administer waitlists as required by HUD regulations.
2. Applications will be accepted for the purpose of adding applicants to a waitlist.
 - a. CHA site-based waitlists are currently open, and applicants may apply at any time. The CHA has the discretion to close site-based waitlists. Notification will be provided prior to closing a waitlist.
 - b. No person has a right of entitlement to be listed on a waitlist, or to any particular position on the waitlist.
3. Applicant names will be removed from a waitlist if the applicant fails to respond to attempts made by the CHA or property manager to contact or communicate with them or at the applicant's request; **24 CFR § 960.206**.
4. The CHA will periodically update each waitlist by contacting all applicants in writing ⁷. All applicants are responsible for maintaining the accuracy of the personal information provided on their application (i.e., applicant must communicate changes to email address, mailing address, telephone number, family composition, or income). Applicants that fail to update their information during the waitlist update period will be removed from their selected waitlists and will not be entitled to a appeal hearing. CHA will consider failure to respond to updates based on reasonable accommodation requests.

E. The Preference System for Admissions 24 CFR § 960.206.

CHA will follow the policies outlined below in selecting applicants unless otherwise directed by court orders or consent decrees.

1. Preferences establish the order of applicants on the waitlist. An admissions preference does not guarantee admission. Every applicant must still meet CHA admissions screening criteria before the CHA will offer a unit.
2. Preferences will be granted to applicants on the waitlist who are otherwise qualified and who, at the time of applicant screening, are verified to meet the definitions of the preferences described in this section. The CHA may limit the number of applicants that qualify for any local preference; **24 CFR § 960.206**.
3. If it is determined that an applicant does not meet the criteria for receiving a preference, the applicant will be placed back on the waitlist with no preference by the original date of application and the applicant will receive a written notice of this determination. The notice will contain a brief statement of the reasons for the determination and information about how to request a review of the decision with a designee of the CHA. Denial of a preference does not prevent the applicant from

⁷ Or alternative format requested by qualified applicant with a disability.

exercising any legal rights if they believe discrimination contributed to the CHA's decision to deny the preference; **24 CFR § 960.206**.

4. It is the applicant's responsibility to notify the CHA of any change in their preference status. If an applicant's preference status changes while on the waitlist, the applicant's position on the waitlist will be adjusted to reflect the change. The applicant will retain their original date of application when a change is made.

5. Local Preferences Based on Income Targeting

There is one local preference in effect based on ranges of income as required by federal law. Applicants will be grouped as follows: **24 CFR § 960.202(b)**⁸.

- a. **Tier I:** Families with incomes between 0% and 30% of AMI. This group must constitute at least 50% of all admissions in any year⁹; **24 CFR § 960.202(b)**.
- b. **Tier II:** Families with incomes between 31% and 80% of AMI. The target for this group is no more than 50% of all admissions in any year.

The CHA will use the above income targeting preferences to achieve a balance of low-income to extremely low-income families to whom it leases.

6. Ranking Preferences for Site-Based Family Property Waitlists and Scattered Site Community Area Waitlists; **24 CFR § 960.206**.

Ranking preferences are used to sort among applicants in the same manner as local preferences. The CHA has established five hierarchic ranking preferences for Site-Based Family waitlists. The preferences are listed, in order, below:

- a. **First**, Emergency Applicants who are Victims of Federally Declared Disasters;
- b. **Second**, Domestic Violence Victims;
- c. **Third**, Veterans, Active or Inactive Military Personnel and Immediate Family Members of both;
- d. **Fourth**, Homeless, as defined by HUD under the HEARTH Act definition number I, with documentation through the City of Chicago or Chicago's Continuum of Care-Coordinated Entry System. (see Federal Register/Vol 76, No 233); and
- e. **Fifth**, Family Preservation.

Families that do not qualify for ranking preferences will be categorized as "no-preference" families.

7. Property Site Preferences for Site-Based Family Property Waitlists

An applicant may select only one public housing property or property group within the city on their application for housing. Applicants may update their public housing property preference but will not be permitted to do so while being screened for a housing opportunity by CHA property management. Applicants must select a public housing preference to confirm position on their particular waitlist.

- a. By selecting one of these public housing property or property group preferences, the applicant may be offered a unit at any corresponding Traditional Family Property, Mixed Income Property, Scattered Site unit, or Rental Assistance Demonstration unit that is covered by their stated

⁸ Or In addition, when the Plan for Transformation is complete, the CHA will implement deconcentration at family properties. **24 CFR § 903.7(b)**.

⁹ The CHA has opted to select a higher percentage of extremely low-income families than that required by the federal regulations.

preference. This preference does not guarantee admission and every applicant must meet CHA admissions screening criteria.

- b. Refusal of a unit offer within the applicant's selected waitlist or waitlist group, without good cause, will result in the applicant's name being removed from the waitlist.
 - c. Refusal of a unit offer within the applicant's selected waitlist or waitlist group, with good cause, will result in the applicant being returned to the waitlist.
 - d. CHA may consider extenuating circumstances on a case-by-case basis after one good cause for refusal has been provided.
8. Definition of Ranking Preferences applicable to Site-Based Family Property Waitlists:

- a. Emergency Applicants who are Victims of Federally Declared Disasters: Families or individuals who are displaced from their place of permanent residence due to a federally declared disaster and apply for CHA housing.

The CHA will make unit offers to verified victims of federally declared disasters, in accordance with the extent and type of housing resources available at the time of the need. New emergency applicants who are victims of federally declared disasters must qualify for admission to CHA housing as listed in II.B.

The applicant must supply the documentation within 10 business days of making a request for the preference. Otherwise, the applicant will be removed from the Victims of Federally Declared Disasters preference list.

If the applicant is called from screening and the verification information is older than 12 months, then the applicant will need to provide updated information to receive this preference. Failure to provide this information will result in the applicant being returned to the family waitlist without the Victims of Federally Declared Disasters preference.

- i. First priority: Individuals and families who were public housing residents or Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) participants and are victims of a federally declared disaster may receive a unit offer.
- ii. Second priority: Individuals and families who were not public housing residents or HCV participants and are victims of a federally declared disaster may receive a unit offer.

If emergency applicants, who are victims of federally declared disasters, arrive without any documentation, the CHA will obtain the name, SSN, and all signed release and consent forms of the head of household and all family members 18 years of age or older. The CHA will verify the family's current eligibility by using HUD's Enterprise Income Verification (EIV) system and conducting a criminal/credit check. If the data cannot be verified by HUD's EIV system and through a criminal/credit check, the CHA may accept alternate documentation that demonstrates participation in the public housing program, participation in the HCV Program or establishes eligibility. CHA will inform all emergency applicants how to obtain a free copy of their credit check.

Applicants will have access to obtain a copy of their criminal background check and an opportunity to participate in an individualized assessment before the

CHA will consider approving or denying the applicant (per compliance with the Cook County Just Housing Amendment, see II.F.12.).

- b. Domestic Violence Victims: Applicants who can provide documentation that they have been displaced by domestic violence, sexual violence, dating violence, or stalking or need to move from their present housing because of domestic violence, sexual violence, dating violence, or stalking. The terms domestic violence, sexual violence, dating violence, and stalking are explained in detail in Section XIV entitled “Definition of Terms Used in This Statement of Policies.”
 - i. Once the preference is requested, the CHA will place the applicant on the domestic violence preference waitlist based on time of request and appropriate bedroom size.
 - ii. The applicant must supply written documentation that they have been displaced or need to move from their present housing because of domestic violence, sexual violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking.
 - iii. The applicant must supply the documentation within 14 business days of making a request for the preference.
 - iv. Failure to provide this information will result in the applicant being returned to the family waitlist without the domestic violence preference.
- c. Veterans, Active or Inactive Military Personnel and Immediate Family Members of Both: An eligible applicant who can document that they are a veteran or are the immediate family member¹⁰ of a veteran (living or deceased), or are active/inactive personnel of the United States Armed Forces. Immediate family member documentation for preference must show financial support from the veteran while they were alive or the immediate family member is presently receiving benefits or financial support from active/inactive personnel.
 - i. The applicant must supply the documentation at the time of the screening. Failure to provide the documentation within 10 business days will result in removal of the veteran’s preference.
 - ii. If the applicant is called for screening and the verification information is older than 12 months, the applicant will need to provide updated information to receive this preference. Failure to provide this information will result in the applicant being returned to the family waitlist without the preference.
- d. Homeless: Applicants must meet the following definition in HUD’s HEARTH Act, with documentation through the City of Chicago or Chicago’s Continuum of Care-Coordinated Entry System; individuals and families who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence which includes a subset for an individual who resided in an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation and who is exiting an institution where they temporarily resided.
- e. Family Preservation: Applicants who can document that their child(ren) are at risk of placement outside the household by a recognized agency, such as the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), or by a court because of inadequate shelter or environmental neglect, or applicants whose child(ren) cannot be returned to the home until the family can provide for the child(ren)’s subsistence needs.

¹⁰ An Immediate family member is defined as a parent, legally protected relationship or child of the veteran or active/inactive personnel.

9. Ranking Preferences for Senior Designated Housing Property Site-based Waitlists; **24 CFR § 960.206**

The CHA has implemented the 2015 Senior Designated Housing Plan (SDHP). Under the current SDHP, all senior buildings are classified as either Traditional Senior Buildings or Reduced Age Senior Buildings. A building is classified as a Reduced Age Senior Building on a quarterly basis, if the building has had an occupancy level that has fallen below 90% for six consecutive months. A building will return to a Traditional Senior Building if the building maintains a 98% occupancy level for one year.

f. Traditional Senior Buildings

At Traditional Senior Buildings applicants must be 60 years old or older to apply and 62 years old or older to be eligible for a unit offer. Ranking preferences are used to sort among applicants within the local preference income tiers. The CHA has established a ranking preference for the Traditional Senior Buildings site-based waitlist, which will raise an age-eligible applicant to the top of the waitlist by date of application.

The **highest priority** ranking preference will be available to Emergency Applicants who are Victims of Federally Declared Disasters.

The following preference categories listed below offer a **second ranking priority** on the waitlist and have the same weight:

- i. Domestic Violence Victims;
- ii. Elder Abuse Victims;
- iii. Veterans, Active or Inactive Military Personnel and Immediate Family Members of both; or
- iv. Homeless, as defined by HUD under the HEARTH Act Definition Number I, with documentation through the City of Chicago or Chicago's Continuum of Care-Coordinated Entry System. (see Federal Register/Vol 76, No 233).

g. Reduced Age Senior Buildings

At Reduced Age Senior Buildings, applicants must be 55 years old or older to apply and 55 years old or older to be eligible for a unit offer. Ranking preferences are used to sort among applicants within the local preference income tiers. The CHA has established three hierarchic ranking preferences for the Reduced Age Senior Buildings site-based waitlists based on age eligibility in an effort to preserve the senior designation of the buildings. The hierarchal ranking preferences are listed, in order, below:

- i. **First** to applicants who are 62 and older
- ii. **Second** to applicants who are 60-61 years old
- iii. **Third** to applicants who are 55-59 years old

In addition to the age-eligibility ranking, applicants may request a ranking preference. The **highest priority** ranking preference will be available to Emergency Applicants who are Victims of Federally Declared Disasters.

The following preference categories listed below offer a **second ranking priority** on the waitlist and have the same weight:

- i. Domestic Violence Victims;

- ii. Elder Abuse Victims;
- iii. Veterans, Active or Inactive Military Personnel and Immediate Family Members of both; or
- iv. Homeless, as defined by HUD under the HEARTH Act definition Number I, with documentation through the City of Chicago or Chicago's Continuum of Care-Coordinated Entry System. (see Federal Register/Vol 76, No 233).

Any age-eligible applicant that has an Emergency Applicant of Federally Declared Disaster, Domestic Violence, Elder Abuse Victim, Veteran, or Homeless ranking preference will be prioritized on the waitlist by date of application.

h. Senior Buildings with Accessibility Units

Additionally, all senior site-based waitlists accept applications from heads of households who are 55 years old and older who require units with accessible features. These individuals will be given a preference for an accessible unit for the senior site-based waitlist in the CHA's housing management system. Applicants who are age 55 to 59 and do not require a unit with accessible features will be denied from being placed on the senior site-based waitlist. In an effort to preserve the senior designation of the buildings, the CHA follows the hierarchal ranking preferences as listed, in order, below:

- i. **First** to applicants who are 62 and older
- ii. **Second** to applicants who are 60-61 years old
- iii. **Third** to applicants who are 55-59 years old

10. Definition of Ranking Preferences applicable to Senior Designated Housing Property Site-based Waitlists¹¹; **24 CFR § 960.206.**

- a. Emergency Applicants who are Victims of Federally Declared Disasters: Families or individuals where the head of household are age-eligible seniors who are displaced from their place of permanent residence due to a federally declared disaster and apply for CHA senior housing.

The CHA will make unit offers to verified victims of federally declared disasters, in accordance with the extent and type of housing resources available at the time of the need. New emergency senior applicants who are victims of federally declared disasters must qualify for admission to CHA housing as listed in II.B.

The applicant must supply the documentation within 10 business days of making a request for the preference. Otherwise, the applicant will be removed from the Victims of Federally Declared Disasters preference list.

If the applicant is called for screening and the verification information is older than 12 months, then the applicant will need to provide updated information to receive this preference. Failure to provide this information will result in the applicant being returned to the senior waitlist without the Victims of Federally Declared Disasters preference.

- i. **First priority:** Individuals and families with eligible senior head of household who were public housing residents or Housing Choice Voucher (HCV)

¹¹ Buildings or portions of buildings designated through adherence to HUD requirements.

participants and are victims of a federally declared disaster may receive a unit offer.

- ii. **Second priority:** Individuals and families with age-eligible senior head of household who were not public housing residents or HCV participants and are victims of a federally declared disaster may receive a unit offer.

If emergency applicants, who are victims of federally declared disasters, arrive without any documentation, the CHA will obtain the name, SSN, and all signed release and consent forms of the age-eligible senior head of household and the other family members 18 years of age or older. The CHA will verify the family's current eligibility by using HUD's Enterprise Income Verification (EIV) system and conducting a criminal/credit check. If the data cannot be verified by HUD's EIV system and through a criminal/credit check, the CHA may accept alternate documentation that demonstrates participation in the public housing program, participation in the HCV Program or establishes eligibility. CHA will inform all emergency applicants how to obtain a free copy of their credit check.

Applicants will have access to a copy of their criminal background check and an opportunity to participate in an individualized assessment before the CHA will consider approving or denying the applicant (per compliance with the Cook County Just Housing Amendment, see II.F.12.).

- b. Domestic Violence Victims: Eligible applicants who can document that they have been displaced by domestic violence or need to move from their present housing because of domestic violence. See full definition of domestic violence in II.E.8.a.
- c. Elder Abuse Victims: Eligible applicants who can document that they are victims of elder abuse. "Elder abuse" refers to any knowing, intentional, or negligent act by a caregiver or any other person that causes harm or a serious risk of harm to an elderly adult. "Abuse" refers to causing any physical, mental, or sexual injury to an eligible adult, including exploitation of such adult's financial resources. Elder abuse also includes self-neglect, which is a condition that is the result of an eligible adult's inability, due to physical or mental impairments, or both, or a diminished capacity, to perform essential self-care tasks that substantially threaten their own health, including: providing essential food, clothing, shelter, and health care; and obtaining goods and services necessary to maintain physical health, mental health, emotional well-being, and general safety.
- d. Veterans, Active and Inactive Military Personnel and Immediate Family Members of both: An eligible applicant who can document that they are a veteran or are the immediate family member¹² of a veteran (living or deceased) or are active/inactive personnel of the United States Armed Forces. Immediate family member documentation for preference must show financial support from the veteran while they were alive, or the immediate family member is presently receiving benefits or financial support from active/inactive personnel.
- e. Homeless: Applicants must meet the following definition in HUD's HEARTH Act, with documentation through the City of Chicago or Chicago's Continuum of Care-Coordinated Entry System; individuals and families who lack a fixed,

¹² An immediate family member is defined as a parent, legally protected relationship or child of the veteran or active/inactive personnel

regular, and adequate nighttime residence, which includes a subset for an individual who resided in an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation and who is exiting an institution where they temporarily resided.

- f. The CHA will not lower the age for the head of household below 55 at any senior designated housing property.
 - g. Elderly families who do not qualify for this ranking preference will be categorized as no-preference families.
11. Scattered site community-area waitlists are governed by the Gautreaux court order.
 12. Accessible Units: Qualified applicants on the waitlist that require an accessible unit will be offered an available vacant accessible unit before it is offered to an applicant who does not need the features of the unit. See Section III.J. for the order in which accessible unit offers are made.

F. Screening Applicants for Suitability

The CHA will determine an applicant's suitability for tenancy for the type of unit being offered at the time of screening. All applicants will be screened in accordance with HUD regulations, the Cook County Just Housing Amendment, and established management practices. Screening will include a criminal background, credit, and residential history check. The CHA will review an applicant's criminal background from as far back as reasonably necessary for certain crimes.

1. During screening, the CHA requires applicants to demonstrate their ability to comply with the essential obligations of tenancy and the provisions of the lease, which include: **24 CFR § 960.202 – 205**.
 - a. To pay rent, utilities, and other charges as required by the lease in a timely manner;
 - b. To care for and avoid damaging the unit and common areas;
 - c. To use facilities and equipment in their intended way;
 - d. To create neither health nor safety hazards;
 - e. To report damages and maintenance needs;
 - f. To not interfere with the rights and peaceful enjoyment of others;
 - g. To avoid damaging the property of others;
 - h. To not engage in criminal activity that threatens the health, safety, or right to peaceful enjoyment of the premises by other residents, staff, or people in the immediate vicinity;
 - i. To not engage in drug-related criminal activity; and
 - j. To comply with the program requirements of HUD and the CHA.
2. The CHA will determine each applicant family's ability to comply with the essential obligations of tenancy and the provisions of the lease.
3. A qualified applicant with a disability may comply with the essential obligations of tenancy if they can demonstrate that assistance with caring for the unit, if needed, has been secured. The CHA will grant a reasonable accommodation to the applicant as outlined in Section I.B; **24 CFR § 8.20**.
4. An applicant who qualifies as a victim of domestic violence, sexual violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking may provide incomplete rental and employment histories, otherwise required as a condition of admission or assistance, when

disclosure of such rental and employment history is directly related to the situation of domestic violence, sexual violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking or would jeopardize the safety of the applicant or the applicant's family members.

5. All applicants and household members age 18 and over (including live-in aides) will be subject to a criminal/credit background check. Applicants will have access to a copy of their criminal background check and an opportunity to participate in an individualized assessment before the CHA will consider approving or denying the applicant (per compliance with the Cook County Just Housing Amendment, see II.F.12.).
6. The CHA will conduct a credit check, when applicable, on the applicant head and co-head of household to determine whether the applicant has a history of non-payment of rent or utilities.
7. The CHA will perform a credit check, when applicable, on the applicant head, co-head, and all members of the applicant household age 18 years or older to verify income information, to determine if the person owes funds to any housing authority for any program, to confirm last place of residency and to determine whether a criminal background check must be conducted in states where the applicant(s) and household members have resided. CHA will also perform a credit check, when applicable, on live-in aides for verification of everything listed above except for income information.
8. All adult applicant household members' past two years of residential history, including any lease violations, will be reviewed and verified.
9. All household members, age 18 and over, must sign all consent forms that authorize the CHA to make necessary inquiries into the applicant's behavior or background as it relates to lease compliance, including the HUD Form 9886 and the CHA Authorization and Consent Release Form. This includes obtaining arrest, conviction and eviction information to determine a pattern of behavior and the likelihood of lease compliance. Failure to sign consent forms, including HUD Form 9886 and the CHA Authorization and Consent Release Form, will result in the applicant's rejection.

Once an applicant has signed and submitted a new HUD 9886 consent form, they are not required to do so again at the next interim or regularly scheduled income examination. An applicant, participant, or family member's written revocation of consent to access financial records will result in denial or termination of assistance or admission.

The request for a person's fingerprints will be limited to those situations where there is conflicting information regarding the person's criminal history or when the law enforcement records center requires the fingerprints for positive identification (e.g., multiple individuals with the same name). Failure to meet the requirements of the background check will result in the rejection of the applicant.

10. Administrative costs incurred to complete the applicant screening process will be paid for by the CHA or property managers.
11. The CHA will comply with the provisions of the Juvenile Court Act, 705 ILCS 405/1-7 and 705 ILCS 405/1-8.
12. The CHA will comply with the provisions of the Cook County Just Housing Amendment, Ordinance No. 19-2394, to § 42-38 of the Cook County Human Rights Ordinance and Part 700 of the Cook County Human Rights Substantive

Procedural Rules.

- a. Per the Cook County Just Housing Amendment to the Human Rights Ordinance (the “Just Housing Amendment”), an applicant may not be denied eligibility based on their convictions prior to the completion of an individualized assessment.
- b. Nothing in this section shall be interpreted as prohibiting the CHA from denying housing to an applicant based on their criminal conviction history when required by federal or state law.
- c. No person shall inquire about, consider, or require disclosure of criminal history before the prequalification process is complete, and the CHA has determined the applicant has satisfied all other application criteria for housing or continued occupancy and has sent notice of prequalification to the applicant.
- d. The CHA may not consider any information related to the criminal convictions that are more than three (3) years old or any covered criminal history as defined in Section 42-38(a) of the Human Rights Ordinance; the definition is also included in Section XIV.
- e. The CHA must perform an individualized assessment prior to denying an individual housing based on criminal conviction history, except in the following circumstances:
 - i. A current sex offender registration requirement pursuant to the Sex Offender Registration Act (or similar law in another jurisdiction); and/or
 - ii. A current child sex offender residency restriction.
- f. Any person conducting an individualized assessment is prohibited from basing any adverse housing decision, in whole or in part, upon a conviction that occurred more than (3) years from the date of the housing application.
- g. All applicants shall receive the tenant selection criteria, a disclosure of their right to submit additional information disputing a criminal background check, and either a copy of Part 700 of the Cook County Human Rights Substantive and Procedural Rules or the website and contact information for the Commission on Human Rights (Sec. 730.11 of the Cook County Human Rights Rules).

G. Admissions Screening Criteria

In addition to the eligibility criteria listed in Section II. B, the CHA will use the following screening criteria in this section to determine if an applicant will be accepted or rejected for housing. If emergency applicants, who are victims of federally declared disasters, arrive without any documentation, the CHA will obtain the name and SSN of the head of household. The CHA will verify the families’ current eligibility by using HUD’s EIV system and conducting a criminal/credit check. If the data cannot be verified by HUD’s EIV system and a criminal/credit check, the CHA may accept alternate documentation that demonstrates participation in the public housing program, participation in the HCV Programs, or establishes eligibility.

1. An applicant’s past performance in meeting financial obligations, especially payment of rent, will be considered; **24 CFR § 960.203**.
2. Applicants with a record of disturbance of neighbors, destruction of property, or living or housekeeping habits at prior residences which may adversely affect the health, safety, or welfare of other residents may be denied; **24 CFR § 960.203**.

3. Applicants with negative findings from this housing authority, other housing authorities or housing programs will be reviewed. The burden shall be on the applicant to provide evidence to show the negative finding(s) was not the fault of the applicant;
4. Applicants who have been evicted from the CHA or any other subsidized housing program within the last two years from the date of the eviction for nonpayment of rent will have their application denied;
5. Applicants who owe funds to the CHA or any other housing authority for any program that the CHA or another housing authority operates will be denied; **24 CFR § 960.203.**
6. Applicants who owe funds or judgment debts to a utility company or who cannot obtain utility connections for the specific utility required at a property will be denied.
7. An applicant family who does not meet the age eligibility requirements for senior designated housing stated in Section II.E.8, will not be offered a unit in a senior designated building.
8. Applicants must provide documentation that family members who will reside in the household between the ages of 6 and 17 are enrolled in and will attend school regularly. If regular attendance cannot be verified, the applicant must prove that the child(ren) is enrolled in school and demonstrate an improved attendance record.
9. Applicants must provide documentation that children age 13 and under will be adequately supervised when an adult is not present in the unit. (e.g., attending an after-school program while adult family member(s) is at work).
10. Applicants, co-applicants, and all members of the applicant's household age 18 to 54 are subject to the CHA Work Requirement as outlined in Section VIII. Note: Applicants are not eligible for safe-harbor status. Applicants must either be compliant with the CHA Work Requirement or exempt as outlined in Section VIII.
11. If an applicant is contacted for screening and is currently not meeting the work requirement, their placement on the waitlist will be deferred. It is the applicant's responsibility to notify the CHA of any change in their working status. Once the applicant becomes compliant with the work requirement, they will be placed back on the waitlist for an opportunity to screen for a unit.
12. If a member in the applicant household age 17 is not enrolled in school, the applicant must supply documentation that the child is employed for a minimum of 20 hours per week or otherwise in compliance with the CHA Work Requirement.
13. The CHA is required by Federal law (42 U.S.C. §§ 13661 and 13662) to prohibit admission to housing programs to applicants if they, or a member of their family, use a controlled substance such as marijuana at the time of their screening for housing benefits.
 - a. If the applicant's background check reveals a conviction for growing marijuana, or for its manufacture, distribution, or possession, the CHA's process accommodates consideration of mitigating circumstances that are presented, including the time, nature and extent of the Applicant's conduct, its impact on others, and any factors that might indicate a reasonable probability of favorable future conduct of the applicant. The CHA's goals include promoting program integrity and an outcome where an applicant's admission into one of its programs will not interfere with the health, safety, or right to peaceful enjoyment

of the premises by one's neighbors.

14. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires public housing authorities to deny the admission of any applicant who is engaged in the use of medical marijuana to its programs.
 - a. No person who engages in drug-related criminal activity, including the possession or use of medical marijuana, shall be admitted to Public Housing or any other federally assisted housing program including, but not limited to: CHA traditional family/senior public housing and Mixed-Income Mixed-Finance housing.
 - b. The CHA must deny admission to those applicants who are, at the time of consideration for admission, using medical marijuana. Each applicant will be informed that the use or possession of medical marijuana is considered a drug-related criminal activity and as such is grounds for denial of admission into any CHA-supported housing program.
 - c. The CHA may not permit the use of medical marijuana as a reasonable accommodation.
15. The CHA is required to deny applications based on certain criminal activities or drug-related criminal activities by household members:
 - a. The CHA is required to deny any applicant, for three years from the date of eviction, if any household member has been evicted from any federally assisted housing for drug-related criminal activity. However, the CHA may admit the household if the CHA determines that: **24 CFR § 960.204(a)**.
 - i. The evicted household member who engaged in drug-related criminal activity has successfully completed a supervised drug rehabilitation program approved by the CHA;
 - ii. The circumstances leading to the eviction no longer exist (e.g., the household member involved in the drug-related criminal activity is imprisoned); or
 - iii. The applicant household will not include the household member involved in the drug-related criminal activity; **24 CFR § 960.203(c)(3)(i)**.
 - b. The CHA is required to deny the application of a household if the CHA determines that:
 - i. Any household member is currently engaging in illegal use of a drug; **24 CFR § 960.204(a)(2)**¹³.
 - ii. There is reasonable cause to believe that a household member's illegal use or pattern of illegal use of a drug may threaten the health, safety, or right to peaceful enjoyment of the premises by other residents; **24 CFR § 960.204(a)(2)(ii)**.
 - iii. Any household member has ever been convicted of drug-related criminal activity for the manufacture or production of methamphetamine on the premises of any federally assisted housing; **24 CFR § 960.204(a)(3)**.
 - iv. Any member of the household is subject to a lifetime or any registration requirement under a state sex offender registration program, including the ten-year Illinois State Sex Offender Registration Act; or **24 CFR § 960.204(a)(4)**.

¹³ For purposes of this section, a household member is "currently engaged in" the criminal activity if the person has engaged in the behavior recently enough to justify a belief that the behavior is current; **24 CFR § 960.204(2)(i)**.

- v. Any member of the household's abuse or pattern of abuse of alcohol may threaten the health, safety, or right to peaceful enjoyment of the premises by other residents¹⁴; **24 CFR § 960.204(b)**.
 - c. Arrest records alone shall not be the sole reason for denying admission to housing. An arrest does not constitute evidence of criminal activity to warrant denial of admission. An arrest, however, may prompt inquiry into the conduct of an individual that upon further review and with sufficient evidence may determine an individual's lack of suitability for tenancy.
16. In addition to the federally required rejections for criminal activity, the CHA will deny applicants if the CHA can document via police arrest and/or conviction documentation that:
- a. An applicant or household member has ever been convicted of arson or child molestation; **24 CFR § 960.203(c)(3)**.
 - b. An applicant or household member has ever been convicted of a crime that requires them to be registered under a state sex offender registration program including the ten-year Illinois State Sex Offender Registration Act.
 - c. An applicant or household member has ever been convicted of the manufacture or production of methamphetamine on any premises.
 - d. An applicant or household member has a criminal history in the past 180 days that involves crimes of violence to persons or property as documented by police arrest and/or conviction documentation; **24 CFR § 960.203(c)(3)**.
Crimes of violence to persons or property include, but are not be limited to, homicide or murder; destruction of property or vandalism; burglary; armed robbery; theft; trafficking, manufacture, use, or possession of an illegal drug or controlled substance; threats or harassment; assault with a deadly weapon; domestic violence; sexual violence, dating violence, or stalking; weapons offenses; criminal sexual assault; home invasion; kidnapping; terrorism; and manufacture, possession, transporting or receiving explosives; **24 CFR § 960.203(c)(3)**.
 - e. Any applicant or household member evicted from any housing for drug-related criminal activity is barred for 180 days from the date of eviction.
 - f. Any applicant or household member has a pattern of criminal history that involves crimes of violence to person or property, or drug-related criminal activity as documented by police arrests and/or conviction documentation.
 - g. Any applicant who engages in criminal activity of displaying, controlling, possessing, or using a firearm in a manner prohibited by law, within the last 180 days , shall be not admitted. The CHA will deny admission to applicants who at the time of consideration for admission have a criminal background involving criminal use of weapons.
 - h. If an applicant, based upon information during screening, has any pending criminal matter, the applicant's name will be deferred from the waitlist until documentation is presented showing the outcome of the case. Once the

¹⁴ The CHA must be able to show a relationship between the applicant household member's abuse of alcohol and behavior that threatens the health, safety, or right to peaceful enjoyment of other residents.

applicant receives and notifies CHA of the results of the case, they will be placed back on the waitlist for the opportunity to screen for a unit.

17. Arrest records alone shall not be the sole reason for denying admission to housing. An arrest does not constitute evidence of criminal activity to warrant denial of admission. An arrest, however, may prompt inquiry into the conduct of an individual that upon further review and with sufficient evidence may determine an individual's lack of suitability for tenancy.
18. An applicant's intentional misrepresentation or omission of information related to eligibility, income, preference for admission, housing history, allowances, family composition, or rent will result in denial of admission. Unintentional mistakes that do not confer any advantage to the applicant will not be considered misrepresentations.
19. Applicants must be able to demonstrate the ability and willingness to comply with the terms of the CHA lease, either alone or with assistance that they can prove they will have at the time of admission¹⁵. Availability of assistance is subject to verification by the CHA.

H. Screening Applicants with Mitigating Circumstances 24 CFR § 960.203(d).

1. If information received through screening negatively impacts an applicant's qualification for admission, the CHA shall consider the time, nature, and extent of the applicant's conduct and any factors that might indicate a reasonable probability of favorable future conduct. Mitigating circumstances must be verifiable to be considered.
2. The CHA will consider whether individuals who have engaged in behavior that negatively impacts their qualification for admission can document that they have been rehabilitated.
3. During an appeal hearing or an individualized assessment, applicants are encouraged to inform the CHA of any history of domestic violence, sexual violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking if the applicant believes it may affect their screening.
 - a. An applicant who is a victim of domestic violence, sexual violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking will have a reasonable opportunity to present information regarding their status as a victim and the causal relationship between the violence and how it has impacted their ability to meet other eligibility criteria such as an acceptable credit and rental payment history, landlord references, eviction history, employment history, or criminal history.
 - b. If the modified consideration is based on the work requirement, the applicant must submit documentation to show if there are any established hours the applicant can work. The number of hours the applicant is able to work shall be determined by a verified agency and this amount of hours will be the applicant's established work hours for admission to CHA. Once housed, continued lease compliance requires re-examination every 120-180 calendar days, including

¹⁵ Applicants whose landlord, financial, criminal, and other references demonstrate that they are already willing and able to comply with lease terms in their existing housing will be considered to have met this criterion. Applicants with disabilities who demonstrate that an agency or individual will assist them with complying with the essential obligations of tenancy will be considered to have met this criterion. Applicants whose housing situations make it difficult for the CHA to determine whether or not they are able and willing to comply with lease terms (e.g., they are homeless, living with friends or relatives, or have other non-traditional housing circumstances) will have to alternatively demonstrate ability and willingness to comply with lease terms.

information about any steps that have been taken to meet the full work requirements established for the property.

I. Determination of Qualification for Admission

1. Upon verification of applicant information, a final determination of qualification for admission is made.
2. Qualified families will be notified by the CHA of the approximate date of occupancy insofar as that date can be determined; however, the date stated by the CHA is an estimate and does not guarantee that applicants will be housed by that date; 24 CFR § 960.208(b).
3. Unqualified applicants will be sent a notice of denial of admission. The notice will include the basis for such determination and information on the mitigating hearing procedure if the applicant wants to request a hearing. At the mitigating hearing, the applicant can offer information about mitigating circumstances or mistakes in facts used by the CHA to make the decision. Mitigating hearings can be conducted in person, by telephone or by document submittal based on the circumstances and discretion of the CHA. Mitigating hearings for applicants are different from the informal hearings of the resident grievance process. Applicants are not entitled to use of the resident grievance process contained in the CHA Resident's Grievance Procedure; 24 CFR § 960.208(a).
 - a. Qualified applicants with a disability, who fail to meet the screening criteria, will be offered an opportunity to show whether a reasonable accommodation will make it possible for them to be housed in accordance with the admissions screening criteria. Applicants with disabilities are encouraged to present additional information at the initial interview; however, they may request an additional meeting to present such information.
4. Applicants who are victims of domestic violence, sexual violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking and are denied admission because they did not pass applicant screening are encouraged to present any information which directly identifies them as victims of domestic violence, sexual violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking. The CHA will determine if domestic violence, sexual violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking is a factor in the unfavorable results of screening. The CHA will not deny otherwise qualified applicants on the basis that they are or have been victims of domestic violence, sexual violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking.

J. Occupancy Guidelines: HUD Occupancy Standards

Applicants who pass screening and are qualified for housing will be placed on a waitlist and assigned a unit size based on the Occupancy Guidelines established in this section. Units shall be occupied by families of the appropriate size. Generally, two people are expected to share a bedroom.

Number of Persons Per Unit Standard

Number of	Min	Max Persons/Unit
Studio	1	2
1B	1	2
2B	2	4
3B	3	6
4B	4	8
5B	5	10

1. The following principles govern the size of a unit for which a family will qualify. Units will be assigned so that:
 - a. A head of household (leaseholder) shall not be required to share a bedroom unless the head of household is married, in a consensual relationship, or otherwise agrees to share a bedroom.
 - b. If the applicant or a member of the applicant’s household is pregnant, unborn children will be counted in determining unit size when the family supplies documentation of pregnancy.
 - c. A single pregnant head of household may agree to share a bedroom with their child(ren) once born but must agree to occupy the unit until the child turns age two or until the family size increases through birth, adoption, or court awarded custody of a child.
 - d. The CHA will count a child who is temporarily away from the home attending school, so long as the family can document that the child will be living with the family during the summer and vacation months.
 - e. The CHA will not count a child(ren) as living in the household if the parent has lost or terminated parental rights. The family must inform the CHA of a termination of parental rights within 10 calendar days of the occurrence.
 - f. A live-in aide shall not be required to share a bedroom with the head of household. A resident’s bedroom size will not be adjusted to accommodate the family members of a live-in aide; a live-in aide’s family members cannot cause overcrowding in the unit. If the addition of the live-in aide will not overcrowd the current unit, the CHA will not increase the bedroom size.
 - g. Children who are subject to a joint custody agreement but live with the applicant, at least 51% of the time, will be considered members of that household (51% of the time is defined as 183 days of the year, which do not have to run consecutively). Legal certification is required from families who claim joint custody or temporary guardianship.
2. Exceptions to the largest permissible unit size may be made in cases of reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities. In such cases, third-party documentation attesting to the need for an additional bedroom size may be deemed necessary on a case by case basis. The CHA reserves the right to perform unit inspections to determine the continuing need for additional bedrooms.
3. When a family applies for housing and the waitlist is updated, some families may qualify for more than one unit size. The CHA will make a housing offer of the appropriate size unit in accordance with the first unit available and the Number of Persons per Unit Standard. Refusal of a unit offer solely because an applicant is waiting for a larger unit for which they may also qualify is not good cause for refusal.

At senior designated housing properties with studio and one-bedroom apartments, applicants must take the first unit offered, regardless of unit size, or refuse it with good cause. Refusal of a unit offer or refusal to be screened for a unit at a particular site without good cause will result in the applicant's name being removed from the waitlist.

- a. Applicants are responsible for making changes in family composition on their waitlist application. If a family is offered a unit and they no longer qualify for the unit size, they will be placed on the appropriate list, retaining their preferences and date of application. The timeframe for a unit offer may differ once the family size is updated.
- b. The CHA shall change the family's list when warranted at any time while the family is on the waitlist.
- c. Units will be leased without regard to race, color, sex, age (when age eligibility is not a factor), familial status, religion, disability, national origin, ancestry, sexual orientation (including gender identity), marital status, housing status, order of protection status, military discharge status or source of income; **24 CFR § 1.4 and 100.5.**

B. Residents Governed by the 10/1/99 or Post 10/1/99 Relocation Rights Contract (RRC)

1. Residents who are being relocated back to public housing as part of the Plan for Transformation per the 10/1/99 RRC and Post 10/1/99 RRC are subject to the same screening criteria process as a public housing applicant.

C. Demonstration Programs

CHA operates a number of demonstration programs and initiatives that serve special populations or that were designed for special purposes. These programs and initiatives may have different eligibility criteria for applicants compared to CHA's standard criteria. A list and description of CHA's demonstration programs and initiatives can be found in "The CHA Demonstration Program and Special Initiatives Overview" posted on the CHA website. CHA may update this document from time to time, as CHA amends, terminates, or develops programs/initiatives. CHA will obtain any required approvals, including MTW approval (if necessary), prior to implementing new or amended demonstration programs/ initiatives.

For demonstration programs and special initiatives, applicants that meet the individual program criteria are pulled from the existing CHA waitlist. If there are no applicants eligible for a specific program/initiative on the waitlist, then applicants may be generated by referral from various community organizations or other government agencies. Referred applicants who meet program requirements are added to the waitlist and are provided a local preference in accordance with the demonstration program for which they qualify. The demonstration waitlist will remain open for qualified applicant

III. Tenant Selection and Assignment Plan

The Tenant Selection and Assignment Plan (TSAP) is the CHA policy that determines how applicants will be placed on the waitlist and in what priority applicants will be screened and offered housing. This policy will be applied to all interested households that apply for public housing and for all new applicants selected from any CHA waitlist. CHA will follow the policies outlined below in selecting applicants unless otherwise directed by court orders or consent decrees.

A. Tenant Selection and Assignment Plan (TSAP)

1. Emergency applicants who are victims of federally declared disasters will be offered units on an as needed basis before all other applicants from the waitlist. Applicants from the waitlist will be offered units after existing residents receive an offer in accordance with the **CHA Leaseholder Housing Choice Relocation Rights Contract 10/1/99 (RRC)** or the **CHA Relocation Rights Contract for Families with Occupancy after 10/1/99 (Post 10/1/99 RRC)** and the Transfer Policy in Section V.
2. Existing residents, who are required to move under the RRC, and the Post 10/1/99 RRC will be processed in accordance with the contracts. Existing residents who are required to transfer by the CHA will be processed in accordance with the Transfer Policy in Section V.
3. All unit offers will be made in writing¹⁶ and the CHA will not discriminate on grounds of race, color, sex, age (when age eligibility is not a factor), familial status, religion, disability, national origin, ancestry, sexual orientation (including gender identity), marital status, housing status, order of protection status, military discharge status or source of income.

B. Administering Waitlists

1. For the site-based waitlists of family properties (traditional family and mixed-income properties), marketing, applicant interviews, screening for suitability, eligibility determination, housing offers, and unit assignments will be completed by the property manager. Application processing as well as waitlist management, monitoring, auditing, and maintenance will be conducted by the CHA. Property managers are required to report to the CHA on all outreach efforts to applicants and applicant ineligibility findings, as well as all unit offers, assignments, and refusals.
2. For community-area (scattered site) waitlists, marketing, applicant interviews, screening for suitability, eligibility determination, housing offers, and unit assignments will be conducted by the property manager. Application processing and waitlist management, monitoring, auditing, and maintenance will be conducted by the CHA. Property managers must report to the CHA on all outreach efforts to applicants and applicant ineligibility findings, as well as all unit offers, assignments, and refusals.

¹⁶ Or alternative format as a result of a request for a reasonable accommodation by a qualified applicant or resident with disabilities

Property managers are required to report to the CHA on all outreach efforts and each applicant's final status as a result of the outreach efforts, as well as all unit offers, assignments, and refusals.

3. For the transfer waitlist, resident interviews, eligibility determination, housing offers, and unit assignments will be performed by the receiving property manager. Criminal and credit background screening, transfer processing, and management of the transfer waitlist will be performed by the CHA¹⁷. Exceptions include emergency transfers that are expedited and completed by the property manager. All inter-development transfers are required to be processed by the CHA.
4. For the 50/80% AMI waitlists, marketing, applicant interviews, screening for suitability, eligibility determination, housing offers, and unit assignments will be conducted in writing by the property manager. Application processing and waitlist management, monitoring, auditing, and maintenance will be conducted by the CHA. Property managers are required to report to the CHA on all outreach efforts to applicants and applicant ineligibility findings, as well as all unit offers, assignments, and refusals.

To qualify for the 50/80% waitlists, applicants must have a household income that qualifies within the 50/80% AMI framework, as published by the HUD on an annual basis. Qualification will be determined at the time of applicant screening for occupancy. Screening will include income verification. Applicants will not be offered units covered by the 50/80% AMI if they cannot meet the income requirements and will be removed from the 50/80% waitlist. The applicants will retain their original date of application on the selected public housing site-based waitlist.

5. For the 50/60% AMI waitlists, marketing, applicant interviews, screening for suitability, eligibility determination, housing offers, and unit assignments will be conducted in writing by the property manager. Application processing and waitlist management, monitoring, auditing, and maintenance will be conducted by the CHA. Property managers are required to report to the CHA on all outreach efforts to applicants and applicant ineligibility findings, as well as all unit offers, assignments, and refusals.

Eligible applicants who qualify under the 50/80% AMI waitlist but have a household income within the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) limitation of 50/60% AMI, are eligible applicants for units created at mixed-income properties with public housing units. LIHTC units have an initial eligibility for occupancy that mandates applicants must have a household income, which does not exceed 50/60% AMI threshold, as published by the LIHTC program administered by the Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA) and the City of Chicago Department of Housing (DOH), pursuant to **26 USC § 42**. Qualification will be determined at the time of applicant screening for occupancy. Applicants who cannot meet the forgoing 50/60% AMI criteria at the time of initial screening occupancy will not be eligible for public housing units designated as 50/60% AMI units and will be removed from the 50/60% waitlist. The applicants will retain their original date of application on the selected public housing site-based waitlist.

¹⁷ For public housing units in mixed-income/mixed-finance properties, determination and housing assignment will be performed by the property manager of the mixed-income/mixed-finance property.

6. Application updates and waitlist withdrawals will be processed by the CHA.
7. Property managers must report all applicant ineligibility findings as well as all housing offers, unit assignments, and refusals to the CHA.

C. Site-Based Waitlists for Family Properties (Traditional and Mixed-Income Properties)

1. The CHA will maintain all family property site-based waitlists electronically.
2. Applicants are allowed to select one site-based family property waitlist or waitlist group across the family housing portfolio.
3. It is the applicant's responsibility to use the CHA site-based waitlist portal to update their application (e.g., contact information and family composition). Applicants may also update their property or property group preference but will not be permitted to do so while being screened for a housing opportunity by CHA property management.
4. Site-based family waitlists will be managed, monitored, audited, and maintained by the CHA.
5. Applicants will be electronically assigned to their selected site-based waitlist in sequence based upon:
 - a. Type and size of unit needed (i.e., accessible or non-accessible unit, bedroom size);
 - b. Date of application;
 - c. Ranking admissions preference, if any; and
 - d. Income tier.
6. Refusing a unit without good cause or failing to respond to a unit offer will result in the applicant's name being removed from the waitlist.
7. Refusing a unit with good cause will result in the applicant's name being returned to the waitlist with their original placement on the waitlist. Good cause is determined by the property manager. Examples of good cause include, but are not limited to:
 - a. An applicant or transferring resident cannot move at the time of the offer and presents verification that acceptance of the offer of a suitable vacancy will result in undue hardship;
 - b. The unit is not ready for move-in on the date projected for move-in. "Ready for move-in" means the unit has no Uniform Physical Condition Standard (UPCS) deficiencies and is clean;
 - c. The family demonstrates that accepting the offer will place a family member's life, health or safety in jeopardy. The family must provide documentation of domestic violence, sexual violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or hate crimes, and/or other situations of non-random violence that put a resident's life in danger;
 - d. A health professional verifies at the time of the unit offer with supporting documentation of temporary hospitalization or recovery from illness of the head of household, other household members (each as listed on final application or lease), or live-in aide necessary to the care of the head of household;

- e. The unit has lead-based paint and the family has children under the age of seven and/or a household member(s) has a medical condition(s) that could be negatively impacted by living in a unit with lead-based paint;
- f. The unit is not accessible for a disabled member of the applicant's household;
or
- g. The unit has accessibility features not needed by the applicant household.

D. Site-Based Waitlists for Senior Designated Housing Properties; 24 CFR § 903.7(b)(2).

1. The CHA received HUD approval for site-based waitlists at its senior designated housing properties.
2. Applicants are allowed to select one senior designated housing site from the senior designated housing portfolio.
3. Applicants are not permitted to change their site selection during the outreach and screening process by the property manager at the site. Applicants who reject screening or a unit offer for any reason, including because they prefer a different site, will be removed from the site-based waitlist and must reapply.
4. The site-based waitlists for senior designated housing properties will be managed, monitored, audited, and maintained by the CHA.
5. All senior housing applicants will be placed on the waitlist for the site they selected. When a unit becomes available (e.g., studio apartment or a one-bedroom apartment), the unit will be offered to the first eligible family. If the family fails to respond to a unit offer or declines the unit or screening for a unit without good cause, including rejection based on unit size, the applicant will be removed from the waitlist.
6. Refusing a unit or a screening for a unit with good cause will result in the applicant's name being returned to the waitlist with their original date of application to the waitlist. Good cause is determined by the property manager.
7. Refusal of a unit offer without good cause will result in the applicant being removed from the waitlist.

E. Community-Area (Scattered Site) Waitlists

1. Applicants for scattered site properties will be offered units in accordance with the Gautreaux site-based waitlist court order which states twenty-five percent (25%) of scattered site units will be offered to applicants from the community in which the unit is located. Excluding extenuating circumstances, these applicants must reside in the scattered site community area during the outreach, screening process, and at time of unit offer. The remaining fifty percent (50%) of the units will be offered to non-community area applicants on the scattered site site-based waitlists. Residency will be determined based on the last permanent address of the applicant on the date of application.
2. The CHA will maintain the community-area waitlist for scattered site properties. Marketing, screening for suitability, eligibility determination, unit assignment, and unit offers will be conducted by the property manager.
3. It is the applicant's responsibility to utilize the CHA's online Waitlist Portal to

update their application (e.g., contact information and family composition).

4. Refusing a unit offer without good cause or failing to respond to an instance of outreach will result in the applicant being removed from the waitlist. Refusal of the first unit offer with good cause will result in the applicant's name being returned to the waitlist with the original date of application. Good cause is determined by the property manager. CHA may consider extenuating circumstances on a case by case basis.

F. Transfer Waitlist

1. Residents on the transfer waitlist will receive one unit offer. However, multiple unit offers may be made to satisfy one or more conditions approved within a reasonable accommodation request.
2. Refusal of or failure to respond to unit offers without good cause or failing to respond to an outreach will result in the resident being removed from the waitlist.

G. Making Unit Offers

1. Emergency Transfers, Transfers under the RRC or the Post 10/1/99 RRC, Mandatory Administrative Transfers, and Voluntary Administrative Transfers take precedence over new admissions from waitlists. Family Public Housing Resident Transfers will be processed on an ongoing basis in conjunction with new admissions from waitlists.
2. For new admissions, the CHA will match the next unit available to the highest-ranking applicant for a unit by bedroom size, type, and accessible features, if any. Admissions preferences are used to determine the order of selection from the waitlist. If two applicants with the same preference status need the same type and size of unit, the applicant with the earliest date of application will be offered the unit; **24 CFR § 960.206(c)**.
3. If more than one unit of the appropriate size and type is available, the first unit to be offered will be the unit that is or will be ready first for move-in. If two units are ready for move-in on the same day, the first unit to be offered will be the first unit that became vacant.
4. Once contact is made with an applicant they must accept any unit offered within two business days of the date of the unit offer letter (or the date the alternative format of communication designated by an applicant with disabilities was provided). If an applicant refuses a unit offer, the property manager will determine whether the refusal was with or without good cause. If the applicant does not respond to the unit offer within two business days, they will be removed from the waitlist.
8. Pursuant to the RRC, leaseholders with a right of return will receive unit offers in accordance with the stipulations and requirements of the RRC.

H. Mixed-Income Developments Unit Offers

1. Applicants that reach the top of their selected mixed-income public housing site-based waitlist or waitlist group will be sent to corresponding mixed-income developments for outreach and screening as units become available.

2. The property manager will conduct the outreach and screening activity. Applicants who do not meet the site-specific criteria including the work requirement will be removed from the waitlist at the time of screening.
3. The property manager will document the outcome of outreach and screening activities in both the physical file and the housing management system.
4. The CHA will review documentation to approve applicants for move-in.
5. The property manager will make unit offers to applicants approved by the CHA.
6. The property manager will secure a move-in date for each applicant that accepts a unit offer and provide the CHA with the move-in dates.

I. Accessible Units

1. Pursuant to eligibility requirements, the CHA will offer available accessible units in the following order:
 - a. First, to a current qualified resident with a disability living in the same development that requires the special features of the vacant accessible unit and occupying a unit not having those accessibility features;
 - b. Second, to a current qualified resident with a disability residing in another development that requires the accessibility features of the vacant accessible unit;
 - c. Third, to an eligible, qualified applicant with disabilities on the waitlist who requires the accessibility features; and
 - d. Fourth, to a non-disabled eligible applicant or resident. The CHA will require the applicant or resident to execute a lease addendum that requires them to move if there is an eligible applicant or existing resident with disabilities who requires the accessibility features of the unit; **24 CFR § 8.27**.
2. The CHA shall not prohibit a qualified eligible, disabled family from accepting a non-accessible unit for which the family is eligible which may become available before an accessible unit. The CHA may modify a non-accessible unit as needed as a reasonable accommodation, unless the modification would result in an undue financial and/or an administrative burden

IV. Leasing Policies

All units must be occupied in accordance with a lease that complies with **24 CFR § 966**. The head of household and co-head, if applicable, and the authorized representative of the CHA, prior to actual admission, shall sign this lease. All resident authorized members of the household with the right to occupy the unit shall be listed on the lease. The lease shall specify the unit to be occupied, the effective date, rent to be charged, utilities, and all other provisions as required by state and federal law, and CHA policy.

Units will be leased without regard to race, color, sex, age (where age eligibility is not a factor), familial status, religion, disability, national origin, ancestry, sexual orientation (including gender identity), marital status, housing status, order of protection status, military discharge status or source of income; **24 CFR § 1.4 and 100.5**.

A. Leasing Policy

1. The leasing process for emergency applicants who are victims of federally declared disasters may be amended at any time to respond to the impact of the federally declared disaster.
2. The leased public housing unit must be the head of household's permanent and sole domicile. All public housing units must be occupied by families whose sole domicile is the public housing unit.
3. The CHA will neither offer nor move a family into a unit that does not meet basic standards of habitability, including HUD occupancy standards; **24 CFR § 966.4(e)**.
4. All units must be occupied pursuant to a signed lease that complies with HUD regulations; **24 CFR § 966.4**.
5. A lease is executed at the time of admission for all new residents. The lease will include the names of all authorized members bound by the lease. The lease shall be signed by the head and co-head of the household, if applicable, and by the Chief Executive Officer or designee prior to actual move-in. The head of household will receive a new copy of their lease; **24 CFR § 966.4(p)**.
6. Applicants/Residents shall complete a home maintenance/housekeeping orientation prior to move-in.
7. The resident shall pay a security deposit at the time of leasing. For new residents, the security deposit shall be equivalent to one month's worth of income-based or flat rent. The resident may pay the security deposit in one lump sum or spread it over three payments during the first three months of tenancy. Security deposits will never be less than the minimum rent. Pet deposits are in addition to the security deposit and must be paid in accordance with Section XII of this policy; **24 CFR § 966.4(b) (5)**.
8. Changes in family composition, income, or familial status between the application processing interview and leasing will be processed by the CHA and/or property management. Changes after leasing will be processed by the property manager, except lease addition requests for live-in aides, residual rights requests for remaining family members, foster children, foster adults, kinship care children, and adults in legally protected relationships, which require submittal to the CHA for approval prior to moving into the unit. It is the responsibility of the applicant and/or resident to make the CHA and the property manager aware of any changes in family composition, income, or familial status within 10 calendar days of the

occurrence.

9. If, at any time during the term of the lease agreement, a change in the resident family composition or income results in the need for changing or amending any provision of the lease, either: **24 CFR § 966.4(c)**.

- a. A new lease agreement will be executed; or
- b. An appropriate rider will be prepared and made a part of the existing lease.

All copies of such riders or insertions are to be dated and signed by the head of household, and co- head, if applicable, and by the Chief Executive Officer or designee; **24 CFR § 966.4(o)**.

10. A new lease is executed when a resident transfers from one CHA unit to another, even if the transfer is within the same development, unless a reason prevents the issuance of a new lease, i.e., pending Notice of Termination, court matter or emergency circumstance.
11. The CHA will only supply one subsidy per household. When a court determines the disposition of property between the head or co-head of household in a divorce or separation under a settlement or judicial decree, the CHA will follow the court's determination of which family member continues to receive assistance. In cases where there is no court determination, the original head of household will retain use of the unit. Such provision only applies to situations involving the approved head and co- head of household.
12. Residents are not permitted to allow boarders to occupy their unit. Violation of this provision is grounds for lease termination.
13. Residents are not permitted to allow a former public housing resident who has been evicted from a federally funded housing program for nonpayment of rent or criminal activity to occupy their unit. Violation of this provision is grounds for lease termination.
14. Absence policy: Notice is required when all household members will be absent from the unit for over 30 consecutive days. If the entire household is absent beyond 90 consecutive days, CHA will consider the unit to be abandoned even if the family continues to pay rent and/or utilities. CHA may require the family to supply information to verify absence or residency in assisted unit. Exceptions will be made for instances related to reasonable accommodations or VAWA.

B. Changes in Household Composition

1. Only persons listed on the most recent lease or added in accordance with CHA policy shall be permitted to occupy a dwelling unit and must use the dwelling unit as their sole domicile; **24 CFR § 966.4(a)(1)(v)**.
2. The CHA shall determine if a dwelling unit size is appropriate at any time when a household's composition changes. If the CHA determines that an addition to a household is ineligible, the person will not be added to the lease. If the addition is approved, the household will be placed on the waitlist for the appropriate bedroom size, if necessary.
3. Additions to the household by natural birth¹⁸, adoption, or court-awarded custody (excluding foster care) to a current member of the household will be processed by the property manager automatically.
4. The lease addition of a live-in aide, foster child, foster adult, or kinship care child

must be requested in writing and requires authorization by the CHA before being processed by the property manager. For minors, under the age of 18, custody rights documentation or proof of kinship care is required for the addition.

5. The CHA will not approve lease addition requests for adults. Exceptions will be made for legally protected relationships or extenuating circumstances determined at the sole discretion of the CHA.
6. The CHA will approve the lease addition request if that individual passes applicant screening, including, if applicable, site-specific mixed income criteria and the unit is of the appropriate size. If a household's composition changes, a unit size determination will be made in accordance with the Occupancy Guidelines in Section II, to ensure that the family is appropriately housed.
7. If the household composition overcrowds the unit so that the CHA does not have a unit large enough in accordance with the Occupancy Guidelines to house the entire family, and there are adult members in the family, the head of household must decide if all or part of the household will leave public housing within 60 calendar days. The family members who leave the unit may apply to be on the waitlist. The family's failure to decrease the household size within 60 calendar days is a serious lease violation, and the family may be evicted for such lease violation.
8. Persons residing in the household without CHA approval will be considered unauthorized occupants, and the entire household will be subject to lease termination; **24 CFR § 966.4(f)(3)**. Verification of an unauthorized occupancy can be established through the following:
 - i. Government issued IDs or reports
 - ii. Utility bills for the assisted unit
 - iii. Property sign-in logs and/or
 - iv. Other documentation or investigations
9. If a lease addition applicant is rejected because they did not pass screening, the rejected lease addition applicant may request a mitigating hearing. The resident may grieve the rejection in accordance with the **CHA Resident's Grievance Procedure**. Only one type of hearing can occur for each request.
10. Family and/or household members who move out of the unit for any reason shall be reported by the household in writing to the property manager within 10 calendar days of the occurrence. Once reported, such member will be removed from the lease immediately. A unit size determination will be made in accordance with the Occupancy Guidelines in Section II to ensure that the family is still appropriately housed.

¹⁸ Children born to a current authorized family member of the household during tenancy.

C. Visitors

1. A guest may visit a family in an assisted unit for a total of 30 calendar days in a calendar year; however, each visit cannot exceed 14 consecutive calendar days. Residents may request a time extension to this visitor timeframe.
2. Visitors to any public housing development shall be required to show a government-issued or student photo identification before being allowed to enter a building.
3. Visitors may be required to sign in when entering buildings through a visitor's log prior to entry and residents may be required to escort visitors to and from their units.
4. The CHA may ban visitors who engage in any behavior that threatens the health, safety, or right to peaceful enjoyment of other residents, visitors and/or CHA staff and its contractors, including criminal activity cases, for three years or longer if court order approved. Visitors banned for such behavior, will be restricted from entering CHA properties.
5. A resident will be notified in writing by the property manager when their guest has been banned. Residents may grieve the CHA's decision to ban a visitor in accordance with the **CHA Resident's Grievance Procedure**.
6. Residents will be required to sign an agreement stating they will not allow the banned visitor into their unit. Failure to sign such an agreement or violation of the signed agreement is grounds for lease termination.
7. Persons that exceed the time as a guest will be considered to reside in the assisted unit without CHA approval and will be considered an unauthorized occupant. The family will be subject to lease termination.
8. Persons residing in the household without CHA approval will be considered unauthorized occupants, and the entire household will be subject to lease termination; **24 CFR § 966.4(f)(3)**.

Verification of an unauthorized occupancy can be established through the following:

- i. Government issued IDs or reports
- ii. Utility bills for the assisted unit
- iii. Property sign-in logs and/or
- iv. Other documentation or investigation

D. Live-In Aides

1. A live-in aide is a person whose sole reason for living in the public housing unit is to assist the qualified resident or family member who requires the assistance of the aide. A live-in aide resides with one or more elderly persons, near-elderly persons, or persons with disabilities, and:
 - a. Is determined by a knowledgeable professional to be essential to the care and well-being of the elderly or near-elderly person or family member with a disability;
 - b. Does not have an obligation for the financial support of the person(s); and
 - c. Would not be living in the unit except to provide the necessary supportive

services; **24 CFR § 5.403.**

2. Live-in aides are household members, not family members, regardless of their familial relationship; therefore, live-in aides retain no rights to a unit upon the death, eviction, departure, or abandonment by the qualified resident with the disability who needed the live-in aide. If the qualified resident requiring the services of the live-in aide dies or leaves the unit, the live-in aide and the live-in aide's family members must vacate the unit within 30 calendar days.
3. If a family member is designated as the live-in aide of another family member, that family member will no longer have remaining rights to the unit should the head of household leave the unit. A live-in aide who is requesting to add their family members to the lease will also have their family members status added as live-in aide household members and they will also have no remaining rights to the unit. The live-in aide and their household members cannot reclassify themselves as family members.
4. A relative that is already legally obligated to provide care to the family member requiring a live-in aide may not be classified as a live-in aide (i.e., parents cannot be the live-in aide of their child and a spouse cannot be the live-in aide to the other spouse).
5. A live-in aide's income is not counted towards the calculation of the resident's income eligibility or rent for the unit. A live-in aide's family members will not be counted toward the resident's income eligibility, rent, bedroom size, or child deductions for the resident.
6. Live-in aides are required to meet all admissions screening criteria, as well as site-specific screening criteria for mixed-income developments. A live-in aide who does not pass screening will be rejected. Live-in aides can be rejected for a number of reasons including, but not limited to:
 - a. Fraud or any criminal act in relation to any federal housing program;
 - b. A record of drug-related or violent criminal activity; or
 - c. Owing a debt to any public housing authority or other federally subsidized housing program.
7. When reviewing a request to add a live-in aide, the CHA will consider:
 - a. Whether the person who will perform the duties of the live-in aide is qualified and able to do the duties; and
 - b. The live-in aide's prior federally subsidized housing history, if applicable.
8. The CHA will retain the right to review whether a relative is essential to the care of the qualified resident on a case-by-case basis.
9. The CHA will supply a bedroom for the live-in aide, if necessary. However, the CHA will not supply a larger unit to accommodate the live-in aide's family members.
10. Qualified residents or applicants are required to complete all applicable paperwork regarding the request for a live-in aide.
 - a. The qualified resident or applicant and the live-in aide are required to complete and sign the *CHA Lease Addendum for Live-In Aides*. Failure to sign the lease addendum or violation of the terms of the lease addendum is grounds for lease termination.
 - b. The qualified resident or applicant is required to complete a 'Live-In Aide

Request Form' or may request assistance from family, friends, advocates, or a property manager to complete the form.

- c. The qualified resident or applicant is required to identify a 'knowledgeable professional' to certify the need for a live-in aide.
11. The qualified resident or applicant is required to complete the Certification of Need for a Live-In Aide Form.
 12. If a live-in aide is rejected because they did not pass screening, the resident may grieve the rejection in accordance with the **CHA Resident's Grievance Procedure**.

E. Units Occupied by CHA Residents as Employees

1. A public housing resident may become employed by property management. Employees, who are public housing residents, are subject to the same lease terms and conditions of all public housing residents. They have client numbers, public housing leases, and an obligation to pay rent. A resident employee's required rent payments cannot be lowered as a part of their compensation.
2. If a CHA resident is employed by a property management company and the employment is later terminated, the resident will retain tenancy and be treated as any other resident.

F. Property Rules

1. Property-specific rules vary by building; please consult the lease addendum for a complete listing of rules applicable to the property in which you reside.
2. Smoke-Free Policy
 - a. CHA prohibits the use of all lit tobacco products in all indoor areas of public housing—including but not limited to living units, common areas, and administrative office buildings—and all outdoor areas within 25 feet of its housing and administrative office buildings; **24 CFR § 965.653 & 966**.
 - i. Lit tobacco products involve the ignition and burning of tobacco leaves and includes (but is not limited to) cigarettes, cigars, pipes, and water pipes (hookahs).
 - b. In conjunction with the Chicago Clean Indoor Air Ordinance of 2008, amended in 2014, CHA prohibits vaping within any CHA property common use area at any time. Vaping refers to the use of electronic nicotine delivery systems or electronic smoking devices. This e-cigarette policy prohibits the use of electronic nicotine delivery systems (also known as e-cigarettes, e-cigars, e-hookahs, and e-pipes) anywhere that tobacco smoking is prohibited.
 - c. Violation of the smoke-free policy will be considered a lease violation.
 - d. CHA's Smoke-Free Policy applies to all public housing. Residents of mixed-finance developments must adhere to the smoking policy referenced in their lease and/or property Tenant Selection Plan (TSP).
3. Firearms-Free Policy
 - a. The CHA is a Firearms-Free Property. The CHA prohibits displaying, controlling, using, or possessing any firearms, ammunition, or other weapons anywhere on or near CHA property by applicants and residents. Unless

required by lawful employment and obtained in accordance with law; firearms, ammunition, or other weapons are strictly prohibited on or near CHA property; **430 ILCS 66/ et seq.**

- b. No person conducting business, residing, or visiting on or near CHA property is allowed to carry a concealed weapon onto any location owned and operated by the CHA. Firearms, ammunition, or other weapons are prohibited at any CHA offices, sites, and facilities owned and operated by the CHA.
 - c. Applicants who engage in criminal activity, including the displaying, controlling, possessing, or using of a firearm in a manner prohibited by law in the last 180 days, shall be not admitted to CHA public housing. The CHA will deny admission to applicants who at the time of consideration for admission have a criminal background involving criminal use of weapons.
 - d. Residents and their authorized members, guests, or persons under their control, shall not display, use, control, or possess anywhere on or near CHA property any firearms, ammunition, or other weapons in violation of Federal, State, and local laws. It shall be in violation of the CHA public housing program to:
 - i. Display, intentionally or unintentionally, a weapon while on or near CHA Property, or
 - ii. Hide or conceal, intentionally or unintentionally, a weapon on one's person or belongings while on CHA Property, or
 - iii. Fire or otherwise discharge, intentionally or unintentionally, the weapon while on or near CHA Property, or
 - iv. Use, intentionally or unintentionally, a weapon with a verbal or non-verbal threat to shoot, fire, explode, throw, or
 - v. Cause, intentionally or unintentionally, any injury to or on another person, or
 - vi. Cause damage to any personal or real property with the use of a weapon, or
 - vii. Cause, intentionally or unintentionally, any other person to perform any of the above conduct.
 - e. Any resident, resident family members, guests, or persons under the resident's control known to be involved in the display, use, possession, or control of any firearms, ammunition, or other weapons on or near CHA owned and operated property will be subject to lease termination.
4. Community Space Policy
- a. CHA residential building community space shall be used for programs, activities and events for the benefit of CHA residents and must not interfere with CHA operations or disrupt the peace and quiet of the public housing community or immediate vicinity. The Policy for the Use of CHA Community Space in Residential Buildings (The "Community Space Policy") prohibits specific activities in community spaces and establishes a written application process for the use of community space.
 - b. "Community space" is defined as all halls, lounge areas, party rooms, meeting rooms, lobbies, porches, garden areas, playgrounds, lawns and common areas in residential buildings.
 - c. All affiliated and non-affiliated groups, organizations or individuals desiring to

use CHA community space at any time, and/or location must obtain a written application for use of CHA community space and submit that application for the proposed activity to the Property Manager.

- d. The Community Space Policy includes the following general conditions for the use of the property:
 - i. Use of CHA community space is subject to limitations on the number of persons who may attend in accordance with appropriate CHA occupancy guidelines and City of Chicago building codes, fire codes, ordinances, and safety standards.
 - ii. CHA residents (defined here as Head of Household or Co-Head of Household) and affiliated and non-affiliated groups, organizations or individuals are authorized to apply to use CHA community space for organized programs, activities, and events, subject to the approval provisions of this policy.
 - iii. CHA may charge use fees in connection with the use of CHA community space by affiliated and non-affiliated groups, organizations or individuals. This fee may be waived at the discretion of CHA upon a showing of financial hardship on the part of the requestor.
 - iv. Use of CHA equipment is subject to the approval or the direct supervision of CHA.
 - v. Sound amplification equipment may be used by groups, organizations and individuals at programs, activities and events only when prior approval has been granted by CHA.
 - vi. CHA may charge fees to users requiring special facility arrangements, equipment or staffing in accordance with rates established by CHA. In such cases, deposits and/or proof of financial ability to pay such fee may be required.
 - vii. No structure shall be erected on any CHA property without the express written approval of CHA.
 - viii. No alcoholic beverages shall be served or consumed within CHA's community space at any time.
 - ix. No publicity for any programs, activities or events may be released before the application for the proposed activity is approved in writing by CHA. No media-coverage is allowed without the express and written approval of CHA.
 - x. Any admission charged or donation required as a condition of admission to an event given by any group, organization or individual shall be expended for the event. Any monies collected in excess of the expenses of the event shall not be used for an individual's personal or private use.
 - xi. CHA community space may not be used by any non-affiliated group, organization or individual for the conduct of profit-making activities except when a rental or lease agreement is negotiated with CHA for a fair rental value for the property or facilities used. Rental or lease agreements may be required for non-profit activities of non-affiliated groups, organizations or individuals provided that rental charges for such use may be reduced or waived in the discretion of CHA depending upon the nature and extent of the proposed use.

- xii. All rental or lease agreements involving CHA community space must be approved by CHA officials. CHA affiliated groups, organizations and individuals have no authority to enter into rental or lease agreements with other affiliated or non-affiliated corporations, groups, organizations or individuals. CHA residents and employees have no authority to enter into rental or lease agreements with affiliated or non-affiliated corporations, groups, organizations or individuals.
 - xiii. Use of CHA community space by affiliated and non-affiliated groups, organizations and individuals requires adequate security for damage to the property during the period of use. Personal injury and property damage insurance coverage and any other forms of security or insurance may be required as designated by CHA. CHA may waive the requirements of security and/or insurance coverage at its discretion.
 - xiv. All affiliated and non-affiliated groups, organizations and individuals agree, by making application for registration of an activity and by subsequent use after approval by CHA, to indemnify CHA and hold it harmless from any and all liabilities arising out of such group's, organization's or individual's use of the property including but not limited to, personal injury, property damage, court costs and attorney's fees.
- e. An application for community space for a proposed activity may be denied when:
- i. CHA determines that the requested use would cause disruption or interference with the normal activities of the residents or the community.
 - ii. CHA determines that the requested use would be contrary to federal, state or local law or regulation, or policies and regulations of CHA.
 - iii. The requestor has not fully provided accurate or complete information on the application or the application contains false or misleading statements.
 - iv. The requestor has been responsible for violation of paragraphs (i.), (ii.) or (iii.) above during a previously approved program, activity or event.
 - v. Approval for the use of the property has previously been given to another individual, group or organization for the date, time and location requested.
 - vi. The activity creates or could create a danger or dangerous condition impacting on the health, safety and welfare of others.
 - vii. The activity creates or could create a danger or dangerous condition to CHA property or maintenance problems.
 - viii. The requestor's use of community space has resulted in damage to CHA property during previously registered and approved program, activity or event and has not paid for such damage.
 - ix. The requestor has outstanding and unpaid debts to CHA.
 - x. Other reasons determined by the CHA.
- f. The Community Space Policy describes the following particular uses for the use of the property:
- i. Political Use
 - a. The use of CHA community space for speaking engagements by candidates for CHA resident office shall be subject to the registration

- requirements and procedures specified above.
- b. The use of CHA community space to campaign for public office is strictly prohibited.
 - c. CHA community space may not be used to staff a campaign for public office.
- ii. Religious Use
 - a. CHA community space may not be used for the purpose of religious worship, programs, meetings, activities or events.
 - iii. Literature Distribution or Sale
 - a. Any proposed distribution or sale of literature by an affiliated or non-affiliated group, organization or individual is subject to the express written approval of CHA.
 - b. Any literature which is, or which is proposed to be, distributed or sold shall comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations, and with the regulations and policies of CHA. No obscene literature or material shall be distributed on any CHA property.
 - c. Persons engaged in the distribution and/or sale of approved literature or material shall not obstruct or impede pedestrians or vehicles, harass other persons with physical contact or persistent demands, misrepresent the purposes or affiliations of those engaged in the distribution or sale, or misrepresent CHA's involvement in the literature distributed or sold.
 - d. CHA shall have the right to terminate the distribution or sale of literature by any group organization or individual which violates the provisions of this policy.
 - iv. Solicitation
 - a. Except as permitted by this provision, solicitation is prohibited in all CHA community space. "Solicitation" will not be considered to include activities or events engaged in by affiliated groups, organizations or individuals for the purpose of raising funds to meet expenses of the group, organization or individual or for charitable purposes.
 - b. Solicitation and fund-raising activities other than for the purpose of making a profit may be conducted on CHA properties by affiliated and non-affiliated groups, organizations and individuals with the express written approval of CHA.
 - c. Solicitation of dues and/or membership in an organization is permitted.
 - d. Request for solicitation may be denied for any reason at the discretion of CHA.

No funds solicited on CHA properties shall be for the benefit of any individual unless contributions are requested for the relief of an individual specified by name at the time of the request and all funds contributed are turned over to the named beneficiary for their use without any deductions whatsoever.
 - e. CHA retains the right to require any group, organization or individual to verify the use, application or disposition of funds solicited on CHA property.
 - f. No advertising signs, posters, or other material may be placed on any CHA property or facility by any affiliated or non-affiliated group, organization or individual without the express written approval of CHA.

g. All approved signs, posters or other material shall clearly indicate the name of the group, organization or individual and shall not misrepresent or falsely allude to an affiliation with CHA.

g. All common area use by residents must abide by the requirements of the Community Space Policy set forth above.

5. Marijuana Policy

- a. Federal law (42 U.S.C. §§ 13661 and 13662) requires public housing authorities to prohibit admission to housing programs to applicants if they, or a member of their family, use a controlled substance such as marijuana at the time of their application for housing benefits.
- b. The laws identified above also apply to residents who currently live in subsidized housing. Although marijuana became legal under Illinois state law effective January 1, 2020, the federal laws remain unchanged and do not permit the use, possession, distribution, or growing of marijuana on federally subsidized property.
- c. In situations where there are allegations that a resident has violated applicable marijuana laws, or engaged in the use, possession, distribution, or growing of marijuana, the CHA will consider relevant facts on a case-by-case basis and mitigating circumstances that are presented. These mitigating circumstances include the time, nature and extent of the conduct; the relationship of the conduct to the disability of a family member; its impact on others; the impact of a proposed action on family members; the viability of limiting a negative action to certain users rather than entire families; and any factors that might indicate a reasonable probability of favorable future conduct of the resident, including rehabilitation.

6. Medical Marijuana Policy

- a. Any current resident known to be involved in drug-related criminal activity, including the use and/or possession of medical marijuana, will be given the same notice and rights as for any other cause for termination under the Program.
- b. The CHA may not make any distinction between the use and/or possession of medical marijuana and any other drug-related criminal activity. As the recipient of federal funding, the CHA must adhere to the laws of the federal government and may not allow for the use and/or possession of a controlled substance, including marijuana prescribed for medicinal purposes.
- c. The CHA retains its discretion with respect to evicting or refraining from evicting current residents on account of their use of medical marijuana.
- d. The CHA may not permit the use of medical marijuana as a reasonable accommodation.

V. Transfer Policy

The CHA's Transfer Policy outlines the types of transfers administered by the CHA, which transfers are mandatory, and which are optional, as well as the eligibility requirements for transfers. CHA's Emergency and Mandatory transfer types have priority over new admissions from a CHA waitlist.

A. Transfer Policy

1. Transfers will be made without regard to race, color, sex, age (when age eligibility is not a factor), familial status, disability, national origin, ancestry, sexual orientation (including gender identity), marital status, housing status, order of protection status, military discharge status or source of income. Residents may be transferred to accommodate a disability.
2. Residents who request a transfer will receive only one unit offer; however, multiple unit offers may be made to satisfy a reasonable accommodation request.
 - a. For emergency and mandatory administrative transfers, refusal of a unit offer without good cause may result in lease termination, except in the case of Victim Assistance Program (VAP) Fair or VAWA emergency transfers.
 - b. For voluntary, senior housing, or family public housing resident transfers, refusal of a unit offer with or without good cause will result in the removal of the household from the transfer waitlist; **24 CFR § 1.4(B)(2)(ii)**.
3. The CHA may revise the transfer categories below to create and implement special programs and/or incentives for the benefit of public housing residents.
4. CHA's *Victim Assistance Program Transfer Plan* document is CHA's effective policy for executing VAP Mandatory Administrative Transfers or VAWA Emergency Transfers.
5. Unit transfer offers include any senior or family sites including traditional family, mixed-income, and Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD PBV) properties. CHA will follow the policies outlined below in transferring residents unless otherwise directed by court orders or consent decrees.

B. Transfer Categories

Transfers will be assigned to the appropriate categories on the transfer waitlist. The CHA has the discretion to make transfers based on the Authority's needs; therefore, residents may be offered a transfer out of transfer category sequence order and/or out of date order. The transfer categories are as follows:

1. Emergency Transfers: A mandatory transfer upon determination by the property manager, the CHA, or determined in a legal proceeding that unit, building conditions, or VAWA pose an immediate threat to resident life, health, or safety; **24 CFR § 966.4(h)**.
 - a. Prior written notice to the resident is not required for an emergency transfer; Emergency conditions that occur due to abuse or neglect to a unit by the resident will be grounds for emergency transfers; however, the responsible resident will be charged for the damages caused to the unit and/or may have their lease terminated¹⁹; and

- b. Refusal to accept an emergency transfer is grounds for lease termination and eviction.
 - i. Refusal of a unit in the case of VAP or VAWA related transfers is not grounds for termination or eviction.
 - c. CHA has discretion whether to return the resident to the original unit once the emergency is resolved.
2. Transfers under the RRC or Post 10/1/99 RRC, which include:
- a. Transfers out of housing to be demolished, rehabilitated, or revitalized;
 - b. Transfers back into housing that has been rehabilitated or revitalized;
 - c. CHA-initiated split family transfers for relocating families; or
 - d. One time transfers out of mixed-income/mixed-finance housing into a public housing unit where the resident meets the site-specific requirements. This section is not applicable to residents receiving a Family Public Housing Resident Transfer to a mixed-income/mixed-finance community.
 - i. Households that accepted replacement housing in mixed-income/mixed-finance housing must meet additional site-specific requirements established in the redevelopment agreement or Tenant Selection Plan (TSP) for the property.
3. Mandatory Administrative Transfers: Some examples include, but are not limited to:
- a. A transfer to move residents with disabilities to accessible units or units with features that accommodate their disabilities; **24 CFR § 8.27(a)(1)**.
 - b. A transfer requested by a resident and approved by the CHA to resolve problems of a life-threatening nature that are not related to unit or building conditions and not covered under VAWA (see Emergency Transfers) where documented situations of non-random violence that put a resident's life in danger have occurred. These transfers are dealt with expeditiously and without consideration of lease compliance until the family is transferred.
 - c. A transfer to move residents not requiring the accessibility features of their current unit so that the unit may be occupied by a qualified applicant or resident with a disability requiring the accessibility features of the unit; **24 CFR § 8.27(b)**.
 - d. A transfer to move residents with disabilities who, through third-party certification, have a verified need for a reasonable accommodation in the form of a transfer. Property Managers that have transfer requests of this nature must notify the CHA. A recommendation to approve the transfer request must be issued by the PAM Department before the transfer is conducted. Examples of such transfers may include, but are not limited to:
 - i. Transfers to a unit which provides an extra bedroom for a live-in aide, large medical equipment, a separate room for a family member needing extra space for a verified medical need.
 - ii. Transfers to a unit located on the first floor of a development;
 - iii. Transfers to a unit without mobility barriers, such as stairs, carpeting, etc.; and
 - iv. Transfers to units with sensory equipment.
 - e. Transfers to permit unit modernization other than those covered by the RRC

or the Post 10/1/99 RRC²⁰.

- f. Transfers initiated by the CHA for families who are over housed (living in a bedroom size too large) in accordance with the Occupancy Guidelines (Section II.J) and transfers initiated by the CHA for families who are overcrowded (living in a bedroom size too small) in accordance with the Occupancy Guidelines ²¹; **24 CFR § 966.4(c)(3)**.
 - i. When a head of a household, originally housed in a bedroom by themselves, gives birth or adopts a child, the family will not be considered overcrowded for this transfer type until the child is two years old.
 - ii. Families who have received transfers to replacement housing under the RRC or Post RRC 10/1/99 RRC are subject to additional moves required to comply with over-housed, under-housed, and other mandatory or emergency transfers.
 - g. Transfers for non-elderly residents after the death or departure of the elderly family's head of household, co-head of household, or spouse. This transfer is mandatory for residents who were not in residency at senior designated housing on the date of the FY2005 designation. Non-elderly family members that were in residency at senior designated housing on the date of the FY2005 designation²² have a right to remain in the unit as a remaining family member.
 - h. Mandatory transfers for non-elderly remaining family members living in senior designated housing who add a non-elderly person to the household. These transfers are only applicable to non-elderly remaining family members who were residing in senior designated housing on the date of the FY2005 designation and remained in the unit after the death or departure of the elderly family's head of household, co-head of household, or spouse.
 - i. Transfers based on extenuating circumstances.
 - j. Transfers of participants in the Choose to Own homeownership program who have completed the requirements for homeownership and have purchased a home. These households will be transferred to the Housing Choice Voucher program to use their subsidy toward their mortgage. These transfers do not apply to households who do not meet the income requirements to receive a Housing Choice Voucher.
4. Transfers between Programs:
- a. Transfers of public housing residents prior to RAD conversion. For lease-compliant residents seeking to remain in public housing in lieu of becoming participants in the Project-Based Voucher program,

²⁰ For example, rehabilitation that takes place after the completion of the Plan for Transformation.

²¹ When a head of household, originally housed in bedroom size by themselves, gives birth or adopts a child, the family will not be considered overcrowded for this transfer type until the child is age two.

²² The date of the FY2005 designation is March 14, 2005.

CHA will offer the opportunity to move to other CHA-owned public housing properties, if available. Transfer requests may begin approximately 180 days before the prospective effective date of the HAP contract and end on the effective date of the HAP contract. Residents will be responsible for costs associated with transfer.

- b. Transfers between those properties listed as Senior Designated Properties in the FY2015 Senior Designated Housing Plan and subsequent versions, regardless of its designation as a Public Housing property or a RAD PBV property.
 - c. The CHA shall have the authority to authorize transfers between housing programs when processing mandatory administrative and emergency transfers.
 - i. The CHA will first attempt to transfer a resident within their current program (e.g., Public Housing to Public Housing). If the CHA cannot accommodate such a transfer within the same program, the CHA may authorize a transfer outside of the resident's current program.
 - ii. The CHA may authorize the mandatory administrative or emergency transfer of a resident to and from any of the following housing programs:
 - a. Public Housing,
 - b. RAD PBV, and
 - c. PBRA.
5. Voluntary Administrative Transfers:
- a. Gautreaux Transfers are transfers available to residents that wish to move from a Limited Area (as defined in the Gautreaux court orders) to a General or Revitalizing Area, or any unit otherwise authorized by the court in the Gautreaux case as relief for the plaintiff class. Transfer opportunities will be offered to residents who are lease compliant, are in compliance with the CHA Work Requirement and meet the site-specific screening criteria of the requested site. All resident transfer requests must be submitted through the CHA Waitlist Portal.
 - b. Senior designated housing transfers are available to lease-compliant residents of senior buildings impacted by the FY2005 Senior Designated Housing Plan (SDHP) who wish to transfer from the senior designated housing property to a family property and who were in residency on the date of the FY2005 SDHP designation.
 - c. Transfers available to elderly lease-compliant residents of family properties who wish to transfer to a senior designated housing property and who were in residency on the date of designation.
6. Family Public Housing Resident Transfers: Transfers requested by heads of household living in a family property (traditional, mixed-income, scattered site) who have been in their current units for at least one year.
- a. The CHA will allow a resident living in a family property to select a family public housing site-based waitlist which they can request to transfer.
 - b. The CHA will process Family Public Housing Resident Transfers on an ongoing basis in conjunction with new admissions from the waitlist.

- c. Resident lease compliance will be reviewed before the Family Public Housing Resident Transfer will take place. Failure to maintain lease compliance will result in the Family Public Housing Resident Transfers request being denied.

C. Processing Transfers

1. The CHA maintains the transfer waitlist by category and processes these transfers for all properties.
2. Residents may request transfers from property managers with the necessary documentation to substantiate the need for the transfer. Property managers must submit a transfer request package to the CHA, justify the transfer and obtain final approval from the CHA before moving a family into a new unit.
3. In the case of split family transfers, property managers must submit the transfer request package to the CHA Office of the General Counsel for legal determination of split eligibility and rights under the RRC and/or Post 10/1/99 RRC, prior to submittal to the CHA Occupancy Department.
4. The CHA will run a credit check, when applicable, and a criminal check in all cases, on all adult household members age 18 and over. Applicants will have access to a copy of their criminal background check and an opportunity to participate in an individualized assessment before the CHA will consider approving or denying the applicant (per compliance with the Cook County Just Housing Amendment, see II.F.12.).
5. The CHA must approve all mandatory administrative transfers for reasonable accommodations.
6. Within each transfer category, applications will be listed by the date the transfer request package is received by the CHA.
7. With the exception of emergency transfers, a property manager cannot transfer a family until the CHA approves the transfer and informs the property manager that the family has reached the top of the transfer waitlist.
8. The CHA shall take into consideration issues of personal safety when transferring families to/from buildings. The family must provide documentation of domestic violence, sexual violence, dating violence, stalking, or hate crimes, and/or other situations of non-random violence that put a resident's life in danger when contesting transferring to/from a building or area of the city.
9. Transfers may be initiated by the CHA (e.g., moving a resident who does not need the features of an accessible unit to a non-accessible unit).
10. Unit offers for residents on the waitlist:
 - a. Residents who request a transfer will receive only one unit offer.
 - i. For mandatory transfers, refusal of a unit offer without good cause may result in lease termination.
 - ii. For voluntary transfers, refusal of a unit offer with or without good cause will result in the removal of the household from the transfer waitlist; **24 CFR § 1.4(B)(2)(ii)**.
 - b. Failing to respond to an outreach will result in the resident's name being removed from the waitlist.
11. Residents will be notified of transfers as follows:

- a. For emergency transfers, there is no notice requirement.
- b. For RRC transfers and Post 10/1/99 RRC transfers, the property manager will provide notice as required under the RRC and the Post 10/1/99 RRC.
- c. Property managers may provide less than 30 calendar days' notice for mandatory administrative transfers in which the resident is in danger from domestic violence, sexual violence, dating violence, stalking, or hate crimes, and/or other situations of non-random violence or a medical condition that is not life-threatening but may be exacerbated by their current unit or location.
- d. For all other transfers, the property manager will provide at least 30 calendar days' notice.

D. Residents in Good Standing

1. For voluntary administrative, senior housing and family public housing resident transfers, residents are required to be in good standing.
2. The receiving property manager will screen the resident and household prior to move in. If the criminal and credit check run by the CHA is over 120 days old, the property manager must re-run both checks as part of the screening process. During screening, the receiving property manager will determine if the resident is in good standing and in compliance with the CHA Residential Lease Agreement.
3. The CHA will make exceptions to these good standing requirements in the case of extenuating circumstances²³.
4. The CHA will provide transfers for victims of domestic violence, sexual violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or hate crimes, and/or other situations of non-random violence even if a resident is not in good standing; however, a new lease will not be executed until the resident resolves all issues related to non-compliance which are not related to the need for the victim assistance transfer.
5. Mandatory transfers do not stop the lease termination process.

E. Cost of Transfers

1. The CHA will pay the costs associated with moving, storage (up to 90 days), and transfer of utilities ("moving expenses") for all transfer types, except transfers prior to RAD PBV conversion and Voluntary Administrative Transfers. Family public housing resident transfers will be covered only in the case of "Gautreaux transfers".
 - a. Family public housing resident transfers offer moving expenses coverage only to residents currently living in Limited Areas and requesting to transfer to General, Revitalizing, or Opportunity Areas—such transfers are recognized as "Gautreaux transfers." Residents are responsible for all expenses for non- Gautreaux transfers provided via the Family Public Housing Resident Transfer process.

Transfers in connection with the RRC and Post 10/1/99 RRC will include moving expenses as defined under the RRC and Post 10/1/99 RRC.

²³ For example, one person not in good standing who is living alone in a three-bedroom unit and does not want to move to a smaller unit in accordance with the Occupancy Guidelines

F. Security Deposits

1. If a resident transfers from one CHA unit to another unit within the same development (intra- development), a new lease will be executed for the dwelling unit into which the family moves, and the security deposit will be moved over to the new unit.
2. If the resident transfers from one CHA development to a different development (inter-development) a new lease will be executed for the dwelling unit into which the family moves, and the CHA will refund the resident's security deposit minus any damages assessed.
3. The resident will be responsible for paying a security deposit for the new dwelling unit equal to the original security deposit amount at the previous unit. If a security deposit was not collected on the previous unit a new security deposit equal to the minimum rent will be collected; **24 CFR § 966.4(b)(5)**.

G. Split Family Transfers

Split family transfers will be processed in accordance with the policy outlined in this section below:

1. Types of Split Family Transfers for Families in Permanent Replacement Housing:
This section covers families whose right of return has been satisfied.
 - a. Overcrowded families in permanent replacement housing: The CHA will not grant split family transfers after a resident's right of return has been satisfied. If a resident's right of return has been satisfied, and the family is overcrowded, and the CHA does not have a unit large enough to accommodate the entire household in accordance with the Occupancy Guidelines, and there are adult members of the household, then the head of household must decide if all or part of the household will leave public housing within 60 calendar days. The family members who leave the unit may apply to CHA's waitlists. The head of household's failure to decrease the household size within 60 calendar days is a serious lease violation, and the family will be subject to lease termination and eviction.
 - b. Resident-requested split family transfers for families in permanent replacement housing: The CHA will not grant split family transfers after a resident's right of return has been satisfied at either mixed-income/mixed-finance communities or traditional public housing developments. This category specifically applies to:
 - i. Families that have already received their public housing replacement unit at either a mixed-income/mixed-finance community or a traditional public housing development under the RRC or Post 10/1/99 RRC before requesting a split family transfer;
 - ii. Families that have already received their replacement unit in the Housing Choice Voucher Programs under the RRC or Post 10/1/99 RRC before requesting a split family transfer; or

- iii. Families that have already received their replacement housing under a Consent Decree or Court Order before requesting a split family transfer.

2. Types of Split Family Transfers for Families Not Covered by the RRC Or Post 10/1/99:

This section covers families residing at Horner, Scattered Sites Community-Area Gautreaux families, New Admissions, and Mixed-Income Properties that do not have a transfer policy/procedure in place for the public housing units.

- a. Overcrowded families not covered by the RRC or Post 10/1/99 RRC: If a family is overcrowded and the CHA does not have a unit large enough to house the entire household in accordance with the Occupancy Guidelines, and there are adult members in the household, the head of household must decide if all or part of the household will leave public housing within 60 calendar days. The family members who leave the unit may apply to CHA's waitlists. The head of household's failure to decrease the household size within 60 calendar days is a serious lease violation, and the family will be subject to lease termination and eviction.

3. Types of Split Family Transfers for Relocating Families:

This section applies to families covered by the RRC or Post 10/1/99 RRC whose right of return or preference for return has not been satisfied.

- a. CHA-initiated split family transfers for relocating families: The CHA may make a onetime split family transfer when it is evident that the CHA is unable to house the entire family in one unit and must offer two units. The original and splitting family retain their right of return under the RRC or preference for return under the Post 10/1/99 RRC. The splitting family is given the option of a public housing unit or an HCV.

- b. Resident-requested split family transfers for relocating families: Families in the process of being relocated under the RRC or the Post 10/1/99 RRC may request a split family transfer. This type of request is granted at the discretion of the CHA. If granted, the CHA will offer the splitting family an HCV rather than a public housing unit. The splitting family does not retain any right of return under the RRC or preference for return under the Post 10/1/99 RRC that they may have possessed prior to the split. The original family retains its right of return.

- c. Splitting families of a 10/1/99 household who are approved for a split with a right of return will not be offered CHA replacement housing until the CHA has offered units to residents in Priorities One through Eight, pursuant to the RRC. Post 10/1/99 splitting families who are approved for a split with a preference for return will not receive an offer of replacement housing until the CHA has offered units to residents in Priority One through Eleven of the RRC.

- 4. The presence of an additional adult family member, with or without children, does not automatically qualify a family for a split family transfer.
- 5. For all types of splits, the head of the splitting family must be a member of the original family's household for at least three consecutive years before the split family transfer can be initiated.
- 6. The head of household and all members, age 18 years and over, of the splitting family must pass applicant screening.

7. Split families with a right of return will be transferred, whenever possible, within the same development.

If that is not possible, an attempt will be made to transfer them within the same neighborhood or geographic region of the city in which they reside.

8. The original family must be lease compliant to qualify for a split family transfer. If the original family violates the lease after the family requested a split and the family member requesting to split was not involved in the lease violation and meets all other requirements to split, the split will continue to be processed.
9. The CHA will only supply one subsidy per household. Split family transfers will not be allowed to separate co-heads of household or spouses. If a court determines the disposition of property between the head and co-head of household in a divorce or separation under a settlement or judicial decree, the CHA will follow the court's determination of which family member continues to receive assistance. In cases where there is no court determination, the original head of household will retain use of the unit.

VI. Re-Examinations of Income and Family Circumstances

After initial occupancy, the CHA must re-examine a family's eligibility for continued occupancy. Residents must provide documentation of family composition, income, and assets. At the time of re-examination, income, employment, allowances, Social Security numbers, and any additional data deemed necessary will be verified. Verified information will be analyzed and a determination made with respect to the eligibility of the household for continued occupancy; the eligibility of an individual as a remaining family member; the appropriate unit size for the family; and the amount of rent the family should pay.

A. Eligibility for Continued Occupancy

1. Residents must meet the following criteria to be eligible for continued occupancy:
 - a. Qualify as a family as defined in Section XIV of this policy;
 - b. Maintain full compliance with the resident obligations and responsibilities as described in the **CHA Residential Lease Agreement**, 24 CFR § 966.4(f)
 - c. Have Social Security numbers for each family member or have signed certifications under penalties of perjury for any family member who indicates they do not have a Social Security number; 24 CFR § 5.216. Leaseholders who are 62 years of age or older and had not previously disclosed a valid SSN as of January 31, 2010, are exempt. This exemption continues even if the individual moves to a new assisted unit;
 - d. Meet HUD standards for citizenship or eligible immigration status or are paying a pro-rated rent; 24 CFR § 5.500
 - e. Maintain compliance with or provide documentation of exemption from the CHA Work Requirement (Section VIII) or Community Service Requirements/Economic Independence Programs (Section VI.G.); and
 - f. Not be Over Income Limit (please refer to Section VI., Subsection I.)
 - g. Continue to otherwise meet eligibility requirements for the housing program and any site-specific eligibility requirements.
2. All adult household members, including live-in aides, must pass a criminal background check.
3. All children, in the household between the ages of 6 and 17, are required to attend school on a regular basis, in accordance with local school board policies and state law. Residents shall provide the CHA with releases and authority so that the CHA can inquire into the attendance of any school-aged child between the ages of 6 and 17.
4. Residents may be required to prove through documentation that children age 13 and under participate in daycare, after school programs, or are otherwise adequately supervised when school is not in session.
5. A resident must continue to demonstrate suitability based on satisfactory behavior as a renter including but not limited to: housekeeping performance; good payment records for rent; other charges and utilities; satisfactory record of lease compliance; and an acceptable criminal background record as a law-abiding member of society. Residents found to be ineligible during re-examination will be subject to lease termination.

6. If any adult member of the household fails to pass the criminal background check during re-examination, the CHA may begin lease termination against the entire household. Residents will have access to a copy of their criminal background check and an opportunity to participate in an individualized assessment before the CHA will consider lease termination (per compliance with the Cook County Just Housing Amendment, see II.F.12.).

B. Re-Examinations

The CHA will ensure that the regular re-examination for each family is completed as follows:

Frequency	Population
Annual (every year)	Families participating in the Homeownership Program or receiving zero income
Biennial (every two years)	Families with an income-based or flat rent & Families participating in the LevelUp (CHA's FSS program)
Triennial (every three years)	Families where all members are either elderly and/or disabled (with fixed incomes)

1. During the regularly scheduled reexamination, CHA will offer residents the opportunity to decide whether to pay income-based rent or the flat rent applicable to the dwelling unit they will occupy.
 - a. The CHA will re-examine the family composition and income of all resident families.
 - b. Families paying income-based rent, flat rent, or participating in the LevelUp Program shall have their incomes re-examined every two years.
2. The re-examination process shall begin 120 days prior to the expiration of the lease. In the case of a resident transfer, the anniversary date (lease date) for the resident becomes the 1st day of the month after the transfer.
 - a. Re-examination must be completed before the expiration of the lease. The resident may be terminated for failure to comply with re-examination notices. If the resident comes in for re- examination once termination has started, the termination process will continue until the re- examination is complete.
3. The resident shall sign a personal declaration form to certify the validity and completeness of the documents provided during the re-examination process. All members, age 18 and over, of the resident household must sign all consent forms that authorize the CHA to make necessary inquiries into the resident and household members' behavior or background as it relates to lease compliance. This includes obtaining arrest and eviction information to determine a pattern of behavior and the likelihood of lease compliance. Failure to sign all consent forms, including HUD Form 9886 and the CHA Authorization and Consent Release Form, will result in the resident's lease termination.

Once an applicant has signed and submitted a new HUD 9886 consent form, they are not required to do so again at the next interim or regularly scheduled income examination. An applicant, participant, or family member's written revocation of

consent to access financial records will result in denial or termination of assistance or admission.

4. All information in a resident file must be verified. As part of the verification process, all adult members of the resident's household must: (1) sign all consent/release forms, including HUD Form 9886; (2) complete all relevant paperwork; and (3) return all documentation required to complete the verification process. Verifications are considered along the following hierarchy:
 - a. UIV/EIV (for income-related matters);
 - b. Third-party written verification (tenant-provided documentation);
 - c. Third-party verification form;
 - d. Third-party oral verification; and
 - e. Resident Self-Certification.
5. The CHA or property manager shall document the steps taken to obtain information through the verification process before proceeding to the next level of the hierarchy.
6. When it is not possible to estimate family income accurately at re-examination, a temporary determination will be made.
7. Streamlined income determinations may be conducted for any member of a household with a fixed source of income. If a resident has both fixed- and non-fixed sources of income, the non-fixed income will remain subject to third-party verification.
 - a. Fixed-income includes income from:
 - i. Social Security payments, to include Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Supplemental Security Disability Insurance (SSDI);
 - ii. Federal, state, local, and private pension plans; and
 - iii. Other periodic payments received from annuities, insurance policies, retirement funds, disability or death benefits, and other similar types of periodic payments.
 - b. The streamlined income determination will be made by applying a verified cost of living adjustment (COLA) or current rate of interest to the previously verified or adjusted income amount.
8. Zero Income Family Certification: Unless the family has income that is excluded for rent computation, families reporting zero income will have their circumstances examined every 180 calendar days until they have a stable income. A monetary or non-monetary contribution from persons not residing in the dwelling unit for any purpose other than the payment or reimbursement of medical expenses shall be considered income; **24 CFR § 5.609**.
9. If the CHA is in the process of terminating the lease of a resident when the resident is scheduled for re-examination, the re-examination will be completed, but a new lease will not be executed.
 - a. If the CHA prevails in the lease termination action, a new lease will not be executed, and the resident will be evicted.
 - b. If the resident prevails in the lease termination action, a new lease will be executed.

10. If any adult member of the household fails to pass the background check during re-examination, the CHA will begin lease termination. If the resident prevails in the lease termination action and there has been no recent criminal activity, a new lease will be executed.
11. At any time, a resident may request an interim re-examination, and the CHA shall provide one. An interim re-examination shall be conducted whenever there is a change in family composition; **24 CFR § 960.257**.
12. CHA may not rent a dwelling unit to families, or assist families with, net family assets exceeding \$100,000 annually (adjusted for inflation) or an ownership interest in property that is suitable for occupancy. This restriction does not apply to victims of domestic violence, individuals using housing assistance for homeownership opportunities, families offering properties for sale or families whose properties do not meet the disability-related needs for all members of the family; **42 USC § 1437n(e)(1)(A)**.

C. Action Following Re-Examination

1. Failure to complete re-examination is a serious lease violation and grounds for lease termination.
2. If a change in the unit size is required, the resident will be placed on a transfer waitlist in accordance with the transfer criteria described in this policy and moved to an appropriate unit when one becomes available; **24 CFR § 966.4(c)(3)**. Failure by a resident to comply with a mandatory administrative transfer is cause for lease termination.
3. If there is any change in rent, the lease will be amended during the interim re-examination or a new lease will be executed during the regularly scheduled re-examination, and a Notice of Rent Adjustment will be issued prior to the effective date of the rent adjustment. The Notice of Rent Adjustment will include the current rent, the new rent, the date when the new rent takes effect, the reason for the rent adjustment, and information regarding the resident's right to request an informal hearing if they disagree with the new rent; **24 CFR § 966.4(a)(3)**.

D. Unit Maintenance and Inspections

1. Residents are responsible for maintaining their unit in a safe, decent and habitable condition. Housekeeping, cleaning, and/or maintenance of resident's assigned areas (e.g., yards, porches, etc.) are also the responsibility of the resident and their household.
2. Property management will conduct inspections to ensure that residents are maintaining their units and assigned areas in safe and sanitary conditions. Residents will not be held responsible for normal wear and tear.
3. Annual inspections will be conducted for all units. Residents will be notified at least 48 hours in advance. The CHA shall inspect the condition of the dwelling unit, the equipment within, and any areas assigned to the resident for upkeep. The CHA will use all inspections to assess the resident's compliance with housekeeping standards and overall care of the dwelling unit and equipment in accordance with the Lease. The CHA will provide the resident with a written statement regarding dwelling unit conditions, and the CHA shall request work orders for all items found to be in disrepair.

4. If the CHA detects any housekeeping problems, the CHA will notify the resident in writing of the housekeeping violations, identify the measures and time period necessary to cure the unsatisfactory conditions, and conduct an interim inspection.
 - a. The CHA reserves the right to document all inspections and observed deficiencies.
 - b. Any resident found to be in violation of CHA or property management housekeeping standards will be required to complete the home maintenance/housekeeping orientation again.
 - c. In addition to repeating the home maintenance/housekeeping orientation, residents will be fined in accordance with the charge sheet for repairs and maintenance.
 - d. Residents, including those with live-in aides, are responsible for housekeeping and/or maintenance upkeep. If such a resident is non-compliant, the CHA reserves the right to proceed with a through c above if unsatisfactory conditions are not cured.
5. The CHA will give the resident 30 calendar days to cure housekeeping violations. The CHA will conduct an interim inspection at the end of the 30-day cure period as a follow up to any housekeeping violations found during the annual inspection and to measure corrections to any identified unsatisfactory conditions and progress toward resolution of the problem. If the housekeeping violation has not been resolved at the end of the 30 calendar days or the established cure time period, the CHA may proceed with lease termination.
6. Property management may conduct additional, more frequent housekeeping inspections of residents with histories of poor housekeeping. Residents will receive at least 48 hours' notice that such inspection will take place.
7. Property management may conduct inspections of units where an extra bedroom has been granted to reasonably accommodate a resident or family member's verifiable disability. Management will inspect to see that the extra rooms are being utilized in accordance with the documented reason for the accommodation (e.g., a live-in aide, large hospital bed, breathing apparatus, mobility aides, etc. are housed within the room). If the extra bedroom is not being used in accordance with the documented reason for the accommodation, the resident may be subject to reduction in unit size and/or lease termination.

E. Effective Date of Rent Adjustments

1. Timely Reporting (Within 10 calendar days of the occurrence):
 - a. Decreases in rent: first day of the month after the decrease in income is first reported to the property manager. Income decreases reported or verified after the tenant accounting cut-off date will be effective the first of the second month with a credit retroactive to the first month.
 - b. Increases in rent not due to misrepresentation or omission: the CHA is not required to process increases in rent related to increases in income until the next regularly scheduled re-examination. Increases in income are not subject to reporting requirement within 10 calendar days of the occurrence, unless the resident previously underwent a interim reexamination where rent was decreased during the same certification period.

If the family has reported a change in family income or composition in a timely manner according to policy, they will be given 30 days advanced notice of any rent increases, and such rent increases will be effective the first day of the month beginning after the end of that 30 day period; 24 CFR 960.609.

2. Late Reporting (After 10 calendar days of the occurrence):
 - a. Decreases in rent: the household is not entitled to a rent credit for any prior monthly rent before the decrease in income is reported to the property manager.
 - b. Increases in rent: increases in income are only required to be reported at time of next regularly scheduled re-examination. Increases in earned income are not subject to reporting requirement within 10 calendar days of the occurrence, unless the resident previously underwent an interim reexamination where rent was decreased during the same certification period. The household will receive a charge for the prior months that were affected by the increase and not timely reported at last regularly scheduled re-examination. The rent increase should be manually calculated starting from the first day of the second month following the re-examination date at which the increase in income should have been reported. All prior charges are posted manually on the tenant ledger.
3. A misrepresentation or omission may be grounds for lease termination and eviction.
4. 4. Fair Notice Ordinance
 - a. The CHA, to the extent it does not violate federal law and regulations, complies with the City of Chicago 2020 Fair Notice Ordinance. In an instance of rent increases, CHA must provide the following notices to residents:
 - i. 30 days' notice if the resident has lived in their unit less than six months.
 - ii. 60 days' notice if the resident has lived in their unit for more than six months but less than three years.
 - iii. 120 days' if the resident has lived in their unit more than three years.

F. Remaining Family Members

1. If the head of household dies or leaves the unit without housing subsidy assistance (e.g., institutionalization, forming a new household in unsubsidized housing having given their RRC or Post 10/1/99 RRC rights to the remaining family members, etc.), continued occupancy by remaining family members may be permitted only if:
 - a. The family reports the death or departure of the head of household within 30 calendar days of the occurrence;
 - b. The family member requesting to become the new head of household is age 18 years or older, has lived in the unit as an authorized family member on the lease for a minimum of three consecutive years (36 months), has not had any unauthorized extended absences, there are no rent and/or criminal activity violations, and the authorized family member passes applicant screening; and
 - c. The new CHA-approved head of household signs a new lease.
2. The new head of household will be held responsible for rent arrearages, unless the arrearage occurred before the new head of household turned age 18.
3. At CHA's sole discretion, in senior-designated housing only, exceptions may be

made in instances where there is an elderly remaining family member who has not resided in the unit for at least three consecutive years (36 months).

4. Household members (live-in aides, live-in aides' family members, foster children, and foster adults) do not have rights as remaining family members to become the head of household. If no authorized remaining family members are eligible to assume the head of household role, the household members must vacate the unit within 30 calendar days. Live-in aides do not have any continued occupancy rights if the person who they cared for died or left the unit, even if the live-in aide was a family member prior to becoming a live-in aide. If a live-in aide or foster adult is allowed to bring additional household members with them to the unit (i.e. spouse, partner, children), such persons similarly do not have rights as remaining family members to become head of household or to obtain any public housing program benefits.
5. Remaining family members, who are non-elderly and were residing in senior designated housing properties on the date of the FY2005 designation, may continue to remain in their unit if the elderly family's head of household, co-head of household, or spouse passes away. If they wish to add a non-elderly person to the household or upon request, the CHA will transfer the non-elderly remaining family member to a family property.
6. When a head of household leaves a household with children or adults with a disability who cannot assume the role of the head of household, and there is no remaining family member to assume the head of household role, the lease will be terminated. Subject to program eligibility and voucher availability, the CHA may offer either a HCV or a public housing unit to a permanent legal custodial guardian.
 - a. The permanent legal custodial guardian will be required to document that they have been awarded permanent legal custodial guardianship.
 - b. The permanent legal custodial guardian may be held responsible for rent arrearages incurred by the former head of household and/or co-head of household on a case by case determination.

G. Community Service and Economic Independence Requirement

1. The CHA works to assist residents in moving toward economic independence. In support of this goal, the CHA requires that all residents and adult authorized members of the household who are not exempt from the CHA Work Requirement perform eight hours per month of community service or participate eight hours a month in an economic independence program. The requirement can also be met by a combination of eight hours of community service and participation in an economic independence program. This requirement is known as the Community Service and Economic Independence Requirement.
2. Residents and adult authorized members of the household up to 54 years of age who are in compliance with the CHA Work Requirement, are in compliance with the Community Service and Economic Independence Requirement. Residents and adult authorized members of the household deemed eligible for Safe Harbor within the CHA Work Requirement (Section VIII) must satisfy the Community Service/Economic Independence Policy.
 - a. Residents and adult authorized members of the household 55 to 61 years of age who are exempt from Work Requirement are NOT exempt from the Community Service and Economic and Self-Sufficiency Requirement.

3. At least eight hours of activity must be performed each month. An individual should not skip a month and then double up the following month, unless special circumstances warrant special consideration.
4. A total of 96 hours per year is required by each non-exempt resident and adult authorized member of the resident's household.
5. Compliance with community service activities is monitored on an annual basis. If a resident fails to comply with their responsibilities, the property manager will begin lease termination.
6. Types of Service
 - a. Community Service includes, but is not limited to, volunteer work:
 - i. At a local institution such as a school, community center, hospital, nursing home, homeless shelter, foodbank, hospice, etc.;
 - ii. With a non-profit organization, such as the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Boys or Girls Club, Big Brother or Big Sisters, etc.;
 - iii. With a community arts program involving performing arts, fine arts, visual arts, etc.;
 - iv. With any program funded under the Older Americans Act;
 - v. With service programs sponsored by churches, which do not involve religious education, recruitment or the practice of religion;
 - vi. At a CHA property to help with children or senior programs;
 - vii. Through the Local Advisory Council (LAC) to help residents, serving as an officer in a LAC, or serving on the Central Advisory Council (CAC) or Resident Advisory Board; and
 - viii. Care for the children of other residents, so that they may fulfill their CHA Work Requirement or Community Service Requirement.
 - b. Political activities are excluded from community service.
 - c. Volunteer work activity does not involve payment to the participant and must not take the place of work performed by paid employees.
 - d. Economic Independence activities are programs and classes that work toward economic and social independence. Such activities include, but are not limited to:
 - i. Job readiness, job training, or skills training programs;
 - ii. Higher education (junior college or college), vocational education, or GED classes;
 - iii. Verifiable job search activities or apprenticeship programs;
 - iv. Substance abuse or mental health counseling;
 - v. English proficiency or literacy (reading) classes;
 - vi. Parenting classes or budgeting and credit counseling; and
 - vii. Activities required by the Department of Public Assistance as part of welfare reform.
 - e. The Economic Independence hours will count toward the eight hours per month requirement and will only count hours when a non-exempt adult is actually attending class or engaged in job training. The required hours will not include

time in transit.

7. Community service and Economic Independence activities can be performed within or outside the neighborhood.
8. A resident or adult authorized member of the household is exempt from the Community Service and Economic Independence Requirement when such member:
 - a. Is 62 years of age or older;
 - b. Is blind or disabled as defined under 216(i)(1) or 1614 of the Social Security Act (**42 USC § 416(i)(1)**) and certifies that they are unable to comply with the requirement;
 - c. Is verified to be the fulltime caretaker of a disabled person as defined above;
 - d. Is retired (retirement is not age based) and receives a pension;
 - e. Is enrolled as a full-time student at a secondary school, accredited college, university, apprenticeship program, or trade school;
 - f. Is engaged in work activities;
 - g. Meets the requirements for being exempted from engaging in a work activity under the State Program funded under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act (**42 USC § 01** et seq.) or under any other welfare program of the State of Illinois, including a State-administered welfare-to- work program; or
 - h. Is a member of a family receiving assistance, benefits or services under a State program funded under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act (**42 USC § 601** et seq.) or under any other welfare program of the State of Illinois, including a State-administered welfare-to-work program, and has not been found by the State or other administering entity to be in noncompliance with such a program; **24 CFR 960.601**.
9. Family Obligations
 - a. At lease execution or re-examination after the effective date of this policy, all residents and adult authorized members of the household, age 18 and over, must:
 - i. Provide documentation that they are exempt from the Community Service and Economic Independence Requirement if they qualify for an exemption; and
 - ii. Sign a certification that they have received and read this policy and understand that if they are not exempt, failure to comply with the Community Service and Economic Independence Requirement is grounds for non-renewal of the lease.
 - b. Non-exempt residents, who are exempted from paying the minimum rent, must present a completed documentation form, provided by the CHA, of activities performed over the previous 90 days to the property manager during their quarterly re-examination.
 - c. At each regularly scheduled re-examination, non-exempt residents and adult authorized members of the household must present a completed documentation form of activities performed over the previous 12 months. The forms will include places for signatures of supervisors, instructors, or counselors certifying the number of hours contributed each month.

- d. Change in exempt status:
 - i. If, during the 12-month period, a non-exempt resident or adult authorized member of the household becomes exempt, it is their responsibility to report this to the property manager and provide documentation of the qualifying exemption.
 - ii. If, during the 12-month period, an exempt resident or adult authorized member of the household becomes non-exempt, it is their responsibility to report this to the property manager.

10. Non-Compliance of a Non-Exempt Family Member

- a. If during re-examination, the property manager determines a non-exempt resident or adult authorized member's failure to either report or complete the required Community Service and Economic Independence Requirement, the property manager shall send a Notice of Lease Violation to the head of household that describes the non-compliance and indicates that the CHA will not renew the lease at the end of the 12-month lease term, unless the head of household and any other non-compliant adult enter into a written agreement (Lease Addendum Agreement) at their re-examination with the CHA to cure the non-compliance issue or the family provides written assurance satisfactory to the CHA that the non-compliant adult is no longer residing in the unit. The notice shall also provide that the resident may grieve the determination of non-compliance pursuant to the **CHA Resident's Grievance Procedure** or exercise any judicial remedy to timely address the non-renewal of the lease.
- b. If, at the regularly scheduled re-examination, the resident remains non-lease compliant due to violation of the requirements:
 - i. The property manager will notify the resident that they have been deemed non-compliant due to the failure to comply with Section 22 of the Lease.
 - ii. The property manager shall issue the resident the Non-Lease Compliant Notice and request that the head of household sign a Lease Addendum Agreement stating that the resident agrees to make up the missing hours.
 - iii. In conjunction with the issuance of the Non-Lease Compliant Notice and the Lease Addendum Agreement, the property manager reserves the right to serve a Notice of Intent to Not Renew the Lease.
 - iv. If the resident refuses to sign the Lease Addendum Agreement, they will not be allowed to sign any of the paperwork included in the lease renewal packet, and the property manager shall serve a Notice of Intent to Not Renew the Lease. If the adult authorized member fails to either report or complete the required Community Service and Economic Independence Requirement, the head of household will be notified and both parties shall be required to sign the Lease Addendum Agreement stating that the adult authorized member will make up the missing hours. If the adult authorized member refuses to sign or make up the hours, the family will be deemed non-lease compliant unless the family provides written assurance satisfactory to the CHA and the non-compliant adult is no longer residing in the unit.
- e. Pursuant to the written Lease Addendum Agreement, the non-exempt adult will be granted one year to make up any lost hours while simultaneously completing their current requirements of 96 hours a year.
- f. If the property manager verifies that the lost hours were not made up, the

property manager will serve the head of household with a Notice to Vacate the Property within 30 days and initiate the eviction process.

11. The head of household may use the **CHA Resident's Grievance Procedure** to contest the determination whether or not to grant an exemption and/or the decision to initiate the lease termination.

H. Other Resident Opportunities

1. LevelUp (CHA's FSS program) Program
 - a. Eligible families may participate in the LevelUp program, which enables families to increase their earned income and reduce their dependency on welfare assistance and rental subsidies. See CHA's Family Self-Sufficiency Action Plan.
2. Choose to Own Homeownership Program
 - a. Eligible families may participate in the Choose to Own homeownership program, which assists a family residing in a home purchased and owned by one or more members of the family. See section V.B.3. on voluntary transfers and CHA's Housing Choice Voucher Administration Plan, Chapter 15, part VI.

I. Over Income Residents

1. To be eligible for continued occupancy in the Public Housing Program, family's total income may not exceed 120% of the Area Median Income; **24 CFR 960.507**.
 - a. When a family's income is over 120% of the AMI ("over income") for 24 consecutive months, households will have their lease terminated with the Public Housing Program; **42 USC § 1437n(a)(5)**.
 - b. The CHA will provide the Over-income Family three written notices during their 24-month grace period.
 - i. First written notice will be delivered within 30 days of the annual or interim reexamination that a household's income exceeding 120% of AMI is initially determined
 - ii. Second written notice will be delivered within 30 days of the subsequent, required interim reexamination twelve months after the initial determination if family income remains above 120% of AMI.
 - iii. Third and final written notice that states the household's lease will be terminated by CHA within six months will be delivered within 30 days of the third annual reexamination, if Over-income Family remains above 120% of AMI 24 consecutive months after initial determination
2. If the family's income falls below the over income limit at any time during the allotted grace period, the tracking period will end. If at any time the family's income exceeds the over income limit in the future, they are entitled to a new grace period.
3. Households participating in LevelUp (CHA's FSS program) are not exempt from over-income policies

4. CHA will update the 120% AMI limit annually within 60 days of HUD publishing Income Limits for a given year.

VII. Interim Adjustments for Rent & Family Composition

If there are any changes in a family's income or household composition between regularly scheduled re-examinations, an interim re-examination may be conducted. At any time, a resident may request an interim re-examination, and the CHA will grant it. If the last regular re-examination was effective more than 90 days prior to the change in family circumstances, all family information and income must be re-verified. An interim re-examination does not affect the date of a resident's regularly scheduled re-examination.

A. Adjusting Rent between Regularly Scheduled Re-Examinations (Interim Increase / Reduction in Rent)

1. Annual Re-Examinations:
 - a. Residents are required to report all changes in family composition or decreases in income to the property manager within 10 calendar days of the occurrence.
 - b. Failure to report decreases in income within the 10 calendar days will not result in a retroactive credit or rent reduction.
 - c. Residents are not required to report interim increases in earned income unless they previously had rent decrease due to a decrease in income during the same certification period. Increases in income are only required to be reported at time of next regularly scheduled re-examination.
2. Biennial & Triennial Re-Examinations:
 - a. Residents are required to report decreases in income to the property manager within 10 calendar days of the occurrence to qualify for a reduction in rent.
 - b. Failure to report a decrease in income within the 10 calendar days will not result in a retroactive decrease in rent.
3. When the CHA makes a rent calculation error at admission or at re-examination, and it causes the household's rent to be too low, any increase in rent will not go into effect retroactively. The increase in rent will go into effect the first day of the second month after the CHA error is discovered and proper notice of the rent increase has been given to the household. If the CHA's rent calculation error resulted in an overpayment by the resident, the resident has the choice between a refund for overpayment or a credit to their account.
4. If the error in rent calculation is caused by the information reported by the resident at admission or any re-examination, resulting in an overpayment by the resident, the resident's rent will decrease effective the month after reporting. Less than a 30-day written notice, if necessary, is allowable to correct the error. The resident will not receive a retroactive credit.
5. The CHA will process interim changes in rent in accordance with the following chart²⁴.

<u>INCOME CHANGE</u>	<u>CHA ACTION</u>
(a) Decrease in income for any reason, except for a decrease that lasts less than 30 calendar days or is subject to Imputed Welfare Income rules ²⁵ .	The CHA will process an interim rent reduction in rent if the income decrease lasts more than 30 calendar days.
(b) Increase of more than 10% in adjusted income	An interim reexamination will be processed, however, increases to earned income will not be considered. If the family has previously received an interim reduction within the same annual or biennial reexamination cycle and their earned income increases by more than 10 percent; 24 CFR § 960.257
(c) Increase in earned income of a current household member.	The CHA will process a rent increase at time of next regularly scheduled re-examination; 24 CFR § 960.257 .
(d) Increase in unearned income (e.g., COLA adjustment for Social Security).	The CHA will process a rent increase at time of next regularly scheduled re-examination.
(e) Increase in income because a person with income (from any source) joins the household.	The CHA will process an interim rent increase.
(f) Resident misrepresented or failed to report facts upon which rent is based; therefore, resident is paying less rent than they should have been paying.	The CHA will apply any increase in rent retroactive to the first day of the second month, following the month in which the misrepresentation or omission occurred. Misrepresentation or omissions are also grounds for lease termination.
(g) Resident paying income-based rent experiences a verified change in circumstances that qualifies them for a reduction in income-based rent even if their income has not decreased (i.e., increase in permissible deductions and expenses listed in Section XI.D.).	The CHA will process an interim rent reduction. An increase in a resident's deduction(s) will cause a reduction to their adjusted income.
(h) Families who have elected to pay flat rent experience a financial hardship.	The CHA will process an interim rent reduction and adjust the family's rent to income-based rent.
(i) Increase in monetary or non-monetary income after resident claimed zero income.	The CHA will process a rent increase at time of next reported income increase or next regularly scheduled re-examination, whichever occurs first.

²⁴ This chart may not be all inclusive of all interim changes. The CHA reserves the right to process other interim changes as needed.

²⁵ Decreases in welfare income resulting from welfare fraud or from cuts for failure to comply with economic independence requirements are not eligible for rent reductions; **24 CFR § 5.615**.

6. The property manager must document and verify the circumstances applicable to rent adjustments; **24 CFR § 960.259(c)**.
7. The CHA will process interim decreases in rent as follows:
 - a. An interim adjustment will be processed when a resident reports a decrease in income that is expected to last more than 30 calendar days.
 - b. An interim adjustment will not be processed when a decrease in income is reported, and the CHA verifies that the decrease will last less than 30 calendar days or is a change of less than ten percent of the original income.
8. Residents that report no source of income are required to complete an income re-examination every 90 days, in accordance with Section VI.B.7. Reporting is required until income increases, or it is time for the next regularly scheduled re-examination, whichever occurs first.
9. If an interim is requested within 30 days of the beginning of the regularly scheduled re-examination process, the interim must be completed in accordance with Section VI.E., and the information gathered can also be used to complete and expedite the regularly scheduled re-examination process. The property manager does not need to re-verify the information gained from this interim.
10. If a resident experiences a decrease in income from public assistance because their grant is reduced for one of the following reasons, the resident's rent will not be reduced:
 - a. The resident committed welfare fraud;
 - b. The resident failed to comply with economic independence requirements; or
 - c. The resident chose not to engage in economic independence requirements.
11. If a resident formally challenges the welfare department's reduction of a grant, an interim reduction in rent will be processed until a final determination is made by the welfare department.
 - a. If the welfare department upholds their original ruling about the grant reduction, the resident will owe a retroactive rent for the period of the granted interim rent reduction.
 - b. If the welfare department overturns the grant reduction, no retroactive balance is owed.

B. Effective Date of Rent Adjustments

Residents will be notified in writing of any rent adjustment, including the effective date of the adjustment, in accordance with Section VI.E.

C. Interim Changes in Household Composition

1. All changes in family composition must be reported within 10 calendar days of the change. These changes would include:
 - a. A family or household member included on the lease leaves the unit; or
 - b. Natural birth, adoption, or court-awarded custody of a child (excluding foster care arrangements) to a current family member.
2. Head of households who do not notify the CHA of additions or who permit persons to join the household without prior authorization are in violation of their lease and are subject to lease termination.

3. The addition of a live-in aide, foster child, foster adult, or kinship care child between re-examinations must be requested in writing and requires authorization from the CHA and the property manager before the individual may move into the unit.
4. Additional income that the live-in aide, foster child, foster adult, or kinship care child may contribute to the household will not be included in the family's rent calculation.
5. Interim changes in household composition must be made pursuant to Section IV.C.

D. Lease-Compliance Determination for Residents with Right of Return and Preference for Return

The CHA, in accordance with the CHA Leaseholder Housing Choice and Relocation Rights Contract, 10/1/99 and the CHA Relocation Rights Contract for Families with Initial Occupancy after 10/1/99, will assess lease compliance since the resident's last re-examination:

1. Before a family moves out of their current housing so it may be rehabilitated, demolished, or revitalized; and
2. Before a family moves back to rehabilitated, revitalized, or newly constructed housing.

VIII. CHA Work Requirement Policy

A. CHA Work Requirement

1. Every applicant at time of screening, resident and adult authorized family member of a public housing unit, age 18 up to age 54, is required to be engaged, a minimum of 20 hours a week, on a regular basis, unless the resident or adult authorized family member of the household is exempt or approved for Safe Harbor. Any member of the applicant-in-screening or resident's household, who is 17 years of age and not attending school full-time, will be subject to the CHA Work Requirement. Applicants from public housing waitlists are not eligible for Safe Harbor.
2. Applicants at time of screening, residents, and adult authorized family members of the household may meet the CHA Work Requirement through any combination of employment, attendance at an accredited school, educational institution, training program, job readiness, GED or literacy program, internship, or work experience opportunity.
 - a. If an applicant/resident is considered a part-time student at an accredited school, they must either work or volunteer the remaining 50% of the required hours (10 hours).
3. Volunteer or community service opportunities are also allowable provided that the volunteer or community service can be verified and constitutes no more than 50% of the required hours for the first three years of compliance.
4. Residents and adult authorized family members of the household up to 54 years of age, who are in compliance with the CHA Work Requirement, are in compliance with HUD's Community Service and Economic Independence Requirement (Section VI.G).
 - a. Residents and adult authorized members of the household 55 to 61 years of age who are exempt from CHA's work requirement are NOT exempt from the Community Service and Economic and Self-Sufficiency Requirement.
5. Any non-exempt resident or adult authorized family member of a public housing unit, who fails to meet the CHA Work Requirement and is not approved for Safe Harbor, may subject the entire household to lease termination and eviction.

B. School Enrollment and the CHA Work Requirement

All school-age authorized members of the household, who are under 18 years of age and who have not completed their secondary education, are encouraged to finish their enrollment in high school and obtain their high school diploma. Any authorized member of the resident's household, who is 17 years of age and not attending school full-time, will be subject to the CHA Work Requirement unless otherwise exempt.

C. CHA Work Requirement Exemptions

Applicants in screening, residents, and/or adult authorized family members of the resident's household may be eligible for an exemption from the CHA Work Requirement. An exemption will be provided for applicants in screening, residents and/or adult authorized members of the household who are:

1. 55 years of age or older;
2. Blind or disabled as defined under 216(i)(1) or 1614 of the Social Security Act (**42 USC § 416(i)(1)**);
3. The primary caretaker of a blind person or person with a disability as defined in number C.2 above;
4. Retired and receiving a retirement annuity or pension;
5. Single parents serving as the primary, full-time caretaker for children age 12 months and under;
6. Receiving TANF and have an active Responsibility and Services Plan (RSP); or
7. Victims of federally declared disasters (180 calendar day temporary exemption).

D. CHA Work Requirement Verification at the Regularly Scheduled Re-Examinations

1. During the regularly scheduled re-examination, the property manager will determine whether each resident and adult authorized family member of the resident's household, age 17 up to age 54, is in compliance with the CHA Work Requirement through employment, school attendance, or performance of volunteer or community service, alone or in combination.
2. All information in the resident file must be verified and documented in accordance with Section VI. B.4. All relevant documents will be placed in the resident file.
3. If a resident and/or adult authorized family member of the resident's household is not in compliance, the property manager will give the resident the opportunity to request Safe Harbor.

E. Safe Harbor Clause

1. Residents and/or adult authorized family members of the resident's household may be eligible for Safe Harbor. When residents and/or adult authorized family members of the resident's household are unable to comply with the work requirement, they may request Safe Harbor consideration.
2. Residents and/or adult authorized family members of the resident's household may be eligible for Safe Harbor when they are, for example:
 - a. Waiting for approval or an appeal of an application for SSI/SSDI;
 - b. Experiencing a temporary medical condition or are the caregiver for someone with a temporary medical condition;
 - i. Examples of temporary medical conditions include but are not limited to: a broken bone or infectious mononucleosis, or verifiable physician-ordered bed rest for pregnant women.
 - c. Separated from employment (within the last 60 calendar days);

- d. Participating in an active DCFS plan to reunify their family (parents with children under age five) where participation is time consuming;
 - e. Either the victim or the caregiver for a victim of violence, including but not limited to domestic violence, sexual violence, dating violence, and stalking;
 - f. Attempted but failed to find adequate child care to allow the residents and/or adult authorized member to work; and
 - g. Attempted but failed to find employment.
3. The resident and adult authorized family members of the resident's household, who are approved by the CHA for Safe Harbor, will be required to undergo an interim Safe Harbor re-examination every 180 calendar days from the date that the Safe Harbor request is approved. If the Safe Harbor request occurs during the regularly scheduled re-examination, the Safe Harbor request date will be the lease effective date.
- a. The resident and/or adult authorized family member of the resident's household will be required to work with the assigned contracted service provider to create an action plan and Safe Harbor request, which will include a description of the steps being taken to move toward becoming compliant. The signed application/action plan will then be submitted to the Property Management Company for approval.
 - b. Safe Harbor status must be approved every 180 calendar days through an interim Safe Harbor re-examination with property management. Failure to appear for the interim Safe Harbor re-examination is a material lease violation subject to termination.
 - i. The contracted service provider will be required to sign off on the Safe Harbor form to indicate that the resident's status is Compliant, Non-Compliant, Exempt, or the contracted service provider will provide a recommendation for an additional Safe Harbor with a new action plan.
 - ii. Recommendations for additional Safe Harbor will be approved.
 - iii. Non-Compliant and Non-engaged residents will be subject to lease termination.
 - c. If the resident or adult authorized family member of the resident's household is denied Safe Harbor, the resident has the right to grieve the CHA's decision through the grievance process outlined in the **CHA Resident's Grievance Procedure**. In certain situations, the resident may be offered (subject to availability), the opportunity to transition to a supportive housing program in lieu of lease termination.
4. Residents and/or adult authorized family members of the resident's household approved for Safe Harbor status must meet the Community Service/Economic Independence Policy requirement of eight hours per month, unless they qualify for an exemption from the HUD's Community Service/Economic Independence requirement.
- a. Compliance with HUD's Community Service/Economic Independence requirement will be tracked every 180 calendar days at the Safe Harbor interim re-examination.

IX. Utilities

All CHA public housing units have utility connections for water, gas, heat, and electricity. The payment of utilities is made by the resident or by the CHA, depending on the building in which a unit is located.

A. Resident-Paid Utilities; 24 CFR § 965 & 966.4(b)(2).

The following requirements apply to residents living in developments with resident-paid utilities:

1. Residents must obtain and maintain utility connections throughout tenancy. Residents must pay their utility bills to ensure that utilities remain connected. The utility bill must be in the name of a consenting adult authorized member of the household. Failure to maintain the utility connection is a serious violation of the lease, subject to lease termination.
2. If a resident or applicant is unable to get utilities connected, the resident or applicant will not be permitted to move into a unit with resident-paid utilities; **24 CFR § 960.203**.
3. When a resident applies for utility service, the resident must sign a third-party notification agreement so that the CHA is notified if the resident fails to pay the utility bill or if utility service will be disconnected.
4. Residents must bring in utility account information to the Property Manager when there is a change in their utility account numbers or other billing information.
5. Units where residents pay some or all utilities directly to the utility provider receive a monthly utility allowance, as a rent credit towards their monthly rent amount, that reflects a reasonable amount of utilities for the specific size and type of unit occupied. A reimbursement of a portion of the utility allowance may be paid by the CHA directly to the utility provider if the Total Tenant Payment is lower than the utility allowance and a credit is due. The CHA shall provide the resident with a letter indicating the amount of the reimbursement provided to the utility provider on their behalf; **24 CFR § 965.502(a)**.
6. The monthly utility allowance is deducted from the resident's Total Tenant Payment to compute the Tenant Rent the resident pays the **CHA; 24 CFR § 960.253(c)(3) and 966.4(b)**.
 - a. If the resident's Total Tenant Payment is higher than the unit's designated utility allowance, then the resident's rent amount will be the difference remaining after the utility allowance is subtracted.
 - b. If the resident's Total Tenant Payment is lower than the unit's designated utility allowance, then the resident may receive a reimbursement of a portion of the utility allowance after subtraction of the minimum rent amount.
7. The resident utility bills will be reflected as follows:
 - a. If the resident's actual utility bill is less than the utility reimbursement, the resident will receive the savings in the form of a credit on the utility provider's billing statement.
 - b. If the resident's bill is greater than the utility reimbursement, the resident must pay the excess amount directly to the utility provider.

8. The ***CHA Residential Lease Agreement*** will state the utility allowance amount for the unit and the utility reimbursement to be received by the resident, if applicable.

B. Reasonable Accommodations; 24 CFR § 8.4 and § 966.7.

As a reasonable accommodation, the CHA will grant qualified residents with disabilities a higher utility allowance or not charge for the use of certain appliances when there is a verified need for the special equipment due to the resident's disability. The CHA must approve the reasonable accommodation request prior to providing the higher utility allowance. Examples of special equipment include, but are not limited to: breathing machines, battery charging for electric scooters, or dialysis equipment.

X. Flat Rents

For each public housing unit, the CHA must establish a flat rent that is based on the market rent charged for comparable units in the private unassisted rental market. A resident has the choice between paying income-based rent or flat rent.

A. Flat Rents

1. Flat rents are market-based rents and vary by unit size, unit type, as well as by unit location.
2. Flat rents do not include a utility allowance.
3. The CHA flat rent is based on a market study, pursuant to **24 CFR § 960.253(b)**.

B. Periodic Update of Flat Rents

1. The CHA shall periodically review the flat rent schedule and adjust the rents as needed.
2. Flat rents may either be increased or decreased based on the most recent market study.
3. When the CHA updates its flat rent schedule, a resident's flat rent shall be adjusted at the next regularly scheduled re-examination.
4. Occasionally, HUD may require the CHA to update flat rent schedules in accordance with new guidance. This may require CHA to increase flat rent amounts to meet new standards. All residents will be notified in advance of any changes to the flat rent schedules.

C. Choice of Rent

Beginning at admission, the CHA will offer each resident the choice between paying the income-based rent or the flat rent applicable to the unit the resident will occupy. The choice of flat rent may only be offered at admission and regularly scheduled re-examination; **24 CFR § 960.253(a)(1)**.

D. Re-Examination of Families on Flat Rents

1. Families paying flat rents are required to recertify income biennially.
2. Families are required to participate in a biennial re-examination to ensure that unit size is still appropriate and the CHA Work Requirement or Community Service Requirements/Economic Self- Sufficiency Programs (if applicable) are met.
3. If a family is currently paying flat rent, the CHA will annually inquire whether the resident wants to continue to pay flat rent; **24 CFR § 960.257(a)(2)**.

E. Hardship Reduction in Flat Rents

1. A resident who opted for flat rent may at any time request a switch to payment of income-based rent if they experience a decrease in income or increase in expenses; **24 CFR § 960.253(f)**.
2. If the reduction in income will last more than 30 calendar days, the property manager will perform an interim re-examination of income and must reduce rent to the income-based rent, based on verified income information.
3. If a resident paying flat rent is reduced to income-based rent between biennial re-examinations due to a hardship (e.g., loss or reduction of income), and the resident's income later increases before the re-examination, the resident can be placed on an adjusted rent with a utility allowance (if applicable) that is the equivalent of the flat rent.

F. Adjusted Rent

1. If a resident, who had previously selected income-based rent, asks for an adjusted rent during an interim reexamination, the property manager will conduct income verification and adjust the rent accordingly.
2. Adjusted rent will never exceed the amount of flat rent for a unit. Therefore, if the adjusted rent plus the utility allowance is greater than the flat rent amount, the property manager will charge the resident the flat rent amount.
3. The adjusted rent is in effect only for the portion of the year between the family's interim increase in rent and their next biennial re-examination (when they can elect the flat rent).
4. The adjusted rent schedule will be amended periodically to reflect changes in the flat rent schedule.

XI. Determining Income and Rent

Income verification is conducted by the CHA during admissions, interim re-examination, and regularly scheduled re-examinations. The CHA uses all available resources to obtain an accurate representation of a resident's annual income. Residents are required to work with the CHA in providing the most up-to-date and accurate income information. This information will allow the CHA to present the most accurate rent information.

A. Annual Income; 24 CFR § 5.609.

All sources of income must be reported to the CHA. The CHA will then make the final determination of what is included and excluded in the computation of annual income. The CHA adopts the definition of annual income provided by HUD, which is stated below. The definition is subject to any changes made by HUD.

When calculating Annual income includes but is not limited to:

1. The full amount, of wages and salaries, before any payroll deductions, overtime pay, commissions, fees, tips and bonuses, and other compensation for personal services.
2. The net income from operation of a business or profession, including any withdrawal of cash or assets from the operation of the business. Expenditures for business expansion or amortization of capital indebtedness shall not be used as deductions in determining the net income from a business. An allowance for the straight-line depreciation of assets used in a business or profession may be deducted as provided in Internal Revenue Service regulations. Withdrawals of cash or assets will not be considered income when used to reimburse the family for cash or assets invested in the business.
3. Interest, dividends, and other net income of any kind from real or personal property. Expenditures for amortization of capital indebtedness shall not be used as deductions in determining net income. An allowance for the straight-line depreciation of real or personal property is permitted. Withdrawals of cash or assets will not be considered income when used to reimburse the family for cash or assets invested in the property.
4. If the family has net family assets in excess of \$50,000, annual income shall include the actual income derived from all net family assets. If it is not possible to calculate an actual return on any or all assets over \$50,000, then imputed income from assets will be determined based on the current passbook savings rate as determined by HUD. (adjusted annually by CPI-W).
 - a. CHA will accept a family's declaration of the amount of assets of less than \$50,000, and the amount of income expected to be received from those assets. The CHA's application and reexamination documentation, which should be signed by all adult family members, can serve as the declaration. Where the family has net family assets equal to or less than \$50,000, CHA will not request supporting documentation (e.g., bank statements) from the family to confirm the assets or the amount of income expected to be received from those assets. Where the family has net family assets more than \$50,000, CHA will obtain supporting documentation (e.g., bank statements) from the family to confirm the assets. Any assets will continue to be reported on HUD Form 50058. (PIH 2013-03).

- b. Excluded assets include but are not limited to: Necessary items of personal property, non-necessary items of personal property valued under \$50,000, retirement accounts recognized by the IRS, real property the family does not have effective legal authority to sell, amounts recovered in any civil action or settlement based on for an incident resulting in disability, the value of certain education or disability support savings accounts, interest in Indian trust land, equity in property where the family receives assistance under 24 CFR 982, the value of a family's LevelUp (CHA's FSS program) accounts, federal tax refunds or refundable tax credits for a period of 12 months after receipt by the family, or a trust that is not revocable by or under the control of any family member, will not be considered a net family asset; 25 CFR 5.603(b).
5. The full amount of periodic payments received from Social Security, annuities, insurance policies, pensions, disability or death benefits, and other similar types of periodic receipts. (see B.14. below for treatment of delayed or deferred periodic payment of Social Security or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits.)
6. Payments in lieu of earnings, such as unemployment and disability compensation, worker's compensation, and severance pay. (However, see B.3. below concerning treatment of lump-sum additions as family assets.)
7. All welfare assistance payments, such as TANF and General Assistance, received by or on behalf of any family member.
8. Periodic and determinable allowances, such as alimony and child support payments, and regular cash and non-cash contributions or gifts received from agencies or persons not residing in the dwelling made to or on behalf of family members.
9. All regular pay, special pay, and allowances of a family member in the Armed Forces. (see B. 7. below concerning pay for exposure to hostile fire.)
10. CHA may not rent a dwelling unit to, or assist families with, net family assets exceeding \$100,000 annually (adjusted for inflation) or have an ownership interest in real property that is suitable for occupancy. This restriction does not apply to victims of domestic violence, property jointly owned with someone else, individuals using housing assistance for homeownership opportunities, families offering properties for sale or families whose properties do not meet the disability-related needs for all members of the family; **24 CFR 5.618(a)**.

B. Excluded Income 24 CFR § 5.609

CHA will not verify fully excluded income nor report it on the 50058 (PIH 2-13-04).

Annual income does not include the following:

1. Any imputed return on an asset when net family assets total \$50,000 or less (which amount HUD will adjust annually in accordance with the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers) and no actual income from the net family assets can be determined.
2. The following types of trust distributions:
 - a. For an irrevocable trust or a revocable trust outside the control of the family or household excluded from the definition of net family assets under § 5.603(b):
 - i. Distributions of the principal or corpus of the trust; and

- i. Distributions of income from the trust when the distributions are used to pay the costs of health and medical care expenses for a minor.
 - b. For a revocable trust under the control of the family or household, any distributions from the trust; except that any actual income earned by the trust, regardless of whether it is distributed, shall be considered income to the family at the time it is received by the trust.
- 3. Earned income of children under the 18 years of age.
- 4. Payments received for the care of foster children or foster adults, or State or Tribal kinship or guardianship care payments.
- 5. Insurance payments and settlements for personal or property losses, including but not limited to payments through health insurance, motor vehicle insurance, and workers' compensation.
- 6. Amounts received by the family that are specifically for, or in reimbursement of, the cost of health and medical care expenses for any family member.
- 7. Any amounts recovered in any civil action or settlement based on a claim of malpractice, negligence, or other breach of duty owed to a family member arising out of law, that resulted in a member of the family becoming disabled.
- 8. Income of a live-in aide, foster child, or foster adult as defined in §§ 5.403 and 5.603, respectively.
- 9. Student financial assistance that satisfies the following criteria:
 - a. Any assistance that section 479B of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (20 U.S.C. 1087uu), requires be excluded from a family's income; and;
 - b. Student financial assistance for tuition, books, and supplies (including supplies and equipment to support students with learning disabilities or other disabilities), room and board, and other fees required and charged to a student by an institution of higher education (as defined under Section 102 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002)) and, for a student who is not the head of household or spouse, the reasonable and actual costs of housing while attending the institution of higher education and not residing in an assisted unit.
- 10. Income and distributions from any Coverdell education savings account under section 530 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or any qualified tuition program under section 529 of such Code; and income earned by government contributions to, and distributions from, "baby bond" accounts created, authorized, or funded by Federal, State, or local government.
- 11. The special pay to a family member serving in the Armed Forces who is exposed to hostile fire.
- 12. Amounts received under employment training programs as follows:
 - a. Amounts received by a person with a disability that are disregarded for a limited time for purposes of Supplemental Security Income eligibility and benefits because they are set aside for use under a Plan to Attain Self-Sufficiency (PASS);
 - b. Amounts received by a participant in other publicly assisted programs which are specifically for or in reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses incurred (e.g., special equipment, clothing, transportation, child care, etc.) and which

- are made solely to allow participation in a specific program;
- c. Amounts received under a resident service stipend not to exceed \$200 per month. A resident service stipend is a modest amount received by a resident for performing a service for the PHA or owner, on a part-time basis, that enhances the quality of life in the development.
 - d. Incremental earnings and benefits resulting to any family member from participation in training programs funded by HUD or in qualifying Federal, State, Tribal, or local employment training programs (including training programs not affiliated with a local government) and training of a family member as resident management staff.
13. Reparation payments paid by a foreign government pursuant to claims filed under the laws of that government by persons who were persecuted during the Nazi era.
 14. Earned income of dependent fulltime students in excess of the amount of the deduction for a dependent in § 5.611.
 15. Adoption assistance payments for a child in excess of the amount of the deduction for a dependent in § 5.611.
 16. Deferred periodic amounts from Supplemental Security Income and Social Security benefits that are received in a lump sum amount or in prospective monthly amounts, or any deferred Department of Veterans Affairs disability benefits that are received in a lump sum amount or in prospective monthly amounts.
 17. Payments related to aid and attendance under 38 U.S.C. 1521 to veterans in need of regular aid and attendance.
 18. Amounts received by the family in the form of refunds or rebates under State or local law for property taxes paid on the dwelling unit.
 19. Payments made by or authorized by a State Medicaid agency (including through a managed care entity) or other State or Federal agency to a family to enable a family member who has a disability to reside in the family's assisted unit. Authorized payments may include payments to a member of the assisted family through the State Medicaid agency (including through a managed care entity) or other State or Federal agency for caregiving services the family member provides to enable a family member who has a disability to reside in the family's assisted unit.
 20. Loan proceeds (the net amount disbursed by a lender to or on behalf of a borrower, under the terms of a loan agreement) received by the family or a third party (e.g., proceeds received by the family from a private loan to enable attendance at an educational institution or to finance the purchase of a car).
 21. Payments received by Tribal members as a result of claims relating to the mismanagement of assets held in trust by the United States, to the extent such payments are also excluded from gross income under the Internal Revenue Code or other Federal law.
 22. Amounts that HUD is required by Federal statute to exclude from consideration as income for purposes of determining eligibility or benefits under a category of assistance programs.
 23. Replacement housing "gap" payments made in accordance with 49 CFR part 24 that offset increased out of pocket costs of displaced persons that move from one federally subsidized housing unit to another Federally subsidized housing unit. Such replacement housing "gap" payments are not excluded from annual income

if the increased cost of rent and utilities is subsequently reduced or eliminated, and the displaced person retains or continues to receive the replacement housing “gap” payments.

24. Nonrecurring income, which is income that will not be repeated in the coming year based on information provided by the family. Income received as an independent contractor, day laborer, or seasonal worker is not excluded from income under this paragraph, even if the source, date, or amount of the income varies. Nonrecurring income includes:
 - a. Payments from the U.S. Census Bureau for employment (relating to decennial census or the American Community Survey) lasting no longer than 180 days and not culminating in permanent employment.
 - b. Direct Federal or State payment intended for economic stimulus or recovery.
 - c. Amounts directly received by the family as a result of State refundable tax credits or State tax refunds at the time they are received.
 - d. Amounts directly received by the family as a result of Federal refundable tax credits and Federal tax refunds at the time they are received.
 - e. Gifts for holidays, birthdays, or other significant life events or milestones (e.g., wedding gifts, baby showers, anniversaries).
 - f. Non-monetary, in-kind donations, such as food, clothing, or toiletries, received from a food bank or similar organization.
 - g. Lump-sum additions to net family assets, including but not limited to lottery or other contest winnings.
25. Civil rights settlements or judgments, including settlements or judgments for back pay.
26. Income received from any account under a retirement plan recognized as such by the Internal Revenue Service, including individual retirement arrangements (IRAs), employer retirement plans, and retirement plans for self-employed individuals; except that any distribution of periodic payments from such accounts shall be income at the time they are received by the family.
27. Income earned on amounts placed in a family’s Family Self Sufficiency Account.
28. Gross income a family member receives through self-employment or operation of a business; except that the following shall be considered income to a family member:
 - a. Net income from the operation of a business or profession. Expenditures for business expansion or amortization of capital indebtedness shall not be used as deductions in determining net income. An allowance for depreciation of assets used in a business or profession may be deducted, based on straight line depreciation, as provided in Internal Revenue Service regulations; and
 - b. Any withdrawal of cash or assets from the operation of a business or profession will be included in income, except to the extent the withdrawal is reimbursement of cash or assets invested in the operation by the family.

C. Adjusted Income; 24 CFR § 5.611.

Income-based rent is calculated using adjusted income. Adjusted income is annual income minus the following deductions and exemptions:

For All Families

1. **Child Care Expenses:** A deduction of amounts anticipated to be paid by the family for the care of children under 13 years of age for the period for which annual income is computed, but only when such care is necessary to enable a family member to be gainfully employed, to seek employment, or to further their education. Amounts deducted must be unreimbursed expenses and shall not exceed:
 - a. The amount of income earned by the family member released to work; or
 - b. An amount determined to be reasonable by the CHA when the expense is incurred to permit education or to seek employment.

A family whose eligibility for the child care expense deduction is ending may request a financial hardship exemption to continue the deduction if demonstrate that they are unable to pay their rent because of loss of this deduction, and the child care expense is still necessary even though the family member is no longer employed or furthering education; **24 CFR 5.611(d)**.

2. **Dependent Deduction:** An exemption of \$480 annually, adjusted annually for inflation and rounded to the next lowest multiple of \$25, for each member of the family residing in the household (other than the head of household or spouse, live-in aide, foster adult, or foster child), who is age 18 or under, is age 18 or over and disabled, or is a full-time student. If parents share joint custody of a child and both parents live in CHA housing, the dependent deduction will be applied in accordance with a court-ordered determination or mutual written agreement on how to split the deduction.
3. **Work-related Disability Expenses:** A deduction of unreimbursed amounts paid for attendant care or auxiliary apparatus expenses for family members with disabilities where such expenses are necessary to permit any family member, including the disabled member, to be employed. In no event may the amount of the deduction exceed the employment income earned by the family member(s) freed to work.

Equipment and auxiliary apparatus may include, but are not limited to: wheelchairs, lifts, reading devices for the visually impaired, and equipment added to cars and vans to permit their use by the disabled family member. The annualized cost differential between a car and the cost of a van required by the family member with disabilities is also included.

- a. For non-elderly families and elderly or disabled families without medical expenses, the deduction equals the cost of all unreimbursed expenses for work-related disability expenses minus ten percent of annual income, provided the amount calculated does not exceed the employment income earned.
- b. For elderly or disabled families with medical expenses, the deduction equals the cost of all unreimbursed expenses for work-related disability expenses minus ten percent of annual income (provided the amount calculated does not exceed the employment income earned) plus medical expenses as defined below.

For Elderly and Disabled Families Only: These deductions will only apply when the elderly or disabled individual is the head of household, co-head or spouse.

4. **Medical Expense Deduction:** A deduction of unreimbursed medical expenses, including insurance premiums, anticipated for the period for which annual income is computed.

Medical expenses include, but are not limited to: services of physicians and other

health care professionals, services of health care facilities, health insurance premiums (including the cost of Medicare), prescription and non-prescription medicines, transportation to and from treatment, dental expenses, eyeglasses, hearing aids and batteries, attendant care (unrelated to employment of family members), and payments on accumulated medical bills. The expenses claimed must be verifiable to be considered by the CHA for the purpose of determining a deduction from income.

- a. For elderly or disabled families without work-related disability expenses, the amount of the deduction shall equal total medical expenses exceeding ten percent of annual income.
- b. For elderly or disabled families with both work-related disability expenses and medical expenses, the amount of the deduction is calculated as described in 3.b. above.

General Financial Hardship Exemption: This exemption is for families who can demonstrate a financial hardship due to an increase in their qualified expenses or because of a change that would not otherwise trigger an interim reexamination. The family may receive a deduction of all eligible expenses exceeding 5% of their annual income. The exemption ends when the circumstances that made the family eligible for the exemption no longer apply or after 90 days, whichever comes earlier.

5. **Elderly/Disabled Household Exemption:** An exemption of \$525 per household, adjusted annually for inflation and rounding to the next lowest multiple of \$25. See Section XIV for definitions of elderly and disabled family.
6. **Optional Deductions/Exemptions:** The CHA may amend this policy and grant further deductions. Any such deduction would be noted here. HUD does not increase operating subsidy to offset additional deductions.

D. Computing Income-based Rent and Choice of Rent; 24 CFR § 5.628.

1. **Total Tenant Payment**
 - a. The first step in computing income-based rent is to determine each family's Total Tenant Payment (TTP). TTP is the higher of 30% of adjusted monthly income or 10% of gross monthly income.
2. **Minimum TTP:** The minimum TTP shall be \$75 per month. Whenever the TTP calculation results in an amount less than \$75, the CHA will impose a TTP of \$75.
3. If the family is occupying a unit that has resident-paid utilities, a utility allowance is subtracted from the TTP.
4. If the result of this computation is a positive number, then the amount is Tenant Rent.
5. If the TTP less the utility allowance is a negative number, the result is a utility reimbursement, which may be paid directly to the utility provider by the CHA pursuant to Section IX.
6. In developments where the CHA is responsible for providing the utility, Tenant Rent equals TTP; **24 CFR § 5.634.**
 - a. If the CHA is responsible for providing all utilities and the Minimum TTP is applicable, the Minimum TTP is the Income-Based Rent.
7. **Choice of Rent**

At initial admission and at each subsequent regularly scheduled re-examination the CHA shall offer the resident a choice of paying either the income-based rent or the flat rent applicable to the unit they will occupy. Those opting to pay flat rent will be required to recertify their income every two years, although they are still required to participate in a regularly scheduled re-examination to ensure that the unit size is still appropriate and the CHA Work Requirement or the Community Service Requirements/Economic Independence Programs (if applicable) are met.

8. Minimum Rent Hardship Suspension/Exemption; **24 CFR § 5.630.**
 - a. A minimum rent hardship exemption shall be granted to residents who can document that due to a financial hardship they are unable to pay the minimum rent. Examples of financial hardship for which a family would qualify for an exemption of minimum rent include, but are not limited to:
 - i. The family has lost eligibility for or is applying for an eligibility determination for a federal, state or local assistance program;
 - ii. The family would be evicted as a result of being unable to pay the minimum rent;
 - iii. The income of the family has decreased because of changed circumstances, including loss of employment; or
 - iv. A death occurred in the family.
 - b. If a family paying minimum rent requests a hardship exemption, the CHA must suspend the minimum rent, effective the following month. The CHA may not evict the family for non-payment of the minimum rent for 90 calendar days following the request for the hardship exemption.
 - c. The suspension of minimum rent continues until the CHA determines whether or not the hardship is short-term (lasting less than 90 calendar days) or long term (lasting 90 calendar days or more).
 - d. If the CHA determines that a qualifying financial hardship is temporary, the CHA will not impose the minimum rent during the 90-day period beginning the month following the date of the family's request for hardship exemption. At the end of the 90-day suspension period, the CHA will reinstate the minimum rent from the beginning of the suspension. The family will be offered a reasonable repayment agreement, on terms and conditions established by the CHA for the amount of back rent owed by the family.
 - e. If the CHA determines that the qualifying financial hardship is long-term, the family will be exempt from minimum rent until the hardship ceases. The resident will not be required to repay the suspended minimum rent.
 - f. Exemption from minimum rent does not mean the family does not have to pay rent. The family is required to pay the greater of 30% of adjusted monthly income or 10% of gross monthly income when that amount is less than the minimum rent.
9. Repayment Plans
 - a. The resident and the CHA may enter and agree to one rent repayment plan in any consecutive 12-month period. The repayment plan may not result in the TTP being more than 40% of the adjusted monthly income.
 - b. The resident may be required to make a minimum deposit of 50% of the past due debt to sign a repayment plan and be lease compliant.

XII. Pet and Assistance Animal Policy

A. Policy Statement

1. Under Section 31 of Title I of the United States Housing Act of 1937, residents of federal public housing may own and keep common household pets in accordance with applicable regulations. The following policy sets forth requirements related to residents who wish to keep common household pets such as dogs and cats and assistance animals in their CHA public housing units. All residents who desire to keep a pet or assistance animal must obtain prior approval by the CHA before the pet/animal enters the unit
2. Unless otherwise stated, this policy shall not apply to mixed-income/mixed-finance communities in which the CHA may have public housing units. Such units shall be governed by that mixed- income/mixed-finance community's relevant pet and assistance animal policies, building rules, or regulations that apply.
3. At private communities where the CHA owns and operates units, this pet and assistance animal policy or a modified version specific to that community will be applied.
4. This policy applies to residents who live in units acquired through the CHA's Property Investment Initiative.
5. A qualified applicant or resident with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation to this policy at any time.

B. Assistance Animals for Residents with Disabilities

1. The CHA and property managers will make reasonable accommodations for qualified persons with disabilities who are in need of an assistance animal that will provide the person with a disability meaningful access to the program or remove a barrier to equal opportunity to enjoy the housing provided. Assistance animals are animals that assist, support, or provide service to persons with disabilities, and include Service Animals and Support Animals. The functions performed by the assistance animal include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - a. Guiding individuals who are blind or have a visual impairment;
 - b. Alerting individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing to sounds;
 - c. Seeking and retrieving items;
 - d. Alerting persons to impending seizures or items that cause allergic reactions;
or
 - e. Providing emotional support to persons with disabilities who have a disability-related need for such support.
2. The CHA requires verification of the need for an assistance animal from a knowledgeable professional and will confirm such verification. Once this verification is obtained and confirmed, the person with a disability will be exempt from the pet application fee and pet deposit. An assistance animal is not considered a pet and, thus, may not be subject to the size and weight limitations of this policy. All other parts of this policy shall be applicable.

- a. Property Management will approve the need for a service animal without CHA approval if the following two conditions are met:
 - i. The service animal is a dog; and
 - ii. It is readily apparent that the dog is trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of the resident with a disability. It is “readily apparent” when the dog is observed: a. guiding an individual who is blind or has low vision; b. pulling a wheelchair; or c. providing assistance with stability or balance to an individual with an observable mobility disability.
3. Qualified residents with disabilities who have an assistance animal are required to comply with all other parts of this policy, including but not limited to documentation that their animals are healthy and have received all legally required inoculations. In addition, persons with disabilities must be able to care for their animals, keep them and their units in a safe and healthy condition, and be responsible for any damage, beyond reasonable wear and tear caused by their assistance animal. Owners of assistance animals must meet these requirements on their own or as part of a reasonable accommodation, with assistance from some source other than the CHA.
4. A reasonable accommodation request for an exemption to any part of this Policy may be made at any time. Such request will be evaluated and requires supporting documentation from a knowledgeable professional. Approved assistance animals are still subject to all applicable provisions of policy.

C. Ownership of Pets/Assistance Animals

1. Pet ownership by CHA residents is subject to reasonable requirements and limitations as described in this policy. CHA approval is required for pet or assistance animal ownership on CHA property. It is the resident’s responsibility to read and comply with this policy. Owners will be responsible and liable for all bodily harm to other residents or individuals caused by their pet/animal. Destruction of property belonging to the CHA or others caused by the Owner’s pet/animal will be the financial obligation of the owner. Failure to make required restitution or repeated or serious violations of this policy are cause for lease termination.
2. Ownership of pets is restricted in the following ways:
 - a. By type or breed of animal;
 - b. By the number and combination of pets sought; and
 - c. By size, weight, or other factors particular to the type of pet (e.g., fish or birds).
 - d. Breed and weight restrictions do not apply to animals that assist, support or provide service to persons with disabilities; **24 CFR § 960.705**.
3. Common household pets are defined as domesticated animals, such as a dog, cat, bird, rodent, rabbit, fish, or turtle, which are traditionally kept in the home for pleasure and not for commercial purposes.
4. Dog and Cat Ownership: Breeds of canines (full or partial) used for attack or defense purposes including, but not limited to, Rottweilers, Pit Bull Terriers, Chows, and Doberman Pinschers, are not eligible for ownership on CHA property and will not be allowed under any circumstances. Overly aggressive cats, with a known or suspected propensity, tendency, or disposition to unprovoked attacks,

will also be excluded. Breed restrictions do not apply to animals that assist, support or provide service to persons with disabilities; **24 CFR § 960.705**.

5. Birds and Fish Ownership: The number of birds in a unit shall not exceed two and no aquarium shall exceed 20 gallons in size. Certain types of birds, including but not limited to hawks, eagles, condors, and pigeons, are not allowed under any circumstances.
6. Hamster, Guinea Pig or Gerbil Ownership: A maximum combination of two hamsters, guinea pigs, or gerbils may be kept.
7. Animals **Not Permitted**: Any poisonous or life-threatening reptiles and exotic or dangerous animals (e.g., snakes, iguanas, pigs, wild animals such as wolves and big cats, etc.) are not considered common household pets. They will not be allowed on CHA property under any circumstances.

D. Rules for Ownership

1. Residents must register their pets or assistance animals with property management and receive approval before the pet/assistance animal is brought onto the premises. Failure to do so is a material violation of the lease. Residents will not be allowed to apply for approval retroactively. Therefore, the pet/animal cannot be on the premises until the property manager gives approval. At the time of registration, the resident must submit the following completed documents: Pet Application Form, Alternative Care of Pet Statement, proof of inoculation, and an identification tag.
 - a. For cats and dogs, the resident must provide proof of having current rabies inoculations and verification that the pet/animal is spayed/neutered or a letter from a veterinarian giving a medical reason why the procedure cannot be performed.
 - b. For dogs, the resident must provide proof of having a current City of Chicago Dog License, as well as provide verification of the dog's breed.
2. Residents must pay a non-refundable pet application fee of \$50.00 for pets at the time the pet application is submitted. (e.g., a \$50.00 pet application fee for each of the following: a dog, a cat, an aquarium larger than 1 gallon and up to 20 gallons, or a pair of caged birds, gerbils, hamsters, or guinea pigs.)
3. Residents with disabilities who present verified documentation of their need for an assistance animal shall not be subject to a pet application fee or the pet deposit. The other information listed in Section D(1) above must be provided.
4. When the completed application is received, the property manager will review it. For new residents, the application will be approved or rejected by the time of leasing. For current residents, the property manager will approve or reject the completed application within 15 calendar days from the day the application was received. Incomplete applications, which are missing any required documents, will be denied. Residents will be required to re-submit the request. For current residents, pet applications will not be processed or approved if the household is not lease compliant.
5. If the property management approves the pet application, the resident can bring the pet on to the premises and must pay a refundable pet deposit. The pet deposit shall be kept together with the resident's security deposit in the same interest-

bearing account. The CHA will credit the resident's account on an annual basis in accordance with state and local law. The property manager must provide the resident a receipt for the pet deposit, separate from the security deposit receipt, and keep a copy of it in the resident's file; **24 CFR § 960.707(d)**.

- a. Birds/Fish/Gerbils/Hamsters/Guinea Pigs/Turtles: A resident shall pay a refundable pet deposit of \$50.00 for an aquarium larger than 1 gallon and up to 20 gallons for fish or turtles and/or \$50.00 pet deposit for one or a pair of birds, gerbils, hamsters, or guinea pigs. This deposit must be paid at the time the lease is signed or pet approval is granted.
 - b. Cats/Dogs: A resident shall pay a refundable pet deposit of \$100.00 for a dog or for a cat. The resident shall have the following options to pay the pet deposit:
 - i. The entire \$100.00 paid at the time the lease is signed or pet approval is granted; or
 - ii. \$50.00 paid at the time the lease is signed or pet approval is granted and the remaining \$50.00 paid in two installments of \$25.00. Each installment of \$25.00 is due the first of the month for the two months immediately following the signing of the lease or the pet approval.
 - c. Pet deposits will be refunded to the resident within 45 calendar days after the resident has moved from the property or the resident no longer has ownership of the pet. Property management will have the right to use the pet deposit to pay reasonable expenses attributable to damage caused by the pet. Such expenses can include, but are not limited to, fumigation of the unit and cost of repairs and replacement to the unit. Property management will notify the resident in writing of any deductions taken from the pet deposit within 30 calendar days.
6. One cat or one dog may be kept in any one unit. Cats are limited to 15 pounds (at adult weight). Dogs are limited to 35 pounds and 24 inches in height from the floor to the top of their head (at adult weight and height). An approved assistance animal is not subject to these size and weight limitations. Cats and dogs must wear a current rabies tag and an identification tag specifying the resident's name, address, and telephone number at all times. Based on disability related need CHA may, on a case by case basis, determine a resident is allowed more than one emotional support or service animal
 7. One pair of birds and/or up to a 20-gallon aquarium of fish may be kept in any one unit. A reasonable amount of fish or other animals (such as turtles) appropriately kept in an aquarium will be permitted in a maximum 20-gallon aquarium.
 8. An animal cage that can house a maximum combination of two hamsters, guinea pigs, or gerbils may be kept.
 9. In compliance with City Ordinance S7-12-160 "Rabies Inoculation of Animals," every dog and cat must wear a valid rabies tag. All pets and assistance animals must also wear a tag bearing the owner's name, address, and telephone number.
 10. All dogs and cats over six months of age must be spayed/neutered unless a letter is received from a licensed veterinarian giving a medical reason why such is detrimental to the health of the pet or assistance animal.

11. An owner must be capable of taking care of the pet or animal without assistance or with assistance from a source other than the CHA. An owner is required to maintain a current Alternative Care of Pet Statement, which is a notarized statement from a person who will assume immediate responsibility for the pet in case the owner dies, becomes incapacitated, or is otherwise incapable of caring for the pet or assistance animal. The Alternative Care of Pet Statement contains the alternative caregiver's name, address, and telephone number.
12. At the time of the regularly scheduled re-examination, the resident must update the Alternative Care of Pet Statement and registration, which includes providing proof of up-to-date inoculations, identification tag, and for cats and dogs, verification that the pet or assistance animal has been spayed/neutered, or a letter from a veterinarian giving a medical reason why the procedure was not performed.
13. Residents must physically control or confine their pets and assistance animals when CHA and property management employees, agents of the CHA or property management, or others must enter the unit to conduct business, provide services, or enforce lease terms.
14. Pets and assistance animals shall be quartered in the resident's unit. Residents shall not alter their unit, patio, or other area on CHA property to create an enclosure or a caged area for a pet or assistance animal.
15. No dog houses will be allowed on the premises.
16. Dishes or containers for food and water must be located within the owner's unit. Owners may not deposit food or table scraps for pets or animals on their porches, yards, or balconies.
17. Residents may not feed or provide water to stray wild animals.
18. Every owner will be responsible for proper disposal of fecal waste of their pet or assistance animal in a manner that will not damage or deface the unit or premises. In accordance with City Ordinance S7-12- 420 "Removal of Animal Excrement," the excrement of any animal curbed on CHA property must be removed and disposed of immediately. Failure of the owner to remove and dispose of waste may result in a \$20.00 charge per occurrence from property management. Continued violation of this ordinance by the resident will be cause for lease termination.
19. In accordance with Section 8(f) of the **CHA Residential Lease Agreement** (Lease), owners are required to make sure their pets or assistance animals do not make noise that interferes with their neighbors' peaceful enjoyment of their units or disrupts the peace of the development/site.
20. Owners will be responsible for any damage caused by their pet or assistance animals including the cost of professional carpet cleaning and exterminating for fleas or other pet-borne pests.
21. Pets are not permitted in common areas (e.g., solariums, craft rooms, social rooms, laundry rooms, maintenance space, playgrounds, TV lounges, etc.). Lobby areas are available to pets for ingress and egress only. Assistance animals for persons with disabilities are exempt from this restriction.
22. While pets and assistance animals are outside of the unit and in building common areas (e.g., elevators, hallways, lobby, etc.), they must be controlled by being either kept on a leash, carried in the resident's arms, or in an appropriate animal

cab. While outside the unit, dogs must be kept tightly reigned on a leash no longer than six feet in length.

23. If a pet or assistance animal bites or attacks a resident, CHA employee, anyone visiting on the premises, or any animal on the premises, the owner must surrender the animal to an animal control center within 24 hours, in accordance with City Ordinance S7-12-090 "Owner's Responsibility Where an Animal Has Bitten another Animal or Person." Upon knowledge of the incident, the property manager should also contact an animal control center.

A pet or assistance animal that bites or attacks a resident, CHA employee, anyone visiting on the premises, or any animal on the premises shall be subject to the mandates set forth in City Ordinance S7-12-050 regarding Dangerous Animals. The animal control center to which the animal was surrendered will determine if the animal is dangerous.

The owner must give permission to the animal control center to which the animal was surrendered to supply property management with a copy of the determination.

24. Visitors (non-residents) on CHA property are not allowed to bring animals onto the premises, except for assistance animals. The head of household being visited is liable for any and all damages caused by their visitor's assistance animal.
25. It is a material violation of the lease for a resident to neglect, abuse, or abandon their animal(s). The CHA will take the necessary steps to protect the safety of the animal(s) pursuant to Section I. of this policy.
26. It is a material violation of the lease to breed any animals in the unit.

E. Pet Rule Violation

1. Violation of this Policy twice within a 12-month period is considered a material violation of the lease and appropriate lease enforcement actions up to and including eviction shall be taken. If a violation of Item 9 or Item 11 of Section XII.D. constitutes a second violation within 12 months, but such violation is cured; the number of violations will be reduced to one.
2. A single violation of Item 23 of the Section XIII.D. is cause for lease termination. If the animal control center to which the pet that bit or attacked a resident, CHA employee, anyone visiting on the premises, or any animal on the premises was surrendered determines that the animal is a dangerous animal, the owner shall be required to remove the animal immediately to avoid lease termination.
3. Notice of Pet Rule Violation

When the property manager determines that an owner has violated one or more of these rules governing the owning or keeping of pets or assistance animals (excluding Item 23), based on objective facts and supported by written statements, then the CHA will serve a notice of the pet rule violation on the owner.

- a. The notice of pet rule violation must:
 - i. Contain a brief statement of the factual basis for the determination and the pet rule or rules alleged to be violated;
 - ii. State that the owner has 10 calendar days from the effective date of service of the notice to correct the violation (including, in appropriate circumstances, removal of the pet or assistance animal) or to make a written request for a

meeting to discuss the violation. The effective date of service is the day that the notice is delivered or mailed, or in the case of service by posting, on the day that the notice was initially posted;

- iii. State that the owner is entitled to be accompanied by another person of their choice at a requested meeting; and
 - iv. State that the owner's failure to correct the violation, to request a meeting, or to appear at a requested meeting may result in termination of the owner's Lease; **24 CFR § 5.356(a)**.
- b. The notice of violation of Item 23 of Section XIII.D. will be cause for an emergency notice of removal. This notice will require the immediate removal of the animal.

F. Pet Rule Violation Meeting

1. If within 10 calendar days from service of notice violation, the owner requests a meeting to discuss an alleged pet rule violation, the CHA shall establish a mutually agreeable time and place for the meeting to be held. The meeting must be held within 15 calendar days from the effective date the notice of pet rule violation was served (unless the CHA agrees to a later date).
2. The CHA and the owner shall discuss any alleged pet rule violation and attempt to cure the violation and reach an understanding.
3. As a result of the meeting, the CHA may give the owner additional time to correct the violation; **24 CFR § 5.356(b)(1)**.
4. Any decision or agreements made as a result of the meeting will be placed in writing and signed by both parties. One copy is given to the owner, and one copy is placed in the resident's file.
5. Residents have the right to grieve decisions made through the **CHA Resident's Grievance Procedure**.

G. Notice of Pet Removal

1. If the owner and the CHA are unable to resolve the pet rule violation at the meeting or if the CHA determines that the pet owner failed to cure the pet rule violation within the additional time provided for this purpose under Section E.3.a.ii above (or at the meeting, if appropriate), the CHA will send the resident a notice requiring the pet owner to remove the pet. This notice must:
 - a. Contain a brief statement of the factual basis for the determination and the pet rule or rules that have been violated;
 - b. State that the owner must remove the pet or assistance animal within 10 calendar days of the effective date of service of notice (or the pet rule violation meeting, if the notice is served at the meeting); and
 - c. State the failure to remove the pet or assistance animal may result in the termination of the pet owner's tenancy; **24 CFR § 5.356(b)(2)**.

H. Termination of Pet Owner's Lease

1. The CHA will not terminate an owner's tenancy based on a pet rule violation unless:
 - a. The owner failed to remove the pet/assistance animal or correct the pet rule violation within the applicable time period specified above (including any additional time permitted by the CHA); and
 - b. The pet rule violation is sufficient to terminate the owner's tenancy under the terms of the Lease and applicable regulations; **24 CFR § 5.356(c)**.
2. Provisions of resident's Lease related to lease termination will apply in all cases.

I. Protection of the Pet

1. If the health or safety of a pet or assistance animal is threatened by the death or incapacity of the owner, or by other factors that render the owner unable to care for the pet, the CHA may contact the responsible party(ies) listed in the registration form or the Alternate Care of Pet Statement and ask that they assume responsibility for the pet.
2. If the CHA finds evidence of neglect, abuse, or abandonment of the animal, the CHA may contact the responsible party(ies) listed in the registration form or the Alternative Care of Pet Statement and ask that they assume responsibility for the pet.
3. If the CHA is unable to contact the responsible party(ies) despite reasonable efforts or if the responsible party(ies) are unwilling or unable to care for the pet, the CHA may contact the appropriate state or local Animal Control Authority, Humane Society, or designated agent of the CHA and request the removal of the pet or assistance animal.
4. If none of the above actions are effective, the CHA may enter the owner's unit, remove the pet, and place the pet or assistance animal in a facility that will provide care and shelter until the owner or a representative of the owner is able to assume responsibility for the pet or assistance animal, but for no longer than 30 calendar days. The cost of the animal care facility provided under this section shall be paid by the owner; **24 CFR § 5.363**.

J. Nuisance or Threat to Health or Safety

Nothing in this policy prohibits the CHA or the appropriate City of Chicago authority from requiring the removal of any pet or assistance animal from the property if the animal's conduct or condition constitutes a nuisance or a threat to the health or safety of other occupants of the property or members of the community where the property is located, pursuant to provisions of state or local law; **24 CFR § 5.327**.

XIII. Lease Termination

The CHA requires that all resident households abide by their resident obligations and lease agreements to remain in good standing for public housing.

A. Lease Termination Policy

1. The CHA or the head of household may terminate tenancy at any time in accordance with all applicable federal, state and local laws, and the terms of the **CHA Residential Lease Agreement** (Lease); **24 CFR § 966.4(I)**.
2. A qualified resident with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation up until the time that they voluntarily vacate or are forcibly evicted from the dwelling unit.

B. Resident-initiated Lease Termination

1. The head of household may terminate their lease by providing 15 calendar days written notice, or by an appropriate alternative format in the case of a person with a disability, to the CHA or the property manager. If there is a co-head of household, they must also sign the written notice to terminate the lease. If the head of household is a qualified person with a disability, they may terminate the lease by an alternate form of communication.
2. There is an exemption to providing 15 calendar days written notice when the head of household is a victim of domestic violence, sexual violence, dating violence, or stalking. When the head of household, and/or their household members are victims of domestic violence, sexual violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking, and must leave the unit due to their status as a victim of domestic violence, sexual violence, dating violence or stalking, the victim or another household member shall inform property management within 72 hours but no longer than 30 days from the date of departure, after alternative housing or shelter is found.

C. CHA-initiated Lease Termination

1. The CHA or the property manager will terminate a lease for serious or repeated violations of the material provisions of the lease and related addenda; **24 CFR § 966.4(I)**.
2. The CHA or the property manager may not terminate the tenancy of a head of household on the basis of an incident or incidents of actual or threatened domestic violence, sexual violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking that occurs against the head of household or authorized members of the head of household's family that constitute serious or repeated violations of the material provisions of the lease.
3. Criminal activity directly relating to domestic violence, sexual violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking engaged in by a member of a resident's household or any guest or other person under member's control, shall not be cause for termination of assistance or tenancy, or occupancy rights if the leaseholder or other of the leaseholder's household is the victim or threatened victim of that domestic violence, sexual violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking and, as a result, could not control or prevent the criminal activity.

4. The property manager shall give written notice of proposed lease termination as required by the Lease and applicable regulations. The Notice of Lease Termination will be provided in English, Spanish, or other language as needed ²⁶, or in the alternative format requested by a qualified resident with a disability; **24 CFR § 966.4(l)(2)(i)**.
5. In the Notice of Lease Termination, the CHA must inform a resident of the reason for the lease termination and of their right to grieve the lease termination as provided in the **CHA Resident's Grievance Procedure**.
 - a. The Grievance Procedure shall not be available to any resident whose tenancy is being terminated because of:
 - i. Any criminal activity that threatens the health, safety, or right to peaceful enjoyment of the premises by other residents, employees of the CHA, property management firms, or agents of the CHA, or persons residing in the immediate vicinity;
 - ii. Any violent or drug-related criminal activity; or
 - iii. Any activity resulting in a felony conviction.
6. Upon the head of household's request, the resident shall have the opportunity prior to a formal grievance hearing to examine their file; to copy all documents, records, and regulations relevant to the grievance, at their own expense; and to take notes.
 - a. Requests for copies of documents, records, and regulations shall be submitted in writing by the resident or by the resident's representative to the property manager and the CHA.
 - b. The property manager and the CHA are required to provide the documents to the resident within five calendar days from the date of the request.
 - c. If the resident or the resident's representative requests copies within five calendar days of the hearing, copies of documents shall be made available no later than one hour before the formal hearing is scheduled to begin.
 - d. The resident or the resident's representative shall be responsible for payment at the time the resident receives the copies from the property manager or the CHA. Costs for copies shall not exceed 10 cents per page.
 - e. Any document requested by the resident or their representative, within the appropriate timeframe, that is in the possession of the CHA or the property manager and that is not made available after the resident's request, may not be presented by the CHA or property manager at a grievance hearing.
 - f. The CHA, its representatives, and/or Property Management shall have the opportunity before the formal hearing to request copies of all documents, records, and regulations relevant to the grievance that are in the possession of the resident. The head of household, upon request, shall allow the CHA and/or property management to make copies of all documents the head of household plans to present at the formal hearing.

²⁶ Where a significant number or proportion of the population eligible to be served or likely to be directly affected by a federally assisted program (e.g., public housing) requires service or information in a language other than English to be effectively informed of or to participate in the program, the CHA shall take reasonable steps, considering the scope of the program and the size and concentration of such population, to provide information in appropriate languages to such persons per CHA Language Access Plan.

Any document requested by the CHA, its representatives, and/or Property Management, within the appropriate timeframe, that is in the possession of the resident and that is not made available after the CHA, its representatives, and/or Property Management's request, may not be presented by the resident at a grievance hearing.

D. Eviction Actions

1. The CHA may only evict a resident from the unit by bringing a court action.
2. Only the Cook County Sheriff's Office or another legally authorized department are authorized to execute an eviction.
3. If the resident does not prevail in an eviction action, the resident will be liable for all court costs, excluding attorney fees. If the resident prevails in an eviction action, they are not liable for court costs.
4. The CHA is not required to prove that the resident knew or should have known that a family member household member, guest, or other person under the resident's control was engaged in the action that violated the lease.
5. When deciding whether or not to evict for criminal activity, the CHA may consider all the circumstances of the case, including the seriousness of the offense, the impact of the offense on other residents and the surrounding community, the extent of participation by family and household members, and the effects that the eviction would have on family and household members not involved in the proscribed activity.
6. In appropriate cases, the CHA may permit continued occupancy by Remaining Family Members (defined in Section XIV) and may impose a condition that the family members who engaged in the proscribed activity will neither reside in nor visit the dwelling unit again.
7. The CHA may require a resident who has engaged in the illegal use of drugs to present evidence of successful completion of a treatment program as a condition to visit and/or reside in the dwelling unit.
8. The CHA may place the Remaining Family Members on probation for an appropriate period of time.

E. Record Keeping Requirements

1. The CHA shall maintain a written or electronic record of every lease termination and/or eviction. Copies of all issued termination notices shall become a permanent part of the resident's tenant file.

XIV. Definitions of Terms Used in This Statement of Policies

1. Absence - No member of the family is residing in the unit.
2. Accessible - When used with respect to the design, construction, or alteration of housing and non-housing programs, 'accessible', means that the program or portion of the program when designed, constructed, altered or adapted, can be approached, entered, and used by individuals with disabilities.
3. Accessible Unit - A unit that is designed, constructed, altered or adapted to be in compliance with the Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards (UFAS), meets the minimum standards for compliance and is accessible.
4. Accessible Route - A continuous, unobstructed, UFAS-compliant path; **24 CFR § 8.21**.
5. Adaptability - Ability to change certain elements in an otherwise accessible dwelling unit, such as kitchen counters, sinks and grab bars, to be added to, raised, lowered, or otherwise altered, to accommodate the needs of persons with different types or degrees of disability; **24 CFR § 8.3**.
6. Adjusted Rent - Rent used during an interim re-examination when a resident's income was reduced from flat rent to income-based rent due to verified hardship, but whose income later increases so that the income-based rent may now exceed the original flat rent. Adjusted rents equal flat rent for the applicable unit plus any utility allowance. The adjusted rent is in effect only for the portion of the year between the family's interim increase in rent and their next annual re-examination (when they can elect the flat rent).
7. Admission - The point in which the family becomes a public housing resident. The date used for this purpose is the effective date of the HUD Form 50058 for the family.
8. Adult Family Member - A person 18 years or older or an emancipated minor who is an authorized member of the household and listed on the lease. Only an adult family member may be the head or co-head of household.
9. Affiliated Group, Organization or Individual - A group, organization or individual created, sponsored and/or funded by HUD, CHA, the City of Chicago or by Court Order, employees of CHA or other government employees approved by CHA.
10. Alteration - Any change in a facility or its permanent fixtures or equipment. Alterations do not include: normal maintenance or repairs, re-roofing, interior decoration, or changes to mechanical systems; **24 CFR § 8.3 and § 8.23(b)**.
11. Anniversary Date - This is 12 months from the effective date of the family's last annual re-examination or, during a family's first year in public housing, from the effective date of the family's initial examination (admission).
12. Annual Income - The anticipated total income of an eligible family from all sources for the 12-month period following the date of determination of income. See Section XI.A. for more information on how annual income is computed.
13. Applicant - An individual or a family that has applied for admission to CHA public housing.
14. Area Median Income - HUD annually publishes the area median income limits nationally, and these are used for eligibility in most housing programs. HUD estimates the median family income for an area in the current year at various levels (30% AMI, 50% AMI, 80% AMI and 100% AMI), adjusted for household sizes so that incomes may be expressed as a percentage of the area median income.
15. Area of Operation - Jurisdiction of the CHA as described in Illinois law and Articles of Incorporation of the CHA.

16. Assets - Cash (including checking accounts), stocks, bonds, savings, equity in real property, or the cash value of life insurance policies. Assets do not include the value of personal property such as furniture, automobiles, and household effects or the value of business assets. See the definition of Net Family Assets for assets used to compute annual income.
17. Assigned Areas - Areas of public housing property that are assigned to residents for their exclusive use as part of their unit (e.g., front and back porches, yards, etc.) and for which the resident and resident's household are required to keep clean and in safe condition by performance of housekeeping and/or maintenance upkeep.
18. Auxiliary Aids - Services or devices that enable persons with impaired sensory, manual, or speaking skills to have an equal opportunity to participate in and enjoy the benefits of programs or activities; **24 CFR § 8.3.**
19. Bifurcation - With respect to a public housing lease, means to divide a lease as a matter of law such that certain members of the lease who engage in criminal acts of domestic violence, sexual violence, dating violence or stalking can be evicted or removed from the lease while the remaining family members' lease and occupancy rights are allowed to remain intact.
20. Care attendant/Caregiver - A person that regularly visits the unit of a CHA resident to provide supportive or medical services. Care attendants are not live-in aides, since they have their own place of residence (and if requested by CHA must demonstrate separate residence) and do not live in the public housing unit. Care attendants have no rights of tenancy.
21. Citizen - A citizen (by birth or naturalization) or national of the United States; **24 CFR § 5.504.**
22. CHA - The Chicago Housing Authority. The definition includes the CHA, its contractors, agents, and assignees.
23. Co-head of household - An individual in the household who is equally responsible with the head of household for ensuring that the family fulfills all of its responsibilities under the program. A family can only have one co-head.
24. Community-area (Scattered Site) Waitlist - List of applicants for scattered site units that are offered in accordance with the Gautreaux Court Order which states that fifty percent (50%) of scattered site units must be offered to applicants from the community where the unit is located.
25. Community-wide (Traditional Family) Waitlist - List of applicants for CHA family housing. This traditional form of a waitlist consists of one master waiting list, divided into sub-lists by the type and size of unit. Applicants are not asked their preference of location although they may refuse an offer of a unit for "good cause," which includes various locational elements. A community-wide waitlist keeps applications in sequence based upon: date of application; application number; income tier; ranking preference, if any; and type and size of unit needed by the family (i.e. accessible or non-accessible unit, bedroom size).
26. Community Service Requirement - The performance of unpaid work or duties that benefit the public and serve to improve the quality of life, enhance resident self-sufficiency, or increase resident self-responsibility in the community. Community service is not employment and may not include political activities; **24 CFR § 960.601**. Each adult resident of a public housing development shall:
 - a. Contribute eight hours per month of community service within their community;

- b. Participate in an economic independence program for eight hours per month; or
 - c. Perform eight hours per month of activities combining a) and b) above; **24 CFR § 960.603.**
27. Community Space – All common areas in residential buildings including halls, lounge areas, party rooms, meeting rooms, lobbies, porches, garden areas, playgrounds, and lawns.
 28. Covered Criminal History – Information regarding an individual’s arrest, charge or citation for an offense; participation in a diversion or deferral of judgment program; record of an offense that has been sealed, expunged, or pardoned in accordance with applicable law; juvenile record; and conviction.
 29. Covered Families for Welfare Benefits - Families who receive welfare assistance or other public assistance benefits (welfare benefits) from a state or other public agency (welfare agency) under a program for which federal, state, or local law requires that a member of the family participate in an economic independence program as a condition for such assistance.
 30. Covered Person - For the purposes of lease enforcement, a resident, any authorized member of the resident’s household, a guest, or another person under the resident’s control; **24 CFR § 5.1.**
 31. Dating Violence - means violence committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim; and where the existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on a consideration of the following factors: (i) the length of the relationship, (ii) the type of relationship; and (iii) the frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship. See **34 USC § 12291(a)(10)**. See also Domestic Violence, Sexual Violence/Sexual Abuse and Stalking.
 32. Demonstrable Risk - The likelihood of harm to other residents’ personal safety and/or likelihood of serious damage to property. When the applicant is a person with a disability, “demonstrable risk” must be based on (a) objective evidence and (b) a conclusion that any purported risk cannot be reduced or eliminated by a reasonable accommodation.
 33. Dependent - A member of the household (other than the head, co-head, spouse, foster child, foster adult, or live-in aide) who is under 18 years of age, or who is a person with a disability, or who is a full-time student; **24 CFR § 5.603.**
 34. Designated Family - The category of family for whom the CHA elects (subject to HUD approval) to designate a development (e.g., an elderly family residing in a development designated for elderly families) in accordance with the 1992 Housing Act.
 35. Designated Housing (or designated development) - A development or portion of a development designated for a specific person (e.g., elderly housing in accordance with the Senior Designated Housing Plan).
 36. Development - The whole of one or more residential structures and appurtenant structures, equipment, roads, walks, and parking lots that are covered by a single contract for federal financial assistance, or are treated as a whole for processing purposes, whether or not located on a common site.
 37. Disability Assistance Expenses - Reasonable expenses that are anticipated during the period for which annual income is computed for attendant care or auxiliary apparatus for a disabled family member that are incurred to permit an adult family member (including the person with disability) to be employed, provided that the expenses are not paid to a family member, reimbursed by an outside source, and exceed three percent of annual

income.

38. Disabled Family - A family whose head, spouse, or sole member is a person with disabilities. (Person with disabilities is defined later in this section.) The term includes two or more persons with disabilities living together, or one or more persons with disabilities living with one or more live-in aides. **24 CFR § 5.403**
39. Displaced Person - A person who is displaced by governmental action or a person whose dwelling has been extensively damaged or destroyed as a result of a disaster declared or formally recognized pursuant to federal disaster relief laws; **24 CFR § 5.403**. For purposes of redevelopment activities, a family may also be displaced as defined in the Uniform Relocation Act. Such families have been displaced if they have been required to permanently move from real property for the rehabilitation or demolition of such property. These families may be entitled to specified benefits under the Uniform Relocation Act; **49 CFR § 24.2**.
40. Divestiture Income - Imputed income from assets, including business assets, disposed of by applicant or resident in the last two years at less than fair market value. (see the definition of Net Family Assets; **24 CFR § 5.603**. in this section.)
41. Domestic Violence - Acts or threats of violence, not including acts of self-defense, committed by a current or former spouse of the victim, by a person with whom the victim shares a child in common, by a person who is cohabitating with or has cohabitated with the victim, by a person who is or has been in a continuing social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim, by a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction, or by any other person against a victim who is protected from that person's acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction receiving grant monies. See also Sexual Violence/Sexual Abuse, Dating Violence, and Stalking. **Violence Against Women Act of 1998, Section 404**.
42. Drug-Related Criminal Activity - The illegal manufacture, sale, distribution, use of a drug, or the possession of a drug with intent to manufacture, sell, distribute, or use the drug; **24 CFR § 5.1**.
43. Earned income - Means income or earnings from wages, tips, salaries, other employee compensation, and net income from self-employment. Earned income does not include any pension or annuity, transfer payments (meaning payments made or income received in which no goods or services are being paid for, such as welfare, social security, and governmental subsidies for certain benefits), or any cash or in-kind benefits.
44. Economic Independence Program - Any program designed to encourage, assist, train, or facilitate the economic independence of HUD-assisted families or to provide work for such families. These programs include programs for job training, employment, counseling, work placement, basic skills training, education, English proficiency, workfare, financial or household management, apprenticeship, and any program necessary to ready a participant for work (including substance abuse or mental health treatment) or other work activities; **24 CFR § 5.603**.
45. Elderly Family - A family whose head, spouse, or sole member is at least 62 years of age. It may include two or more elderly persons living together, or one or more elderly persons living with one or more non- elderly persons, including live-in aides, determined to be essential to the care and well-being of the elderly person(s). An elderly family may include elderly persons with disabilities and other family members who are not elderly; **24 CFR § 5.403**.
46. Elderly Person - A person who is at least 62 years of age; **42 USC § 1437a(b)(3)**.

47. Eligible Immigration Status - For a non-citizen, verification of immigration status eligible for assisted housing consisting of a signed certification and the original copy of an acceptable United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) document; **24 CFR § 504.**
48. Emergency Applicants who are Victims of Federally Declared Disasters - Families or individuals who are displaced from their permanent residence due to a federally declared disaster and apply for CHA housing.
49. Extenuating Circumstances - Circumstances that by their serious, unpredictable, or uncontrollable nature warrant an exception to the policies in place.
50. Extremely Low-Income Family - A family whose annual income does not exceed the higher of 30% of AMI or the federal poverty level, as published by HUD adjusted for family size; **24 CFR § 5.603.**
51. Family - Two or more persons (with or without children) regularly living together, related by blood, marriage, adoption, guardianship, or operation of law who will live together in CHA housing; **OR** two or more persons who are not so related, but are regularly living together, and can verify shared income or resources.

The term family also includes: Elderly family (Definition #39), near elderly family (Definition #71) disabled family (Definition #33), displaced person (Definition #34), single person (Definition #88), the remaining member of a resident family (Definition #84), or a kinship care arrangement (Definition #58). Other persons, including members temporarily absent (e.g., a child temporarily placed in foster care or a student temporarily away at college), may be considered a part of the applicant family's household if they are living or will live regularly with the family; **24 CFR § 5.403.**

Live-in Aides (Definition #59) may also be considered part of the household. However, live-in aides are not family members and have no rights as remaining family members.

Foster Care Arrangements include situations in which the family is caring for a foster adult(s) or child (ren) in their home who have been placed there by a public adult or child placement agency. These individuals are household members but are not family members and have no rights as remaining family members because they do not have the legal capacity to remain in the home without an authorized remaining family member who is eligible to assume the role of the head of household.

For purposes of continued occupancy, the term family also includes the remaining member of a resident family with the capacity to execute a lease.

52. 50/80% AMI Waitlist - Waitlist created at several CHA properties under consent decrees, revitalization orders, demonstration agreements, etc. wherein applicants must have a household income which qualifies within the 50/80% AMI framework, as published by the HUD on an annual basis. Qualification will be determined at the time of applicant screening for occupancy. Applicants who cannot meet the 50/80% AMI income requirements will not be eligible for units specified as 50/80% AMI units but will retain their original date of application on the waitlist.
53. 50/60% AMI Waitlist - Applicants who qualify under the 50/80% AMI waitlist, but have a household income within the Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) limitation of 50/60% AMI are eligible applicants for units under the Site-Based Waitlists created at mixed-income properties with public housing units, LIHTC units have an initial eligibility for occupancy that mandates that applicants must have a household income, which does not exceed 50/60% AMI threshold, as published by the LIHTC program administered by the Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA) and the City of Chicago Department of Housing (DOH), pursuant to **26 USC § 42.** Qualification requirements must be met at the

time of application and at the time the applicant reaches the top of the waitlist. Qualification will be determined at the time of applicant screening for occupancy. Applicants who cannot meet the forgoing 50/60% AMI criteria at the time of initial screening for occupancy will not be eligible for public housing units designated as 50/60% AMI units and will be removed from the 50/60% waitlist. The applicants will retain their original date of application on the selected public housing site-based waitlist.

54. Foster Adult - An adult (usually a person with disabilities) who is placed in someone's home by a governmental agency, so the family can help with their care. Foster adults may be members of CHA households, but they have no rights as remaining family members. The income received by the family for the care of a foster adult is excluded from annual income.
55. Full-Time Student - A person who is carrying a subject load that is considered full-time for day students under the standards and practices of the educational institution attended. Examples of educational institution shall include but are not be limited to: colleges, universities, secondary schools, vocational schools, or trade schools; **24 CFR 5.603**.
56. General Area - Designation for a census tract with less than 30 percent non-white residents.
57. Good Cause - Adequate or substantial grounds or reason to take a certain action. What constitutes a good cause will be determined on a case by case basis. Examples of good cause include, but are not limited to:
 - a. An applicant or transferring resident is unable to move at the time of the unit offer and presents verification that acceptance of the unit offer will result in undue hardship; or
 - b. The family demonstrates that accepting the unit offer will place a family member's life, health or safety in jeopardy; or
 - c. The unit is not accessible for a disabled member of the resident's household.
58. Guest - A person temporarily staying in the unit with the consent of the resident or other member of the household who has express or implied authority to consent on behalf of the resident; **24 CFR § 5.1**.
59. Head of Household - The adult member of the family who is considered the head for purposes of determining income eligibility and rent. However, the income of the head of household, spouse and each additional family member is included in determining rent. The head of household is responsible for ensuring that the family fulfills all of its responsibilities under the program, alone or in conjunction with a co-head or spouse; **24 CFR § 5.504(b)**
 - a. The family may designate any qualified family member as the head of household.
 - b. The head of household must have the legal capacity to enter into a lease under state and local law. A minor who is emancipated under state law may be designated as head of household.
 - c. Final approval of the head of household is based on the person passing CHA's screening requirements.
60. Homeless - defined by HUD under the HEARTH Act definition Number I, with documentation through the City of Chicago or Chicago's Continuum of Care-Coordinated Entry System. (see Federal Register/Vol 76, No 233); as individuals and/or families who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and includes a subset for an individual who resided in an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation and who is exiting an institution where they temporarily resided.

61. Household - A broader term for family that includes additional people who, with the CHA's permission, live in a unit, such as live-in aides, foster children, and foster adults. However, household members are not family members and do not qualify as remaining family members.
62. HUD -The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.
63. Imputed Welfare Income - The amount of annual income by which a resident's welfare grant has been reduced because of welfare fraud or failure to comply with economic independence requirements that is, nonetheless, included in annual income for determining rent; **24 CFR § 5.615(b)**.
61. Individual with Disabilities - The definition of an individual with disabilities is for the purpose of determining if an individual may obtain a reasonable accommodation or physical modification.

The Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (Section 504), Fair Housing Act and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) definitions of Individual with Handicaps and Qualified Individual with Disabilities are not the definitions used to determine program eligibility. Instead, use the definition from **42 USC § 1437a(b)(3)** of "Person with Disabilities" as defined separately (#76) in this section.

The terms 'handicapped person' or 'person with handicaps' as defined in Section 504 and the Fair Housing Act are synonymous with the term 'individual with disabilities'.

- a. A physical or mental impairment that:
 - i. Substantially limits one or more major life activities;
 - ii. Has a record of such an impairment; or
 - iii. Is regarded as having such impairment.
- b. For purposes of housing programs, the term does not include any individual who is an alcoholic or drug abuser whose current use of alcohol or drugs prevents the individual from participating in the program or activity in question, or whose participation, by reason of such current alcohol or drug abuse, would constitute a direct threat to property or the safety of others.

c. Definitional elements:

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

"Major life activities" means functions such as caring for one's self, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning and working, eating, sleeping, standing, lifting, bending, reading, concentrating, thinking, and communicating.

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

“Is regarded as having an impairment” means has a physical or mental impairment that does not substantially limit one or more major life activities but that is treated by a recipient as constituting such a limitation; or has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities only as a result of the attitudes of others toward such impairment; or has none of the impairments defined in this section but is treated by a recipient as having such an impairment; **24 CFR § 8.3.**

62. Individualized Assessment - A process by which a person considers all factors relevant to an individual’s conviction history from the previous three (3) years. An individualized assessment is not required for convictions that are more than three (3) years old. Factors that may be considered in performing the Individualized Assessment include, but are not limited to:
- a. The nature and severity of the criminal offense and how recently it occurred;
 - b. The nature of the sentencing;
 - c. The number of the applicant’s criminal convictions;
 - d. The length of time that has passed since the applicant’s most recent conviction;
 - e. The age of the individual at the time the criminal offense occurred;
 - f. Evidence of rehabilitation;
 - g. The individual history as a tenant before and/or after the conviction;
 - h. Whether the criminal conviction(s) was related to or a product of the applicant’s disability; and
 - i. If the applicant is a person with a disability, whether any reasonable accommodation could be provided to ameliorate any purported demonstrable risk.
63. Kinship Care - A temporary arrangement in which a relative or non-relative becomes the primary caregiver for a child(ren) but is not the biological parent of the child(ren). The primary caregiver need not have legal custody of such child(ren) to be a kinship caregiver under this definition²⁷. The primary caregiver must be able to document Kinship Care, which is usually accomplished through school and/or medical records.
64. Lease Compliance Screening - A determination of whether a splitting family member would be lease compliant with the lease by demonstrating no serious or repeated violations of the terms of the lease, with a criminal background check, and a credit report review. The review of the credit report will be for records of evictions or orders of possession, delinquent rent, and will also look at bankruptcies filed relating to tenancy and shelter costs, delinquent debts owed to the CHA, other public housing authorities or Housing Choice Voucher programs, and delinquent utility payments.
65. Limited Area - Designation for a census tract with 30 percent or more non-white residents.
66. Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Individual - A person who does not speak English as their primary language and who has a limited ability to read, write, speak or understand English can be LEP and is entitled to language assistance with respect to a particular type of service or benefit.

²⁷ Definition provided by the Kinship Care Project, National Association for Public Interest Law.

67. Live-in Aide - A person who resides with one or more elderly persons, near elderly persons or persons with disabilities and who: (a) is determined by a knowledgeable professional to be essential to the care and well-being of the persons or family member with a disability; (b) is not obligated to support the family member; and (c) would not be living in the unit except to provide the necessary supportive services; **24 CFR § 5.403**. Live-in aides have no rights as remaining family members upon death, eviction, departure, or abandonment of the resident or the family member with a disability requiring the live-in aide's services.
68. Low-Income Household - A family whose annual income does not exceed 80% of the AMI for the area as determined by HUD with adjustments for family size; **42 USC § 1437a(b)**.
69. Medical Expense Allowance - For purposes of calculating adjusted income for elderly or disabled families only, medical expenses mean the medical expense not compensated for or covered by insurance in excess of three percent of annual income; **24 CFR § 5.603**.
70. Minor - A minor is a person under age 18. An unborn child will not be considered a minor. (see definition of dependent.)
71. Mitigating Hearing - Hearing at which the cases of applicants who wish to refute negative information that will likely result in the rejection of their applications for housing are reviewed.
72. Mixed Family - A family with both citizen or eligible immigrant members and members that are neither citizens nor eligible immigrants. Such a family will be charged a pro-rated rent; **24 CFR § 5.504**.
73. Mixed-Income Family Waitlists - Lists of residents or applicants who want to live in mixed-income/mixed-finance communities. A mixed-income/mixed-finance community generally includes one-third public housing units, one-third affordable units and one-third market-rate units. For public housing units in mixed-income/mixed-finance properties, determination and housing assignment will be performed by the property manager of the mixed-income/mixed-finance property.
- As CHA residents move into new mixed-income/mixed-finance communities, they may be subject to housing rules not enumerated in the ACOP. Eligibility requirements called "site specific criteria" are established at each site. Site specific criteria, constitute standards, rules, or tests which property managers will use to assess any resident (public housing, affordable, or market rate) interested in renting an apartment in the mixed-income development. These criteria often include a review of the applicants' credit history and a criminal background check, drug testing, housekeeping or home visits, and an evaluation of a resident's employment and economic independence record. These criteria build upon the criteria outlined in the CHA's ACOP, but they do not replace them. Site-specific criteria may also vary from one new community to another.
74. Mixed Population Development - A public housing development for elderly and disabled families.
75. Multifamily Housing Development - For purposes of Section 504, means a development containing five or more dwelling units. **24 CFR § 8.3**.
76. National - A person who owes permanent allegiance to the United States, for example, as a result of birth in a United States territory or possession; **24 CFR § 5.504**.
77. Near-Elderly Family - A family whose head, spouse, or sole member is a near-elderly person. The term includes two or more near-elderly persons living together, and one or more near-elderly persons living with one or more persons who are determined to be essential to the care or well-being of the near-elderly person or persons. A near-elderly family may include other family members who are not near-elderly; **24 CFR § 5.403**.

78. Net Family Assets - The net cash value, after deducting reasonable costs that would be incurred in disposing of: **24 CFR § 5.603**.
- a. Real property (land, houses, mobile homes);
 - b. Savings (CDs, IRA or KEOGH accounts, checking and savings accounts, precious metals);
 - c. Cash value of whole life insurance policies;
 - d. Stocks and bonds (mutual funds, corporate bonds, savings bonds); and
 - e. Other forms of capital investments (business equipment).

Net cash value is determined by subtracting the reasonable costs likely to be incurred in selling or disposing of an asset from the market value of the asset. Examples of such costs are: brokerage or legal fees, settlement costs for real property, or penalties for withdrawing saving funds before maturity.

Net Family Assets also include the amount in excess of any consideration received for assets disposed of by an applicant or resident for less than fair market value during the two years preceding the date of the initial certification or re-examination. This does not apply to assets transferred as the result of a foreclosure or bankruptcy sale.

In the case of a disposition as part of a separation or divorce settlement, the disposition will not be considered to be less than fair market value if the applicant or resident receives important considerations not measurable in dollar terms.

79. Non-affiliated Group, Organization or Individual - Any group, organization or individual which is not an "affiliated group, organization or individual".
80. Non-Housing Program - All or any CHA-owned portions of buildings, structures, sites, complexes, equipment, rolling stock or other conveyances, roads, walks, passageways, parking lots, or other real or personal property including the site where the building, property or structure is located. A Non-Housing Program includes, but is not limited to, common areas, entrances, elevators, the CHA's offices and the offices of the private management companies, community centers, day care facilities, senior citizen centers, social service offices, mail delivery, laundry rooms/facilities and trash disposal. Furthermore, Non-Housing programs include any aid, benefit or service provided by the CHA, policies, administrative procedures, services, and non-tangible matters whose operation contribute to the application for housing, full enjoyment of housing, and full participation in the CHA's housing programs.
81. Opportunity Area - Designation for a census tract with less than 20% family poverty and less than 5% non-elderly subsidized housing saturation, or an improving tract with moderate neighborhood indicators.
82. Other Person Under the Resident's Control - A person who, although not staying as a guest in the unit, is, or was at the time of the activity in question, on the premises because of an invitation from the resident or other member of the household who has express or implied authority to so consent on behalf of the resident. Absent evidence to the contrary, a person temporarily and infrequently on the premises solely for legitimate commercial purposes is not "under the resident's control."; **24 CFR § 5.1**.
83. Permanent Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) - A portable tenant-based HCV provided to fulfill the rights of residents under the RRC or Post 10/1/99 families and individuals so they can rent quality, affordable housing in the private housing market. HCV Program participants pay a percentage of their adjusted gross annual income for rent, with the remaining rent amount subsidized by a Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) made by the

HCV Program Administrator directly to the property owner. The subsidy allows participating families and individuals to live in homes and neighborhoods that they might not have been able to afford otherwise.

84. Person with Disabilities²⁸ - This is the definition used to determine program eligibility. Under **42 USC § 1437a(b)(3)**, a Person with Disabilities is a person²⁹ who:
- a. Has a disability as defined in Section 223 of the Social Security Act **42 USC § 423**; as a physical or mental impairment that:
 - i. Is expected to be of long-continued and indefinite duration;
 - ii. Substantially impedes their ability to live independently; and
 - iii. Is of such nature that such disability could be improved by more suitable housing conditions.
 - b. Has a developmental disability as defined in Section 102 (5)(b) of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act **42 USC § 6001(5)**.
85. Pets - Common household pets are defined as domesticated animals, such as a dog, cat, bird, rodent, rabbit, fish, or turtle, which are traditionally kept in the home for pleasure and not for commercial purposes.
86. Portion of Development - Includes, one or more buildings in a multi-building development; one or more floors of a development or developments; or a certain number of dwelling units in a development or developments. **24 CFR § 945.105**.
87. Qualified Individual with a Disability - An individual with disabilities who meets the essential eligibility requirements and who can achieve the purpose of the program or activity without modifications in the program or activity that the CHA can demonstrate would result in a fundamental alteration in its nature.
- Essential eligibility requirements include stated eligibility requirements such as income as well as other explicit or implicit requirements inherent in the nature of the program or activity, such as requirements that an occupant of multifamily housing be capable of meeting the recipient's selection criteria and be capable of complying with all obligations of occupancy with or without supportive services provided by persons other than the CHA.; **24 CFR § 8.3**.
88. RAD - An initiative developed by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that allows Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) and other qualified owners to enter into long-term Section 8 funding contracts for qualifying properties to facilitate the financing of capital improvements for the purpose of preserving federally subsidized housing
89. Reasonable Accommodation - A reasonable accommodation is a modification or change the CHA can make to its units, buildings, policies or procedures that will assist an otherwise qualified applicant or resident with a disability to take full advantage of and use CHA programs, including those that are operated by other agencies in CHA-owned public space; **24 CFR § 8.20**.
90. Reexamination - The process of securing documentation of total family income, family composition, and continued eligibility for public housing. See Section VI. for more information on the re-examination process.

²⁸ This is the program definition for public housing. The 504 definition does not supersede this definition for eligibility or admission

²⁹ A person with disabilities may be a child

91. Refusal of Housing - An applicant's choice not to accept a CHA offer of housing without good cause.
92. Rejection for Housing - A determination made by the CHA or property manager not to accept an applicant either because of ineligibility or failing applicant screening.
93. Relevance (pertaining to Screening Applicants for Suitability) - The degree to which an individual's conviction history makes it likely that the applicant poses a demonstrable risk to the personal safety and/or property of others.
94. Remaining Family Members - Family members, listed on the unit's lease that remain in the unit when the head of household dies or leaves the unit without a housing subsidy. Continued occupancy by remaining family members is permissible only if one or more family members on the lease living in the household who can pass applicant screening and is age 18 years or over. Remaining family members must have lived in the unit as an authorized member on the Lease for a minimum of three years (36 months) without an unauthorized extended absence. Household members do not have rights as remaining family members.

Live-in aides, foster children, or foster adults are considered household members and have no rights as remaining family members upon the death, eviction, departure, or abandonment of the resident family.
95. Revitalizing Area - Where a geographic area that was previously deemed a Limited Area now, because of evidence of investment and demographic patterns, has a likelihood of becoming economically and racially integrated.
96. Service Animal - Any dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability. Other species of animals, whether wild or domestic, trained or untrained, are not service animals for the purposes of this definition. The work or tasks performed by a service animal must be directly related to the individual's disability. Examples of work or tasks include, but are not limited to, assisting individuals who are blind or have low vision with navigation and other tasks, alerting individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing to the presence of people or sounds, providing non-violent protection or rescue work, pulling a wheelchair, assisting an individual during a seizure, alerting individuals to the presence of allergens, retrieving items such as medicine or the telephone, providing physical support and assistance with balance and stability to individuals with mobility disabilities, and helping persons with psychiatric and neurological disabilities by preventing or interrupting impulsive or destructive behaviors. The crime deterrent effects of an animal's presence and the provision of emotional support, well-being, comfort, or companionship do not constitute work or tasks for the purposes of this definition; **28 CFR § 35.104.**
97. Service Provider - A person or organization qualified and experienced in the provision of supportive services, that is in compliance with applicable licensing requirements imposed by state or local law for the type of service to be provided. The service provider may be either a for-profit or a non-profit entity.
98. Sexual Violence/Sexual Assault - Any conduct proscribed by chapter 109A of title 18, United States Code and includes both assaults committed by offenders who are strangers to the victim and assaults committed by offenders who are known or related by blood or marriage to the victim. See also Sexual Abuse.
99. Sexual Abuse - Includes violations of federal law where a person knowingly (1) causes another person to engage in a sexual act by threatening or placing that other person in fear (other than by threatening or placing that other person in fear that any person will be

- subjected to death, serious bodily injury, or kidnapping); or (2) engages in a sexual act with another person if that other person is (a) incapable of appraising the nature of the conduct or (b) communicating unwillingness to engage in, that sexual act, or attempts to do so. See also Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking.
100. Single Person - A person who is not an elderly person, a person with disabilities, a displaced person, nor the remaining member of a resident family.
 101. Site-based Waitlists - Lists of applicants based on their preferred location of housing. All current applicants should be given information about each site and an opportunity to select one development or spatially-clustered group of developments where they would accept a unit offer. Once the initial site-based lists have been established, all applicants will be informed of the length of each list and have an opportunity to change their site selection. Ranking preferences establish the order of placement on the waitlist but do not guarantee admission; **24 CFR § 903.7(b)(2)**.
 102. Sole Domicile - The place where a resident and all of the resident's household members live and intend to remain indefinitely. A resident may not be absent from that place for more than 90 consecutive days in a lease term without prior notification to the property manager. See Section IV. for more information.
 103. Spouse - The husband or wife of the head of the household. The term "spouse" does not apply to friends, roommates, or significant others who are not marriage partners. A minor who is emancipated under state law may be designated as a spouse. The State of Illinois does not recognize common law marriages contracted in Illinois after June 30, 1905.
 104. Stalking - To follow, pursue, or repeatedly commit acts with the intent to kill, injure, harass, or intimidate another person; and in the course of or as a result of, such following, pursuit, surveillance, or repeatedly committed acts, to place a person in reasonable fear of death of, or serious bodily injury to, or to cause substantial emotional harm to that person. (Immediate Family Member as used in this context means a spouse, parent, brother or sister, or child of that person, or an individual to whom that person stands in loco parentis; or any other person living in the household of that person and related to that person by blood or marriage.) See also Domestic Violence, Sexual Violence/Sexual Abuse, and Dating Violence.
 105. Student financial assistance - A grant or scholarship received from the Federal government, a state, Tribe, or local government, a private foundation registered as a nonprofit under 26 U.S.C. 501(c)(3), a business entity (such as corporation, general partnership, limited liability company, limited partnership, joint venture, business trust, public benefit corporation, or nonprofit entity), or an institution of higher education.
 106. Support Animal - Trained or untrained animal that provides assistance and/or provides emotional support for individuals with disabilities.
 107. Tenant Rent - The amount payable monthly by the family as rent to the CHA. If all utilities (except telephone) and other essential housing services are supplied by the CHA, then Tenant Rent equals Total Tenant Payment. If some or all utilities (except telephone) and other essential housing services are not supplied by the CHA the cost thereof is not included in the amount paid as rent, then Tenant Rent equals Total Tenant Payment less the Utility Allowance; 24 CFR § 5.6.
 108. Total Tenant Payment (TTP) - The TTP is calculated using the following formula: The greater of 30% of the monthly adjusted income (as defined in these policies) or 10% of the monthly annual income (as defined in these policies), but never less than the minimum rent. If the resident pays utilities directly to the utility supplier, the amount of the utility allowance is deducted from the TTP; **24 CFR**

§ 5.628.

109. Transfer Waitlist - Lists of residents who are required by the CHA to transfer or request a transfer.
Transfers will be processed in accordance with the Section V of the ACOP. With the exception of resident- initiated transfers, all transfer types have priority over new admissions from a CHA waitlist.
110. Unauthorized Occupant - An unauthorized occupant, is a person residing in the assisted unit without the consent or approval of the CHA.
111. Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards (UFAS) - Standards for the design, construction, and alteration of publicly-owned residential structures to ensure that physically-disabled persons will have ready access to and use of such structures; **24 CFR § 8.32(a)**.
112. Utilities - Water, electricity, gas, other heating, refrigeration and cooking fuels, trash collection, and sewerage services. Telephone service is not included as a utility; **24 CFR § 965**.
113. Utility Allowance - A monthly utility allowance that reflects a reasonable amount of utilities for the specific size and type of unit occupied. The utility allowance is deducted from the resident's TTP only if the resident is paying some or all of the unit's utility bills. The current utility allowance amount is based on a schedule in the housing management system.
114. Utility Reimbursement - Funds reimbursed to the resident through payments made directly to the utility company on the resident's behalf if the utility allowance exceeds the TTP. Families paying flat rent do not receive utility allowances and, consequently, will never qualify for utility reimbursements.
115. Very Low-Income Family - A family with an annual income less than 50% of the AMI, adjusted for family size, as determined by HUD.
116. Visitor - See definition of Guest (#51).
117. Welfare Assistance - Welfare or other payments to families or individuals based on need that are made under programs, separately or jointly, by federal, state, or local governments; **24 CFR § 5.603**.
118. Work Activities - As used in the HUD definitions under **24 CFR § 5.603**., the term work activities means:
- a. Unsubsidized employment;
 - b. Subsidized private sector employment;
 - c. Subsidized public sector employment;
 - d. Work experience (including work associated with refurbishing publicly-assisted housing) if sufficient private sector employment is not available;
 - e. On-the-job training;
 - f. Job search and job readiness programs;
 - g. Community service programs;
 - h. Vocational educational training (less than 12 months);
 - i. Job skills training directly related to employment;
 - j. Education directly related to employment, in the case of a recipient who has not received a high school diploma or certificate of high school equivalency;
 - k. Satisfactory attendance at a secondary school or in a course of study leading to a

- certificate of general equivalence; or
- I. The provision of child care services to an individual who is participating in a community service program.