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U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Office of Public and Indian Housing

PHA Plans

5 Year Plan for Fiscal Years 2005 - 2009
Annual Plan for Fiscal Year 2009

NOTE: THIS PHA PLANS TEMPLATE (HUD 50075) IS TO BE COMPLETED IN ACCORDANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS LOCATED IN APPLICABLE PIH NOTICES

PHA Plan
Agency Identification

PHA Name: Housing Authority of the Town of Stratford, Connecticut

PHA Number: CT027

PHA Fiscal Year Beginning: (mm/yyyy) 01/2009

PHA Programs Administered:

☒**Public Housing and Section 8** ☐**Section 8 Only** ☐**Public Housing Only**

Number of public housing units: 301 Number of S8 units: Number of public housing units:
Number of S8 units: 280

☐PHA Consortia: (check box if submitting a joint PHA Plan and complete table)

Participating PHAs	PHA Code	Program(s) Included in the Consortium	Programs Not in the Consortium	# of Units Each Program
Participating PHA 1:				
Participating PHA 2:				
Participating PHA 3:				

Public Access to Information

Information regarding any activities outlined in this plan can be obtained by contacting: (select all that apply)

☒ Main administrative office of the PHA
☐ PHA development management offices
☐ PHA local offices

Display Locations For PHA Plans and Supporting Documents

The PHA Plans (including attachments) are available for public inspection at: (select all that apply)

☒ Main administrative office of the PHA
☐ PHA development management offices
☐ PHA local offices
☐ Main administrative office of the local government
☐ Main administrative office of the County government
☐ Main administrative office of the State government
☐ Public library
☐ PHA website

☐ Other (list below)

PHA Plan Supporting Documents are available for inspection at: (select all that apply)

☒ Main business office of the PHA

☐ PHA development management offices

☐ Other (list below)

5-YEAR PLAN
PHA FISCAL YEARS 2005 - 2009
[24 CFR Part 903.5]

A. Mission

State the PHA's mission for serving the needs of low-income, very low income, and extremely low-income families in the PHA's jurisdiction. (select one of the choices below)

☐ The mission of the PHA is the same as that of the Department of Housing and Urban Development: To promote adequate and affordable housing, economic opportunity and a suitable living environment free from discrimination.

☒ The PHA's mission is: (state mission here)

The mission statement of the Housing Authority of the Town of Stratford is:

The mission of the Housing Authority of the Town of Stratford is to provide adequate, affordable housing, economic opportunity, and a suitable living environment for the families we serve, without discrimination, professionally, efficiently and ethically, and in accordance with the desires and vision of the Town of Stratford.

B. Goals

The goals and objectives listed below are derived from HUD's strategic Goals and Objectives and those emphasized in recent legislation. PHAs may select any of these goals and objectives as their own, or identify other goals and/or objectives. Whether selecting the HUD-suggested objectives or their own, **PHAS ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO IDENTIFY QUANTIFIABLE MEASURES OF SUCCESS IN REACHING THEIR OBJECTIVES OVER THE COURSE OF THE 5 YEARS**. (Quantifiable measures would include targets such as: numbers of families served or PHAS scores achieved.) PHAs should identify these measures in the spaces to the right of or below the stated objectives.

HUD Strategic Goal: Increase the availability of decent, safe, and affordable housing.

☐ PHA Goal: Expand the supply of assisted housing
Objectives:
- ☐ Apply for additional rental vouchers:
- ☐ Reduce public housing vacancies:
- ☐ Leverage private or other public funds to create additional housing opportunities:
- ☐ Acquire or build units or developments
- ☐ Other (list below)

☐ PHA Goal: Improve the quality of assisted housing
Objectives:
- ☐ Improve public housing management: (PHAS score)
- ☐ Improve voucher management: (SEMAP score)
- ☐ Increase customer satisfaction:
- ☐ Concentrate on efforts to improve specific management functions: (list; e.g., public housing finance; voucher unit inspections)
- ☐ Renovate or modernize public housing units:
- ☐ Demolish or dispose of obsolete public housing:
- ☐ Provide replacement public housing:
- ☐ Provide replacement vouchers:
- ☐ Other: (list below)

☐ PHA Goal: Increase assisted housing choices
Objectives:
- ☐ Provide voucher mobility counseling:
- ☐ Conduct outreach efforts to potential voucher landlords
- ☐ Increase voucher payment standards
- ☐ Implement voucher homeownership program:
- ☐ Implement public housing or other homeownership programs:
- ☐ Implement public housing site-based waiting lists:
- ☐ Convert public housing to vouchers:
- ☐ Other: (list below)

HUD Strategic Goal: Improve community quality of life and economic vitality

☐ PHA Goal: Provide an improved living environment
Objectives:
- ☐ Implement measures to deconcentrate poverty by bringing higher income public housing households into lower income developments:
- ☐ Implement measures to promote income mixing in public housing by assuring access for lower income families into higher income developments:
- ☐ Implement public housing security improvements:
- ☐ Designate developments or buildings for particular resident groups (elderly, persons with disabilities)
- ☐ Other: (list below)

HUD Strategic Goal: Promote self-sufficiency and asset development of families and individuals

☐ PHA Goal: Promote self-sufficiency and asset development of assisted households

Objectives:

- ☐ Increase the number and percentage of employed persons in assisted families:
- ☐ Provide or attract supportive services to improve assistance recipients' employability:
- ☐ Provide or attract supportive services to increase independence for the elderly or families with disabilities.
- ☐ Other: (list below)

HUD Strategic Goal: Ensure Equal Opportunity in Housing for all Americans

☐ PHA Goal: Ensure equal opportunity and affirmatively further fair housing

Objectives:

- ☐ Undertake affirmative measures to ensure access to assisted housing regardless of race, color, religion national origin, sex, familial status, and disability:
- ☐ Undertake affirmative measures to provide a suitable living environment for families living in assisted housing, regardless of race, color, religion national origin, sex, familial status, and disability:
- ☐ Undertake affirmative measures to ensure accessible housing to persons with all varieties of disabilities regardless of unit size required:
- ☐ Other: (list below)

Other PHA Goals and Objectives: (list below)

Goal One: Manage the Housing Authority of the Town of Stratford's existing public housing program in an efficient and effective manner thereby qualifying as at least a standard performer.

Objectives: HUD shall recognize the Housing Authority of the Town of Stratford as a high performer within five years of the effective date of the final rule on the Public Housing Assessment System.

Goal Two: Provide a safe and secure environment in the Housing Authority of the Town of Stratford's public housing developments.

Objectives: The Housing Authority of the Town of Stratford shall reduce crime in its developments so that the crime rate is less than their surrounding neighborhood by December 31, 2009.

Goal Three: Expand the range and quality of housing choices available to participants in the Housing Authority of the Town of Stratford's tenant-based assistance program.

Objectives: The Housing Authority of the Town of Stratford shall strive to maintain a utilization rate of 95% through December 31, 2009, in its tenant-based program.

Goal Four: Maintain the Housing Authority of the Town of Stratford's real estate in a decent condition, and that meets the codes of the Town of Stratford.

Objectives: The Housing Authority of the Town of Stratford will strive to maintain an appealing, up-to-date environment in its developments by December 31, 2009 provided that HUD maintains the current level of modernization funding and does not effect the diminishment of reserves.

Annual PHA Plan
PHA Fiscal Year 2009
[24 CFR Part 903.7]

i. Annual Plan Type:
Select which type of Annual Plan the PHA will submit.

☒ **Standard Plan**

Streamlined Plan:
- ☐ **High Performing PHA**
- ☐ **Small Agency (<250 Public Housing Units)**
- ☐ **Administering Section 8 Only**

☐ **Troubled Agency Plan**

ii. Executive Summary of the Annual PHA Plan
[24 CFR Part 903.7 9 (r)]
Provide a brief overview of the information in the Annual Plan, including highlights of major initiatives and discretionary policies the PHA has included in the Annual Plan.

iii. Annual Plan Table of Contents
[24 CFR Part 903.7 9 (r)]
Provide a table of contents for the Annual Plan, including attachments, and a list of supporting documents available for public inspection.

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Attachments

Indicate which attachments are provided by selecting all that apply. Provide the attachment's name (A, B, etc.) in the space to the left of the name of the attachment. Note: If the attachment is provided as a **SEPARATE** file submission from the PHA Plans file, provide the file name in parentheses in the space to the right of the title.

Required Attachments:

☒ Admissions Policy for Deconcentration (ct027a01)
☒ FY 2009 Capital Fund Program Annual Statement (ct027b01)
☐ Most recent board-approved operating budget (Required Attachment for PHAs that are troubled or at risk of being designated troubled ONLY)

Optional Attachments:

☒ PHA Management Organizational Chart (ct027c01)
☒ FY 2009 Capital Fund Program 5 Year Action Plan (ct027d01)
☐ Public Housing Drug Elimination Program (PHDEP) Plan
☐ Comments of Resident Advisory Board or Boards (must be attached if not included in PHA Plan text)
☒ Other (List below, providing each attachment name)

Community Service Requirements (ct027e01)
Pet Policy (ct027f01)
Progress on Meeting Goals (ct027g01)
Resident Membership of the Governing Board (ct027h01)
Resident Advisory Board (ct027i01)
2005 Capital Fund (bonus) Performance and Evaluation Report (ct027j01)
2006 Capital Fund Performance and Evaluation Report (ct027k01)
2007 Capital Fund Performance and Evaluation Report (ct027l01)
2008 Capital Fund Performance and Evaluation Report (ct027m01)
Deconcentration and Income Mixing (ct027n01)
Section 8 Administrative Plan (ct027o01)
Definition of Substantial Deviation (ct027p01)
Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Payment Standard Range (ct027q01)
Women Against Violence Act Report (ct027r01)
Flat Rents (ct027s01)
Project-Based Voucher Program (ct027t01)

Supporting Documents Available for Review

Indicate which documents are available for public review by placing a mark in the "Applicable & On Display" column in the appropriate rows. All listed documents must be on display if applicable to the program activities conducted by the PHA.

List of Supporting Documents Available for Review		
Applicable & On Display	**Supporting Document**	**Applicable Plan Component**
X	PHA Plan Certifications of Compliance with the PHA Plans and Related Regulations	5 Year and Annual Plans
X	State/Local Government Certification of Consistency with the Consolidated Plan	5 Year and Annual Plans
X	Fair Housing Documentation: Records reflecting that the PHA has examined its programs or proposed programs, identified any impediments to fair housing choice in those programs, addressed or is addressing those impediments in a reasonable fashion in view of the resources available, and worked or is working with local jurisdictions to implement any of the jurisdictions' initiatives to affirmatively further fair housing that require the PHA's involvement.	5 Year and Annual Plans
X	Consolidated Plan for the jurisdiction/s in which the PHA is located (which includes the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice (AI))) and any additional backup data to support statement of housing needs in the jurisdiction	Annual Plan: Housing Needs
X	Most recent board-approved operating budget for the public housing program	Annual Plan: Financial Resources;
X	Public Housing Admissions and (Continued) Occupancy Policy (A&O), which includes the Tenant Selection and Assignment Plan [TSAP]	Annual Plan: Eligibility, Selection, and Admissions Policies
X	Section 8 Administrative Plan	Annual Plan: Eligibility, Selection, and Admissions Policies
X	Public Housing Deconcentration and Income Mixing Documentation: 1. PHA board certifications of compliance with deconcentration requirements (section 16(a) of the US Housing Act of 1937, as implemented in the 2/18/*99 Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act Initial Guidance; Notice* and any further HUD guidance) and 2. Documentation of the required deconcentration and income mixing analysis	Annual Plan: Eligibility, Selection, and Admissions Policies
X	Public housing rent determination policies, including the methodology for setting public housing flat rents ☒ check here if included in the public housing A & O Policy	Annual Plan: Rent Determination
X	Schedule of flat rents offered at each public housing development ☐ check here if included in the public housing A & O Policy	Annual Plan: Rent Determination
X	Section 8 rent determination (payment standard) policies ☒ check here if included in Section 8 Administrative Plan	Annual Plan: Rent Determination
	Public housing management and maintenance policy documents, including policies for the prevention or	Annual Plan: Operations and Maintenance

List of Supporting Documents Available for Review		
Applicable & On Display	**Supporting Document**	**Applicable Plan Component**
X	eradication of pest infestation (including cockroach infestation)	
X	Public housing grievance procedures ☐ check here if included in the public housing A & O Policy	Annual Plan: Grievance Procedures
X	Section 8 informal review and hearing procedures ☒ check here if included in Section 8 Administrative Plan	Annual Plan: Grievance Procedures
X	The HUD-approved Capital Fund/Comprehensive Grant Program Annual Statement (HUD 52837) for the active grant year	Annual Plan: Capital Needs
	Most recent CIAP Budget/Progress Report (HUD 52825) for any active CIAP grant	Annual Plan: Capital Needs
X	Most recent, approved 5 Year Action Plan for the Capital Fund/Comprehensive Grant Program, if not included as an attachment (provided at PHA option)	Annual Plan: Capital Needs
	Approved HOPE VI applications or, if more recent, approved or submitted HOPE VI Revitalization Plans or any other approved proposal for development of public housing	Annual Plan: Capital Needs
X	Approved or submitted applications for demolition and/or disposition of public housing	Annual Plan: Demolition and Disposition
X	Approved or submitted applications for designation of public housing (Designated Housing Plans)	Annual Plan: Designation of Public Housing
	Approved or submitted assessments of reasonable revitalization of public housing and approved or submitted conversion plans prepared pursuant to section 202 of the 1996 HUD Appropriations Act	Annual Plan: Conversion of Public Housing
	Approved or submitted public housing homeownership programs/plans	Annual Plan: Homeownership
	Policies governing any Section 8 Homeownership program ☐ check here if included in the Section 8 Administrative Plan	Annual Plan: Homeownership
	Any cooperative agreement between the PHA and the TANF agency	Annual Plan: Community Service & Self-Sufficiency
	FSS Action Plan/s for public housing and/or Section 8	Annual Plan: Community Service & Self-Sufficiency
	Most recent self-sufficiency (ED/SS, TOP or ROSS or other resident services grant) grant program reports	Annual Plan: Community Service & Self-Sufficiency
	The most recent Public Housing Drug Elimination Program (PHEDEP) semi-annual performance report for any open grant and most recently submitted PHDEP application (PHDEP Plan)	Annual Plan: Safety and Crime Prevention
X	The most recent fiscal year audit of the PHA conducted under section 5(h)(2) of the U.S. Housing Act of 1937 (42 U. S.C. 1437c(h)), the results of that audit and the PHA's response to any findings	Annual Plan: Annual Audit
	Troubled PHAs: MOA/Recovery Plan	Troubled PHAs
	Other supporting documents (optional)	(specify as needed)

List of Supporting Documents Available for Review		
Applicable & On Display	**Supporting Document**	**Applicable Plan Component**
	(list individually; use as many lines as necessary)	

1. Statement of Housing Needs

[24 CFR Part 903.7 9 (a)]

A. Housing Needs of Families in the Jurisdiction/s Served by the PHA

Based upon the information contained in the Consolidated Plan/s applicable to the jurisdiction, and/or other data available to the PHA, provide a statement of the housing needs in the jurisdiction by completing the following table. In the "Overall" Needs column, provide the estimated number of renter families that have housing needs. For the remaining characteristics, rate the impact of that factor on the housing needs for each family type, from 1 to 5, with 1 being "no impact" and 5 being "severe impact." Use N/A to indicate that no information is available upon which the PHA can make this assessment.

Housing Needs of Families in the Jurisdiction by Family Type							
Family Type	Over all	Afford-ability	Supply	Quality	Access-ibility	Size	Loca-tion
Income <= 30% of AMI	910	5	4	4	3	2	2
Income >30% but <=50% of AMI	599	5	4	4	3	2	2
Income >50% but <80% of AMI	791	5	3	4	3	2	2
Elderly	863	5	3	4	4	2	2
Families with Disabilities	494	5	3	4	4	2	2
White Non-Hispanic	1,635	5	3	4	3	2	2
Black Non-Hispanic	387	5	3	4	3	2	2
Hispanic	189	5	3	4	3	2	2
Asian Non-Hispanic	55	5	3	4	3	2	2

What sources of information did the PHA use to conduct this analysis? (Check all that apply; all materials must be made available for public inspection.)

☐ Consolidated Plan of the Jurisdiction/s
Indicate year:

☒ U.S. Census data: the Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy ("CHAS") dataset

☐ American Housing Survey data
Indicate year:
☐ Other housing market study
Indicate year:
☒ Other sources: (list and indicate year of information)

January 1992 Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice

B. Housing Needs of Families on the Public Housing and Section 8 Tenant- Based Assistance Waiting Lists

State the housing needs of the families on the PHA's waiting list/s**. Complete one table for each type of PHA-wide waiting list administered by the PHA.** PHAs may provide separate tables for site-based or sub-jurisdictional public housing waiting lists at their option.

Housing Needs of Families on the Waiting List			
Waiting list type: (select one) ☐ Section 8 tenant-based assistance ☒ Public Housing ☐ Combined Section 8 and Public Housing ☐ Public Housing Site-Based or sub-jurisdictional waiting list (optional) If used, identify which development/subjurisdiction:			
	# of families	% of total families	Annual Turnover
Waiting list total	148		36
Extremely low income <=30% AMI	97	65%	
Very low income (>30% but <=50% AMI)	40	27%	
Low income (>50% but <80% AMI)	11	7%	
Families with children	3	7%	
Elderly families	145	97%	
Families with Disabilities	25	16%	
White	81	54%	
Black	41	29%	
Hispanic	23	15%	
Characteristics by			

Housing Needs of Families on the Waiting List			
Bedroom Size (Public Housing Only)			
1BR	145	83%	5 eff. And 12 1-br
2 BR	3	7%	11
3 BR	0	5%	6
4 BR	0	4%	2
5 BR			
5+ BR			

Is the waiting list closed (select one)? ☐ No ☒ Yes

If yes:

How long has it been closed (# of months)? 1 month

Does the PHA expect to reopen the list in the PHA Plan year? ☐ No ☒ Yes

Does the PHA permit specific categories of families onto the waiting list, even if generally closed? ☒ No ☐ Yes

Housing Needs of Families on the Waiting List			
Waiting list type: (select one) ☒ Section 8 tenant-based assistance ☐ Public Housing ☐ Combined Section 8 and Public Housing ☐ Public Housing Site-Based or sub-jurisdictional waiting list (optional) If used, identify which development/subjurisdiction:			
	# of families	% of total families	Annual Turnover
Waiting list total	149		37

Extremely low income <=30% AMI	109	73%	
Very low income (>30% but <=50% AMI)	40	27%	
Low income (>50% but <80% AMI)	0	0%	
Families with children	125	84%	
Elderly families	2	1%	
Families with Disabilities	3	2%	
White	13	9%	
Black	85	57	
Hispanic	51	34	
Other			
Characteristics by Bedroom Size (Public Housing Only)			
1BR			
2 BR			
3 BR			
4 BR			
5 BR			
5+ BR			

Is the waiting list closed (select one)? ☐ No ☒ Yes

If yes:

How long has it been closed (# of months)? 66 months

Does the PHA expect to reopen the list in the PHA Plan year? ☒ No ☐ Yes

Does the PHA permit specific categories of families onto the waiting list, even if generally closed? ☒ No ☐ Yes

C. Strategy for Addressing Needs

Provide a brief description of the PHA's strategy for addressing the housing needs of families in the jurisdiction and on the waiting list **IN THE UPCOMING YEAR**, and the Agency's reasons for choosing this strategy.

(1) Strategies

Need: Shortage of affordable housing for all eligible populations

Strategy 1. Maximize the number of affordable units available to the PHA within its current resources by:
Select all that apply

- ☒ Employ effective maintenance and management policies to minimize the number of public housing units off-line
- ☒ Reduce turnover time for vacated public housing units
- ☐ Reduce time to renovate public housing units
- ☐ Seek replacement of public housing units lost to the inventory through mixed finance development
- ☐ Seek replacement of public housing units lost to the inventory through section 8 replacement housing resources
- ☐ Maintain or increase section 8 lease-up rates by establishing payment standards that will enable families to rent throughout the jurisdiction
- ☐ Undertake measures to ensure access to affordable housing among families assisted by the PHA, regardless of unit size required
- ☒ Maintain or increase section 8 lease-up rates by marketing the program to owners, particularly those outside of areas of minority and poverty concentration
- ☒ Maintain or increase section 8 lease-up rates by effectively screening Section 8 applicants to increase owner acceptance of program
- ☒ Participate in the Consolidated Plan development process to ensure coordination with broader community strategies
- ☐ Other (list below)

Strategy 2: Increase the number of affordable housing units by:
Select all that apply

- ☐ Apply for additional section 8 units should they become available
- ☐ Leverage affordable housing resources in the community through the creation of mixed - finance housing
- ☒ Pursue housing resources other than public housing or Section 8 tenant-based assistance.
- ☒ Other: (list below)

  Maintain State housing units

Need: Specific Family Types: Families at or below 30% of median

Strategy 1: Target available assistance to families at or below 30 % of AMI
Select all that apply

- ☐ Exceed HUD federal targeting requirements for families at or below 30% of AMI in public housing
- ☐ Exceed HUD federal targeting requirements for families at or below 30% of AMI in tenant-based section 8 assistance

☐ Employ admissions preferences aimed at families with economic hardships
☒ Adopt rent policies to support and encourage work
☐ Other: (list below)

Need: Specific Family Types: Families at or below 50% of median

Strategy 1: Target available assistance to families at or below 50% of AMI
Select all that apply

☒ Employ admissions preferences aimed at families who are working
☒ Adopt rent policies to support and encourage work
☐ Other: (list below)

Need: Specific Family Types: The Elderly

Strategy 1: Target available assistance to the elderly:
Select all that apply

☐ Seek designation of public housing for the elderly
☐ Apply for special-purpose vouchers targeted to the elderly, should they become available
☒ Other: (list below)

The Housing Authority of the Town of Stratford obtained designation for both elderly and special needs populations in 1999. In 2004, an application for extending designations was submitted to the Special Applications Center.

Need: Specific Family Types: Families with Disabilities

Strategy 1: Target available assistance to Families with Disabilities:
Select all that apply

☐ Seek designation of public housing for families with disabilities
☒ Carry out the modifications needed in public housing based on the section 504 Needs Assessment for Public Housing
☐ Apply for special-purpose vouchers targeted to families with disabilities, should they become available
☒ Affirmatively market to local non-profit agencies that assist families with disabilities
☒ Other: (list below)

The Housing Authority of the Town of Stratford has a preference for persons with disabilities in the Section 8 program, 10% of annual turnovers will be designated for persons with disabilities.

Need: Specific Family Types: Races or ethnicities with disproportionate housing needs

Strategy 1: Increase awareness of PHA resources among families of races and ethnicities with disproportionate needs:

Select if applicable

☐ Affirmatively market to races/ethnicities shown to have disproportionate housing needs

☒ Other: (list below)

The Housing Authority of the Town of Stratford will affirmatively market to low-income families who are eligible to participate in both the public housing and Section 8 programs.

Strategy 2: Conduct activities to affirmatively further fair housing

Select all that apply

☒ Counsel section 8 tenants as to location of units outside of areas of poverty or minority concentration and assist them to locate those units

☒ Market the section 8 program to owners outside of areas of poverty /minority concentrations

☐ Other: (list below)

Other Housing Needs & Strategies: (list needs and strategies below)

(2) Reasons for Selecting Strategies

Of the factors listed below, select all that influenced the PHA's selection of the strategies it will pursue:

☒ Funding constraints

☒ Staffing constraints

☒ Limited availability of sites for assisted housing

☐ Extent to which particular housing needs are met by other organizations in the community

☒ Evidence of housing needs as demonstrated in the Consolidated Plan and other information available to the PHA

☒ Influence of the housing market on PHA programs

☐ Community priorities regarding housing assistance

☒ Results of consultation with local or state government

☒ Results of consultation with residents and the Resident Advisory Board

☐ Results of consultation with advocacy groups

☐ Other: (list below)

2. Statement of Financial Resources

[24 CFR Part 903.7 9 (b)]

List the financial resources that are anticipated to be available to the PHA for the support of Federal public housing and tenant-based Section 8 assistance programs administered by the PHA during the Plan year. Note: the table assumes that Federal public housing or tenant based Section 8 assistance grant funds are expended on eligible purposes; therefore, uses of these funds need not be stated. For other funds, indicate the use for those funds as one of the following categories: public housing operations, public housing capital improvements, public housing safety/security, public housing supportive services, Section 8 tenant-based assistance, Section 8 supportive services or other.

Financial Resources: Planned Sources and Uses		
Sources	**Planned $**	**Planned Uses**
1. **Federal Grants (FY 2009 grants)**		
a) Public Housing Operating Fund	750,064	
b) Public Housing Capital Fund	476,791	
c) HOPE VI Revitalization		
d) HOPE VI Demolition		
e) Annual Contributions for Section 8 Tenant-Based Assistance	2,304,965	
f) Public Housing Drug Elimination Program (including any Technical Assistance funds)		
g) Resident Opportunity and Self-Sufficiency Grants		
h) Community Development Block Grant		
i) HOME		
Other Federal Grants (list below)		
2. Prior Year Federal Grants (unobligated funds only) (list below)		
2007 Capital Fund	324,030	Public Housing Capital Improvements
2008 Capital Fund	476,791	Public Housing Capital Improvements
3. Public Housing Dwelling Rental Income	1,145,849	Public Housing Operations
4. Other income (list below)		

Financial Resources: Planned Sources and Uses		
Sources	**Planned $**	**Planned Uses**
Interest	65,873	Public Housing Operations
Miscellaneous	13,348	Public Housing Operations
4. Non-federal sources (list below)		
Total resources	5,557,711	

3. PHA Policies Governing Eligibility, Selection, and Admissions

[24 CFR Part 903.7 9 (c)]

A. Public Housing

Exemptions: PHAs that do not administer public housing are not required to complete subcomponent 3A.

(1) Eligibility

a. When does the PHA verify eligibility for admission to public housing? (select all that apply)

☐ When families are within a certain number of being offered a unit: (state number)

☐ When families are within a certain time of being offered a unit: (state time)

☒ Other: (describe)

When a family appears to be nearing the top of the waiting list, the family will be invited to an interview.

b. Which non-income (screening) factors does the PHA use to establish eligibility for admission to public housing (select all that apply)?

☒ Criminal or Drug-related activity

☒ Rental history

☒ Housekeeping

☒ Other (describe)

History of disturbing neighbors or destruction of property
Fraud in connection with any housing program
Alcohol abuse that interferes with the health, safety or right to peaceful enjoyment by others

c. ☒ Yes ☐ No: Does the PHA request criminal records from local law enforcement agencies for screening purposes?

d. ☒ Yes ☐ No: Does the PHA request criminal records from State law enforcement agencies for screening purposes?

e. ☒ Yes ☐ No: Does the PHA access FBI criminal records from the FBI for screening purposes? (either directly or through an NCIC-authorized source)

The extent of the criminal records search depends on the residence of the applicant for the past three years.

(2)Waiting List Organization

a. Which methods does the PHA plan to use to organize its public housing waiting list (select all that apply)

☒ Community-wide list
☐ Sub-jurisdictional lists
☐ Site-based waiting lists
☐ Other (describe)

b. Where may interested persons apply for admission to public housing?

☒ PHA main administrative office
☐ PHA development site management office
☐ Other (list below)

c. If the PHA plans to operate one or more site-based waiting lists in the coming year, answer each of the following questions; if not, skip to subsection **(3) Assignment**

1. How many site-based waiting lists will the PHA operate in the coming year?

2. ☐ Yes ☐ No: Are any or all of the PHA's site-based waiting lists new for the upcoming year (that is, they are not part of a previously-HUD-approved site based waiting list plan)?
If yes, how many lists?

3. ☐ Yes ☐ No: May families be on more than one list simultaneously
If yes, how many lists?

4. Where can interested persons obtain more information about and sign up to be on the site-based waiting lists (select all that apply)?

☐ PHA main administrative office
☐ All PHA development management offices

☐ Management offices at developments with site-based waiting lists
☐ At the development to which they would like to apply
☐ Other (list below)

(3) Assignment

a. How many vacant unit choices are applicants ordinarily given before they fall to the bottom of or are removed from the waiting list? (select one)

☒ One – Unless the offer is for deconcentration purposes. If declined, this does not affect the applicant's place on the waiting list.
☐ Two
☐ Three or More

b. ☒ Yes ☐ No: Is this policy consistent across all waiting list types?

c. If answer to b is no, list variations for any other than the primary public housing waiting list/s for the PHA:

(4) Admissions Preferences

a. Income targeting:

☐ Yes ☒ No: Does the PHA plan to exceed the federal targeting requirements by targeting more than 40% of all new admissions to public housing to families at or below 30% of median area income?

b. Transfer policies:
In what circumstances will transfers take precedence over new admissions? (list below)

☒ Emergencies
☐ Overhoused
☐ Underhoused
☒ Medical justification
☒ Administrative reasons determined by the PHA (e.g., to permit modernization work)
☐ Resident choice: (state circumstances below)
☒ Other: (list below)

To meet deconcentration goals.

c. Preferences

1. ☒ Yes ☐ No: Has the PHA established preferences for admission to public housing (other than date and time of application)? (If "no" is selected, skip to subsection **(5) Occupancy**)

2. Which of the following admission preferences does the PHA plan to employ in the coming year? (select all that apply from either former Federal preferences or other preferences)

Former Federal preferences:

☐ Involuntary Displacement (Disaster, Government Action, Action of Housing Owner, Inaccessibility, Property Disposition)
☐ Victims of domestic violence
☐ Substandard housing
☐ Homelessness
☐ High rent burden (rent is > 50 percent of income)

Other preferences: (select below)

☒ Working families and those unable to work because of age or disability
☐ Veterans and veterans' families
☒ Residents who live and/or work in the jurisdiction
☒ Those enrolled currently in educational, training, or upward mobility programs
☐ Households that contribute to meeting income goals (broad range of incomes)
☐ Households that contribute to meeting income requirements (targeting)
☐ Those previously enrolled in educational, training, or upward mobility programs
☐ Victims of reprisals or hate crimes
☒ Other preference(s) (list below)

Venture Preference
Applicants not currently housed or assisted through a Federal, State or similar public housing or housing choice voucher program.

3. If the PHA will employ admissions preferences, please prioritize by placing a "1" in the space that represents your first priority, a "2" in the box representing your second priority, and so on. If you give equal weight to one or more of these choices (either through an absolute hierarchy or through a point system), place the same number next to each. That means you can use "1" more than once, "2" more than once, etc.

3 Date and Time

Former Federal preferences:

Involuntary Displacement (Disaster, Government Action, Action of Housing Owner, Inaccessibility, Property Disposition)
Victims of domestic violence
Substandard housing
Homelessness
High rent burden

Other preferences (select all that apply)

☒2 Working families and those unable to work because of age or disability
☐ Veterans and veterans' families
☒2 Residents who live and/or work in the jurisdiction
☒2 Those enrolled currently in educational, training, or upward mobility programs
☐ Households that contribute to meeting income goals (broad range of incomes)
☐ Households that contribute to meeting income requirements (targeting)
☐ Those previously enrolled in educational, training, or upward mobility programs
☐ Victims of reprisals or hate crimes
☒1 Other preference(s) (list below)

Venture Preference
Applicants not currently housed or assisted through a Federal, State or similar public housing or housing choice voucher program. 2

4. Relationship of preferences to income targeting requirements:
☐ The PHA applies preferences within income tiers
☒ Not applicable: the pool of applicant families ensures that the PHA will meet income targeting requirements

(5) Occupancy

a. What reference materials can applicants and residents use to obtain information about the rules of occupancy of public housing (select all that apply)
☒ The PHA-resident lease
☒ The PHA's Admissions and (Continued) Occupancy policy
☒ PHA briefing seminars or written materials
☐ Other source (list)

b. How often must residents notify the PHA of changes in family composition? (select all that apply)
☒ At an annual reexamination and lease renewal
☒ Any time family composition changes
☒ At family request for revision
☐ Other (list)

(6) Deconcentration and Income Mixing ***Please see attachment ct027n01***

a. ☐ Yes ☐ No: Did the PHA's analysis of its family (general occupancy) developments to determine concentrations of poverty indicate the need for measures to promote deconcentration of poverty or income mixing?

b. ☐ Yes ☐ No: Did the PHA adopt any changes to its **admissions policies** based on the results of the required analysis of the need to promote deconcentration of poverty or to assure income mixing?

c. If the answer to b was yes, what changes were adopted? (select all that apply)

☐ Adoption of site based waiting lists
If selected, list targeted developments below:

☐ Employing waiting list "skipping" to achieve deconcentration of poverty or income mixing goals at targeted developments
If selected, list targeted developments below:

☐ Employing new admission preferences at targeted developments
If selected, list targeted developments below:

☐ Other (list policies and developments targeted below)

d. ☐ Yes ☐ No: Did the PHA adopt any changes to **other** policies based on the results of the required analysis of the need for deconcentration of poverty and income mixing?

e. If the answer to d was yes, how would you describe these changes? (select all that apply)

☐ Additional affirmative marketing
☐ Actions to improve the marketability of certain developments
☐ Adoption or adjustment of ceiling rents for certain developments
☐ Adoption of rent incentives to encourage deconcentration of poverty and income-mixing
☐ Other (list below)

f. Based on the results of the required analysis, in which developments will the PHA make special efforts to attract or retain higher-income families? (select all that apply)

☐ Not applicable: results of analysis did not indicate a need for such efforts
☐ List (any applicable) developments below:

g. Based on the results of the required analysis, in which developments will the PHA make special efforts to assure access for lower-income families? (select all that apply)

☐ Not applicable: results of analysis did not indicate a need for such efforts
☐ List (any applicable) developments below:

B. Section 8

Exemptions: PHAs that do not administer section 8 are not required to complete sub-component 3B. **Unless otherwise specified, all questions in this section apply only to the tenant-based section 8 assistance program (vouchers, and until completely merged into the voucher program, certificates).**

(1) Eligibility

a. What is the extent of screening conducted by the PHA? (select all that apply)
☒ Criminal or drug-related activity only to the extent required by law or regulation
☐ Criminal and drug-related activity, more extensively than required by law or regulation
☐ More general screening than criminal and drug-related activity (list factors below)
☐ Other (list below)

b. ☒ Yes ☐ No: Does the PHA request criminal records from local law enforcement agencies for screening purposes?

c. ☒ Yes ☐ No: Does the PHA request criminal records from State law enforcement agencies for screening purposes?

d. ☒ Yes ☐ No: Does the PHA access FBI criminal records from the FBI for screening purposes? (either directly or through an NCIC-authorized source)

The extent of the criminal records search depends on the residence of the applicant for the past three years.

e. Indicate what kinds of information you share with prospective landlords? (select all that apply)
☐ Criminal or drug-related activity
☒ Other (describe below)

The name and address of current landlord.

(2) Waiting List Organization

a. With which of the following program waiting lists is the section 8 tenant-based assistance waiting list merged? (select all that apply)

☒ None
☐ Federal public housing
☐ Federal moderate rehabilitation
☐ Federal project-based certificate program
☐ Other federal or local program (list below)

b. Where may interested persons apply for admission to section 8 tenant-based assistance? (select all that apply)

☒ PHA main administrative office
☐ Other (list below)

(3) Search Time

a. ☒ Yes ☐ No: Does the PHA give extensions on standard 60-day period to search for a unit?

If yes, state circumstances below:

If the family documents their efforts and additional time can reasonably be expected to result in success or the family contains a person with a disability.

(4) Admissions Preferences

a. Income targeting

☐ Yes ☒ No: Does the PHA plan to exceed the federal targeting requirements by targeting more than 75% of all new admissions to the section 8 program to families at or below 30% of median area income?

b. Preferences

1. ☒ Yes ☐ No: Has the PHA established preferences for admission to section 8 tenant-based assistance? (other than date and time of application) (if no, skip to subcomponent **(5) Special purpose section 8 assistance programs**)

2. Which of the following admission preferences does the PHA plan to employ in the coming year? (select all that apply from either former Federal preferences or other preferences)

Former Federal preferences

- ☐ Involuntary Displacement (Disaster, Government Action, Action of Housing Owner, Inaccessibility, Property Disposition)
- ☐ Victims of domestic violence
- ☐ Substandard housing
- ☐ Homelessness
- ☐ High rent burden (rent is > 50 percent of income)

Other preferences (select all that apply)

- ☒ Working families and those unable to work because of age or disability
- ☐ Veterans and veterans' families
- ☒ Residents who live and/or work in your jurisdiction
- ☒ Those enrolled currently in educational, training, or upward mobility programs
- ☐ Households that contribute to meeting income goals (broad range of incomes)
- ☐ Households that contribute to meeting income requirements (targeting)
- ☐ Those previously enrolled in educational, training, or upward mobility programs
- ☐ Victims of reprisals or hate crimes
- ☒ Other preference(s) (list below)

Venture Preference (see attached Section 8 Administrative Plan)
Leasing in Place Preference (see attached Section 8 Administrative Plan, Section 5.1)
Applicants not currently housed or assisted through a Federal, State or similar public housing or housing choice voucher program.

3. If the PHA will employ admissions preferences, please prioritize by placing a "1" in the space that represents your first priority, a "2" in the box representing your second priority, and so on. If you give equal weight to one or more of these choices (either through an absolute hierarchy or through a point system), place the same number next to each. That means you can use "1" more than once, "2" more than once, etc.

3 Date and Time

Former Federal preferences

Involuntary Displacement (Disaster, Government Action, Action of Housing Owner, Inaccessibility, Property Disposition)
Victims of domestic violence
Substandard housing
Homelessness
High rent burden

Other preferences (select all that apply)

☒ 2 Working families and those unable to work because of age or disability
☐ Veterans and veterans' families
☒ 2 Residents who live and/or work in your jurisdiction
☒ 2 Those enrolled currently in educational, training, or upward mobility programs
☐ Households that contribute to meeting income goals (broad range of incomes)
☐ Households that contribute to meeting income requirements (targeting)
☐ Those previously enrolled in educational, training, or upward mobility programs
☐ Victims of reprisals or hate crimes
☒ Other preference(s) (list below)

1 Venture Preference
2 Leasing in Place Preference
2 Applicants not currently housed or assisted through a Federal, State or similar public housing or housing choice voucher program.

4. Among applicants on the waiting list with equal preference status, how are applicants selected? (select one)

☒ Date and time of application
☒ Drawing (lottery) or other random choice technique
See the Section 8 Administrative Plan – The Stratford Housing Authority will advertise the opening of the waiting list and the method for selection in the announcement.

5. If the PHA plans to employ preferences for "residents who live and/or work in the jurisdiction" (select one)

☒ This preference has previously been reviewed and approved by HUD
☐ The PHA requests approval for this preference through this PHA Plan

6. Relationship of preferences to income targeting requirements: (select one)

☐ The PHA applies preferences within income tiers
☒ Not applicable: the pool of applicant families ensures that the PHA will meet income targeting requirements

(5) Special Purpose Section 8 Assistance Programs

a. In which documents or other reference materials are the policies governing eligibility, selection, and admissions to any special-purpose section 8 program administered by the PHA contained? (select all that apply)

☒ The Section 8 Administrative Plan

☒ Briefing sessions and written materials
☐ Other (list below)

b. How does the PHA announce the availability of any special-purpose section 8 programs to the public?
☒ Through published notices
☐ Other (list below)

4. PHA Rent Determination Policies

[24 CFR Part 903.7 9 (d)]

A. Public Housing

Exemptions: PHAs that do not administer public housing are not required to complete sub-component 4A.

(1) Income Based Rent Policies

Describe the PHA's income based rent setting policy/ies for public housing using, including discretionary (that is, not required by statute or regulation) income disregards and exclusions, in the appropriate spaces below.

a. Use of discretionary policies: (select one)

☒ The PHA will not employ any discretionary rent-setting policies for income based rent in public housing. Income-based rents are set at the higher of 30% of adjusted monthly income, 10% of unadjusted monthly income, the welfare rent, or minimum rent (less HUD mandatory deductions and exclusions). (If selected, skip to sub-component (2))

---or---

☐ The PHA employs discretionary policies for determining income based rent (If selected, continue to question b.)

b. Minimum Rent

1. What amount best reflects the PHA's minimum rent? (select one)
☐ $0
☐ $1-$25
☒ $26-$50

2. ☐ Yes ☒ No: Has the PHA adopted any discretionary minimum rent hardship exemption policies?

3. If yes to question 2, list these policies below**:**

c. Rents set at less than 30% than adjusted income

1. ☐ Yes ☒ No: Does the PHA plan to charge rents at a fixed amount or percentage less than 30% of adjusted income?

2. If yes to above, list the amounts or percentages charged and the circumstances under which these will be used below:

d. Which of the discretionary (optional) deductions and/or exclusions policies does the PHA plan to employ (select all that apply)

☐ For the earned income of a previously unemployed household member
☐ For increases in earned income
☐ Fixed amount (other than general rent-setting policy)
If yes, state amount/s and circumstances below:

☐ Fixed percentage (other than general rent-setting policy)
If yes, state percentage/s and circumstances below:

☐ For household heads
☐ For other family members
☐ For transportation expenses
☐ For the non-reimbursed medical expenses of non-disabled or non-elderly families
☐ Other (describe below)

e. Ceiling rents

1. Do you have ceiling rents? (rents set at a level lower than 30% of adjusted income) (select one)

☐ Yes for all developments
☐ Yes but only for some developments
☒ No

2. For which kinds of developments are ceiling rents in place? (select all that apply)

☐ For all developments
☐ For all general occupancy developments (not elderly or disabled or elderly only)
☐ For specified general occupancy developments
☐ For certain parts of developments; e.g., the high-rise portion
☐ For certain size units; e.g., larger bedroom sizes
☐ Other (list below)

3. Select the space or spaces that best describe how you arrive at ceiling rents (select all that apply)

☐ Market comparability study
☐ Fair market rents (FMR)
☐ 95th percentile rents
☐ 75 percent of operating costs
☐ 100 percent of operating costs for general occupancy (family) developments
☐ Operating costs plus debt service
☐ The "rental value" of the unit
☐ Other (list below)

f. Rent re-determinations:

1. Between income reexaminations, how often must tenants report changes in income or family composition to the PHA such that the changes result in an adjustment to rent? (select all that apply)

☐ Never
☐ At family option
☐ Any time the family experiences an income increase
☒ Any time a family experiences an income increase above a threshold amount or percentage: (if selected, specify threshold) 10% increase in income
☒ Other (list below)

Any changes in family composition must be reported to the Stratford Housing Authority.

g. ☐ Yes ☒ No: Does the PHA plan to implement individual savings accounts for residents (ISAs) as an alternative to the required 12 month disallowance of earned income and phasing in of rent increases in the next year?

(2) Flat Rents

1. In setting the market-based flat rents, what sources of information did the PHA use to establish comparability? (select all that apply.)

☒ The section 8 rent reasonableness study of comparable housing
☐ Survey of rents listed in local newspaper
☐ Survey of similar unassisted units in the neighborhood
☐ Other (list/describe below)

B. Section 8 Tenant-Based Assistance

Exemptions: PHAs that do not administer Section 8 tenant-based assistance are not required to complete sub-component 4B. **Unless otherwise specified, all questions in this section apply only to the tenant-based section 8 assistance program (vouchers, and until completely merged into the voucher program, certificates).**

(1) Payment Standards

Describe the voucher payment standards and policies**.**

a. What is the PHA's payment standard? (select the category that best describes your standard)

☒ At or above 90% but below100% of FMR
☐ 100% of FMR
☐ Above 100% but at or below 110% of FMR
☐ Above 110% of FMR (if HUD approved; describe circumstances below)

b. If the payment standard is lower than FMR, why has the PHA selected this standard? (select all that apply)

☐ FMRs are adequate to ensure success among assisted families in the PHA's segment of the FMR area
☐ The PHA has chosen to serve additional families by lowering the payment standard
☐ Reflects market or submarket
☐ Other (list below)

c. If the payment standard is higher than FMR, why has the PHA chosen this level? (select all that apply)

☒ FMRs are not adequate to ensure success among assisted families in the PHA's segment of the FMR area
☒ Reflects market or submarket
☒ To increase housing options for families
☐ Other (list below)

d. How often are payment standards reevaluated for adequacy? (select one)

☒ Annually
☐ Other (list below)

e. What factors will the PHA consider in its assessment of the adequacy of its payment standard? (select all that apply)

☒ Success rates of assisted families
☒ Rent burdens of assisted families
☐ Other (list below)

(2) Minimum Rent

a. What amount best reflects the PHA's minimum rent? (select one)

☐ $0
☐ $1-$25
☒ $26-$50

b. ☐ Yes ☒ No: Has the PHA adopted any discretionary minimum rent hardship exemption policies? (if yes, list below)

5. Operations and Management

[24 CFR Part 903.7 9 (e)]

Exemptions from Component 5: High performing and small PHAs are not required to complete this section. Section 8 only PHAs must complete parts A, B, and C(2)

A. PHA Management Structure

Describe the PHA's management structure and organization.

(select one)

☒ An organization chart showing the PHA's management structure and organization is attached.
☐ A brief description of the management structure and organization of the PHA follows:

B. HUD Programs Under PHA Management

List Federal programs administered by the PHA, number of families served at the beginning of the upcoming fiscal year, and expected turnover in each. (Use "NA" to indicate that the PHA does not operate any of the programs listed below.)

Program Name	Units or Families Served at Year Beginning	Expected Turnover
Public Housing	301	36
Section 8 Vouchers	280	37
Section 8 Certificates		
Section 8 Mod Rehab		
Special Purpose Section 8 Certificates/Vouchers (list individually)		
Public Housing Drug Elimination Program (PHDEP)		
Other Federal Programs(list individually)		

C. Management and Maintenance Policies

List the PHA's public housing management and maintenance policy documents, manuals and handbooks that contain the Agency's rules, standards, and policies that govern maintenance and management of public housing, including a description of any measures necessary for the prevention or eradication of pest infestation (which includes cockroach infestation) and the policies governing Section 8 management.

(1) Public Housing Maintenance and Management: (list below)

Admissions and Continued Occupancy Policy
Blood Borne Diseases Policy
Capitalization Policy
Check Signing Policy
Criminal Records Management Policy
Drug Free Workplace Policy
Equal Housing Opportunity Policy
Funds Transfer Policy
Grievance Procedure
Hazardous Materials Policy
Investment Policy
Maintenance Policy

Natural Disaster Response Guidelines
Pest Control Policy
Procurement and Disposition Policy
Maintenance Plan
House Rules and Regulations

(2) Section 8 Management: (list below)

Section 8 Administrative Plan

Policies listed above that relate to the overall management of the Stratford Housing Authority for both Public Housing and the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program.

6. PHA Grievance Procedures

[24 CFR Part 903.7 9 (f)]

Exemptions from component 6: High performing PHAs are not required to complete component 6. Section 8-Only PHAs are exempt from sub-component 6A.

A. Public Housing

1. ☐ Yes ☒ No: Has the PHA established any written grievance procedures in addition to federal requirements found at 24 CFR Part 966, Subpart B, for residents of public housing?

If yes, list additions to federal requirements below:

2. Which PHA office should residents or applicants to public housing contact to initiate the PHA grievance process? (select all that apply)

☒ PHA main administrative office
☐ PHA development management offices
☐ Other (list below)

B. Section 8 Tenant-Based Assistance

1. ☐ Yes ☒ No: Has the PHA established informal review procedures for applicants to the Section 8 tenant-based assistance program and informal hearing procedures for families assisted by the Section 8 tenant-based assistance program in addition to federal requirements found at 24 CFR 982?

If yes, list additions to federal requirements below:

2. Which PHA office should applicants or assisted families contact to initiate the informal review and informal hearing processes? (select all that apply)

☒ PHA main administrative office

☐ Other (list below)

7. Capital Improvement Needs

[24 CFR Part 903.7 9 (g)]

Exemptions from Component 7: Section 8 only PHAs are not required to complete this component and may skip to Component 8.

A. Capital Fund Activities

Exemptions from sub-component 7A: PHAs that will not participate in the Capital Fund Program may skip to component 7B. All other PHAs must complete 7A as instructed.

(1) Capital Fund Program Annual Statement

Using parts I, II, and III of the Annual Statement for the Capital Fund Program (CFP), identify capital activities the PHA is proposing for the upcoming year to ensure long-term physical and social viability of its public housing developments. This statement can be completed by using the CFP Annual Statement tables provided in the table library at the end of the PHA Plan template **OR**, at the PHA's option, by completing and attaching a properly updated HUD-52837.

Select one:

☒ The Capital Fund Program Annual Statement is provided as an attachment to the PHA Plan at Attachment (state name) ct027b01

-or-

☐ The Capital Fund Program Annual Statement is provided below: (if selected, copy the CFP Annual Statement from the Table Library and insert here)

(2) Optional 5-Year Action Plan

Agencies are encouraged to include a 5-Year Action Plan covering capital work items. This statement can be completed by using the 5 Year Action Plan table provided in the table library at the end of the PHA Plan template **OR** by completing and attaching a properly updated HUD-52834.

a. ☒ Yes ☐ No: Is the PHA providing an optional 5-Year Action Plan for the Capital Fund? (if no, skip to sub-component 7B)

b. If yes to question a, select one:

☒ The Capital Fund Program 5-Year Action Plan is provided as an attachment to the PHA Plan at Attachment (state name) ct027d01

-or-

☐ The Capital Fund Program 5-Year Action Plan is provided below: (if selected, copy the CFP optional 5 Year Action Plan from the Table Library and insert here)

B. HOPE VI and Public Housing Development and Replacement Activities (Non-Capital Fund)

Applicability of sub-component 7B: All PHAs administering public housing. Identify any approved HOPE VI and/or public housing development or replacement activities not described in the Capital Fund Program Annual Statement.

☐ Yes ☒ No: a) Has the PHA received a HOPE VI revitalization grant? (if no, skip to question c; if yes, provide responses to question b for each grant, copying and completing as many times as necessary)

b) Status of HOPE VI revitalization grant (complete one set of questions for each grant)

1. Development name:
2. Development (project) number:
3. Status of grant: (select the statement that best describes the current status)
   - ☐ Revitalization Plan under development
   - ☐ Revitalization Plan submitted, pending approval
   - ☐ Revitalization Plan approved
   - ☐ Activities pursuant to an approved Revitalization Plan underway

☐ Yes ☒ No: c) Does the PHA plan to apply for a HOPE VI Revitalization grant in the Plan year?
If yes, list development name/s below:

☐ Yes ☒ No: d) Will the PHA be engaging in any mixed-finance development activities for public housing in the Plan year?
If yes, list developments or activities below:

☒ Yes ☐ No: e) Will the PHA be conducting any other public housing development or replacement activities not discussed in the Capital Fund Program Annual Statement?
If yes, list developments or activities below:

The Housing Authority of the Town of Stratford will be utilizing Replacement Housing Factor money for the acquisition of additional public housing rental units. In addition to the Replacement Housing Factor moneys, the Housing Authority will leverage money from the Section 8 Program reserve account.

8. Demolition and Disposition

[24 CFR Part 903.7 9 (h)]

Applicability of component 8: Section 8 only PHAs are not required to complete this section.

1. ☒ Yes ☐ No: Does the PHA plan to conduct any demolition or disposition activities (pursuant to section 18 of the U.S. Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437p)) in the plan Fiscal Year? (If "No", skip to component 9; if "yes", complete one activity description for each development.)

2. Activity Description

☐ Yes ☒ No: Has the PHA provided the activities description information in the **optional** Public Housing Asset Management Table? (If "yes", skip to component 9. If "No", complete the Activity Description table below.)

Demolition/Disposition Activity Description
1a. Development name: Hearthstone 1b. Development (project) number: CT027-1A
2. Activity type: Demolition ☐ Disposition ☒
3. Application status (select one) Approved ☐ Submitted, pending approval ☐ Planned application ☒
4. Date application approved, submitted, or planned for submission: (29/12/09)
5. Number of units affected: 0 6. Coverage of action (select one) ☒ Part of the development (vacant land) ☐ Total development
7. Timeline for activity: a. Actual or projected start date of activity: unknown at this time

b. Projected end date of activity: unknown at this time

Demolition/Disposition Activity Description
1a. Development name: Hearthstone 1b. Development (project) number: CT027-1A
2. Activity type: Demolition ☐ Disposition ☒
3. Application status (select one) Approved ☐ Submitted, pending approval ☐ Planned application ☒
4. Date application approved, submitted, or planned for submission: (29/12/09)
5. Number of units affected: 100 6. Coverage of action (select one) ☐ Part of the development ☒ Total development
7. Timeline for activity: a. Actual or projected start date of activity: unknown at this time b. Projected end date of activity: unknown at this time

9. Designation of Public Housing for Occupancy by Elderly Families or Families with Disabilities or Elderly Families and Families with Disabilities

[24 CFR Part 903.7 9 (i)]

Exemptions from Component 9; Section 8 only PHAs are not required to complete this section.

1. ☒ Yes ☐ No: Has the PHA designated or applied for approval to designate or does the PHA plan to apply to designate any public housing for occupancy only by the elderly families or only by families with disabilities, or by elderly families and families with disabilities or will apply for designation for occupancy by only elderly families or only families with disabilities, or by elderly families and families with disabilities as provided by section 7 of the U.S. Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437e) in the upcoming fiscal year? (If "No", skip to component 10. If "yes", complete one activity description for each development, unless the PHA is eligible to complete a streamlined submission; PHAs completing streamlined submissions may skip to component 10.)

2. Activity Description

☐ Yes ☒ No: Has the PHA provided all required activity description information for this component in the **optional** Public Housing

Asset Management Table? If "yes", skip to component 10. If "No", complete the Activity Description table below.

Designation of Public Housing Activity Description
1a. Development name: Robert F. Kennedy Apartments 1b. Development (project) number: CT26P27002
2. Designation type: Occupancy by only the elderly ☐ Occupancy by families with disabilities ☐ Occupancy by only elderly families and families with disabilities ☒ 55 units of elderly and 16 units for persons with disabilities
3. Application status (select one) Approved; included in the PHA's Designation Plan ☒ Submitted, pending approval ☐ Planned application ☐
4. Date this designation approved: (21/12/2006)
5. If approved, will this designation constitute a (select one) ☐ New Designation Plan ☒ Revision of a previously-approved Designation Plan?
6. Number of units affected: 71 7. Coverage of action (select one) ☒ Part of the development ☐ Total development

Designation of Public Housing Activity Description
1a. Development name: Raymond E. Baldwin Apartments 1b. Development (project) number: CT26P27003
2. Designation type: Occupancy by only the elderly ☒ Occupancy by families with disabilities ☐ Occupancy by only elderly families and families with disabilities ☐
3. Application status (select one) Approved; included in the PHA's Designation Plan ☒ Submitted, pending approval ☐ Planned application ☐
4. Date this designation approved: (21/12/2006)
5. If approved, will this designation constitute a (select one) ☐ New Designation Plan ☒ Revision of a previously-approved Designation Plan?
7. Number of units affected: 72 7. Coverage of action (select one) ☒ Part of the development ☐ Total development

Designation of Public Housing Activity Description
1a. Development name: Elm Terrace Apartments 1b. Development (project) number: CT26P27001B
2. Designation type: Occupancy by only the elderly ☒ Occupancy by families with disabilities ☐ Occupancy by only elderly families and families with disabilities ☐
3. Application status (select one) Approved; included in the PHA's Designation Plan ☒ Submitted, pending approval ☐ Planned application ☐
4. Date this designation approved: (21/12/2006)
5. If approved, will this designation constitute a (select one) ☐ New Designation Plan ☒ Revision of a previously-approved Designation Plan?
8. Number of units affected: 47 7. Coverage of action (select one) ☒ Part of the development ☐ Total development

10. Conversion of Public Housing to Tenant-Based Assistance

[24 CFR Part 903.7 9 (j)]

Exemptions from Component 10; Section 8 only PHAs are not required to complete this section.

A. Assessments of Reasonable Revitalization Pursuant to section 202 of the HUD FY 1996 HUD Appropriations Act

1. ☐ Yes ☒ No: Have any of the PHA's developments or portions of developments been identified by HUD or the PHA as covered under section 202 of the HUD FY 1996 HUD Appropriations Act? (If "No", skip to component 11; if "yes", complete one activity description for each identified development, unless eligible to complete a streamlined submission. PHAs completing streamlined submissions may skip to component 11.)

2. Activity Description

☐ Yes ☐ No: Has the PHA provided all required activity description information for this component in the **optional** Public Housing Asset Management Table? If "yes", skip to component 11. If "No", complete the Activity Description table below.

Conversion of Public Housing Activity Description
1a. Development name: 1b. Development (project) number:

2. What is the status of the required assessment? ☐ Assessment underway ☐ Assessment results submitted to HUD ☐ Assessment results approved by HUD (if marked, proceed to next question) ☐ Other (explain below)
3. ☐ Yes ☐ No: Is a Conversion Plan required? (If yes, go to block 4; if no, go to block 5.)
4. Status of Conversion Plan (select the statement that best describes the current status) ☐ Conversion Plan in development ☐ Conversion Plan submitted to HUD on: (DD/MM/YYYY) ☐ Conversion Plan approved by HUD on: (DD/MM/YYYY) ☐ Activities pursuant to HUD-approved Conversion Plan underway
5. Description of how requirements of Section 202 are being satisfied by means other than conversion (select one) ☐ Units addressed in a pending or approved demolition application (date submitted or approved: ☐ Units addressed in a pending or approved HOPE VI demolition application (date submitted or approved:) ☐ Units addressed in a pending or approved HOPE VI Revitalization Plan (date submitted or approved:) ☐ Requirements no longer applicable: vacancy rates are less than 10 percent ☐ Requirements no longer applicable: site now has less than 300 units ☐ Other: (describe below)

B. Reserved for Conversions pursuant to Section 22 of the U.S. Housing Act of 1937

C. Reserved for Conversions pursuant to Section 33 of the U.S. Housing Act of 1937

11. Homeownership Programs Administered by the PHA

[24 CFR Part 903.7 9 (k)]

A. Public Housing

Exemptions from Component 11A: Section 8 only PHAs are not required to complete 11A.

1. ☒ Yes ☐ No: Does the PHA administer any homeownership programs administered by the PHA under an approved section 5(h) homeownership program (42 U.S.C. 1437c(h)), or an approved HOPE I program (42 U.S.C. 1437aaa) or has the PHA applied or plan to apply to administer any homeownership programs under section 5(h), the HOPE I program, or section 32 of the U.S. Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437z-4). (If "No", skip to component 11B; if "yes", complete one activity description for each applicable program/plan, unless eligible to complete a streamlined submission due to **small PHA** or **high performing PHA** status. PHAs completing streamlined submissions may skip to component 11B.)

2. Activity Description

☐ Yes ☒ No: Has the PHA provided all required activity description information for this component in the **optional** Public Housing Asset Management Table? (If "yes", skip to component 12. If "No", complete the Activity Description table below.)

Public Housing Homeownership Activity Description (Complete one for each development affected)
1a. Development name: CT027005 1b. Development (project) number: 496 Sedgewick
2. Federal Program authority: ☐ HOPE I ☐ 5(h) ☐ Turnkey III ☒ Section 32 of the USHA of 1937 (effective 10/1/99)
3. Application status: (select one) ☐ Approved; included in the PHA's Homeownership Plan/Program ☐ Submitted, pending approval ☒ Planned application
4. Date Homeownership Plan/Program approved, submitted, or planned for submission: (30/06/2009
5. Number of units affected: 1 6. Coverage of action: (select one) ☐ Part of the development ☒ Total development

B. Section 8 Tenant Based Assistance

1. ☐ Yes ☒ No: D oes the PHA plan to administer a Section 8 Homeownership program pursuant to Section 8(y) of the U.S.H.A. of 1937, as implemented by 24 CFR part 982 ? (If "No", skip to component 12; if "yes", describe each program using the table below (copy and complete questions for each program identified), unless the

PHA is eligible to complete a streamlined submission due to high performer status. **High performing PHAs** may skip to component 12.)

2. Program Description:

a. Size of Program

☐ Yes ☐ No: Will the PHA limit the number of families participating in the section 8 homeownership option?

If the answer to the question above was yes, which statement best describes the number of participants? (select one)

☐ 25 or fewer participants
☐ 26 - 50 participants
☐ 51 to 100 participants
☐ more than 100 participants

b. PHA-established eligibility criteria

☐ Yes ☐ No: Will the PHA's program have eligibility criteria for participation in its Section 8 Homeownership Option program in addition to HUD criteria?
If yes, list criteria below:

12. PHA Community Service and Self-sufficiency Programs

[24 CFR Part 903.7 9 (l)]

Exemptions from Component 12: High performing and small PHAs are not required to complete this component. Section 8-Only PHAs are not required to complete sub-component C.

A. PHA Coordination with the Welfare (TANF) Agency

1. Cooperative agreements:

☐ Yes ☒ No: Has the PHA has entered into a cooperative agreement with the TANF Agency, to share information and/or target supportive services (as contemplated by section 12(d)(7) of the Housing Act of 1937)?

If yes, what was the date that agreement was signed? DD/MM/YY

2. Other coordination efforts between the PHA and TANF agency (select all that apply)

☒ Client referrals
☒ Information sharing regarding mutual clients (for rent determinations and otherwise)

☒ Coordinate the provision of specific social and self-sufficiency services and programs to eligible families
☐ Jointly administer programs
☐ Partner to administer a HUD Welfare-to-Work voucher program
☐ Joint administration of other demonstration program
☐ Other (describe)

B. Services and programs offered to residents and participants

(1) General

a. Self-Sufficiency Policies
Which, if any of the following discretionary policies will the PHA employ to enhance the economic and social self-sufficiency of assisted families in the following areas? (select all that apply)
☐ Public housing rent determination policies
☒ Public housing admissions policies
☒ Section 8 admissions policies
☐ Preference in admission to section 8 for certain public housing families
☒ Preferences for families working or engaging in training or education programs for non-housing programs operated or coordinated by the PHA
☐ Preference/eligibility for public housing homeownership option participation
☐ Preference/eligibility for section 8 homeownership option participation
☐ Other policies (list below)

b. Economic and Social self-sufficiency programs

☐ Yes ☒ No: Does the PHA coordinate, promote or provide any programs to enhance the economic and social self-sufficiency of residents? (If "yes", complete the following table; if "no" skip to sub-component 2, Family Self Sufficiency Programs. The position of the table may be altered to facilitate its use.)

Services and Programs				
Program Name & Description (including location, if appropriate)	Estimated Size	Allocation Method (waiting list/random	Access (development office / PHA main office / other provider name)	Eligibility (public housing or section 8 participants or

		selection/specific criteria/other)		both)

(2) Family Self Sufficiency program/s

a. Participation Description

Family Self Sufficiency (FSS) Participation		
Program	Required Number of Participants (start of FY 2000 Estimate)	Actual Number of Participants (As of: DD/MM/YY)
Public Housing	0	
Section 8	0	

b. ☐ Yes ☐ No: If the PHA is not maintaining the minimum program size required by HUD, does the most recent FSS Action Plan address the steps the PHA plans to take to achieve at least the minimum program size?
If no, list steps the PHA will take below:

C. Welfare Benefit Reductions

1. The PHA is complying with the statutory requirements of section 12(d) of the U.S. Housing Act of 1937 (relating to the treatment of income changes resulting from welfare program requirements) by: (select all that apply)

☒ Adopting appropriate changes to the PHA's public housing rent determination policies and train staff to carry out those policies
☒ Informing residents of new policy on admission and reexamination
☐ Actively notifying residents of new policy at times in addition to admission and reexamination.
☐ Establishing or pursuing a cooperative agreement with all appropriate TANF agencies regarding the exchange of information and coordination of services
☐ Establishing a protocol for exchange of information with all appropriate TANF agencies

☐ Other: (list below)

D. Reserved for Community Service Requirement pursuant to section 12(c) of the U.S. Housing Act of 1937

13. PHA Safety and Crime Prevention Measures

[24 CFR Part 903.7 9 (m)]

Exemptions from Component 13: High performing and small PHAs not participating in PHDEP and Section 8 Only PHAs may skip to component 15. High Performing and small PHAs that are participating in PHDEP and are submitting a PHDEP Plan with this PHA Plan may skip to sub-component D.

A. Need for measures to ensure the safety of public housing residents

1. Describe the need for measures to ensure the safety of public housing residents (select all that apply)

☐ High incidence of violent and/or drug-related crime in some or all of the PHA's developments
☐ High incidence of violent and/or drug-related crime in the areas surrounding or adjacent to the PHA's developments
☐ Residents fearful for their safety and/or the safety of their children
☒ Observed lower-level crime, vandalism and/or graffiti
☐ People on waiting list unwilling to move into one or more developments due to perceived and/or actual levels of violent and/or drug-related crime
☐ Other (describe below)

2. What information or data did the PHA used to determine the need for PHA actions to improve safety of residents (select all that apply).

☒ Safety and security survey of residents
☐ Analysis of crime statistics over time for crimes committed “in and around” public housing authority
☐ Analysis of cost trends over time for repair of vandalism and removal of graffiti
☒ Resident reports
☒ PHA employee reports
☒ Police reports
☒ Demonstrable, quantifiable success with previous or ongoing anticrime/anti drug programs
☐ Other (describe below)

3. Which developments are most affected? (list below)

Hearthstone (Development 27-1A)

B. Crime and Drug Prevention activities the PHA has undertaken or plans to undertake in the next PHA fiscal year

1. List the crime prevention activities the PHA has undertaken or plans to undertake: (select all that apply)

☐ Contracting with outside and/or resident organizations for the provision of crime- and/or drug-prevention activities
☐ Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design
☒ Activities targeted to at-risk youth, adults, or seniors
☐ Volunteer Resident Patrol/Block Watchers Program
☐ Other (describe below)

2. Which developments are most affected? (list below)

Hearthstone (Development 27-1A)

C. Coordination between PHA and the police

1. Describe the coordination between the PHA and the appropriate police precincts for carrying out crime prevention measures and activities: (select all that apply)

☐ Police involvement in development, implementation, and/or ongoing evaluation of drug-elimination plan
☒ Police provide crime data to housing authority staff for analysis and action
☒ Police have established a physical presence on housing authority property (e.g., community policing office, officer in residence)
☐ Police regularly testify in and otherwise support eviction cases
☐ Police regularly meet with the PHA management and residents
☐ Agreement between PHA and local law enforcement agency for provision of above-baseline law enforcement services
☐ Other activities (list below)

2. Which developments are most affected? (list below)

Hearthstone (Development 27-1A)

D. Additional information as required by PHDEP/PHDEP Plan

PHAs eligible for FY 2000 PHDEP funds must provide a PHDEP Plan meeting specified requirements prior to receipt of PHDEP funds.

☐ Yes ☐ No: Is the PHA eligible to participate in the PHDEP in the fiscal year covered by this PHA Plan?

☐ Yes ☐ No: Has the PHA included the PHDEP Plan for FY 2000 in this PHA Plan?
☐ Yes ☐ No: This PHDEP Plan is an Attachment. (Attachment Filename: ___)

14. RESERVED FOR PET POLICY

[24 CFR Part 903.7 9 (n)]

15. Civil Rights Certifications

[24 CFR Part 903.7 9 (o)]

Civil rights certifications are included in the PHA Plan Certifications of Compliance with the PHA Plans and Related Regulations.

16. Fiscal Audit

[24 CFR Part 903.7 9 (p)]

1. ☒ Yes ☐ No: Is the PHA required to have an audit conducted under section 5(h)(2) of the U.S. Housing Act of 1937 (42 U S.C. 1437c(h))? (If no, skip to component 17.)
2. ☒ Yes ☐ No: Was the most recent fiscal audit submitted to HUD?
3. ☐ Yes ☒ No: Were there any findings as the result of that audit?
4. ☐ Yes ☐ No: If there were any findings, do any remain unresolved? If yes, how many unresolved findings remain?____
5. ☐ Yes ☐ No: Have responses to any unresolved findings been submitted to HUD? If not, when are they due (state below)?

17. PHA Asset Management

[24 CFR Part 903.7 9 (q)]

Exemptions from component 17: Section 8 Only PHAs are not required to complete this component. High performing and small PHAs are not required to complete this component.

1. ☒ Yes ☐ No: Is the PHA engaging in any activities that will contribute to the long-term asset management of its public housing stock , including how the Agency will plan for long-term operating, capital investment, rehabilitation, modernization, disposition, and other needs that have **not** been addressed elsewhere in this PHA Plan?

2. What types of asset management activities will the PHA undertake? (select all that apply)

☐ Not applicable
☐ Private management
☒ Development-based accounting
☐ Comprehensive stock assessment
☐ Other: (list below)

3. ☐ Yes ☒ No: Has the PHA included descriptions of asset management activities in the **optional** Public Housing Asset Management Table?

18. Other Information

[24 CFR Part 903.7 9 (r)]

A. Resident Advisory Board Recommendations

1. ☒ Yes ☐ No: Did the PHA receive any comments on the PHA Plan from the Resident Advisory Board/s?

2. If yes, the comments are: (if comments were received, the PHA **MUST** select one)
☐ Attached at Attachment (File name)
☒ Provided below:

3. In what manner did the PHA address those comments? (select all that apply)
☒ Considered comments, but determined that no changes to the PHA Plan were necessary.
☐ The PHA changed portions of the PHA Plan in response to comments
List changes below:

☐ Other: (list below)

B. Description of Election process for Residents on the PHA Board

1. ☐ Yes ☒ No: Does the PHA meet the exemption criteria provided section 2(b)(2) of the U.S. Housing Act of 1937? (If no, continue to question 2; if yes, skip to sub-component C.)

2. ☐ Yes ☒ No: Was the resident who serves on the PHA Board elected by the residents? (If yes, continue to question 3; if no, skip to sub-component C.)

3. Description of Resident Election Process

a. Nomination of candidates for place on the ballot: (select all that apply)

☐ Candidates were nominated by resident and assisted family organizations
☐ Candidates could be nominated by any adult recipient of PHA assistance
☐ Self-nomination: Candidates registered with the PHA and requested a place on ballot
☐ Other: (describe)

b. Eligible candidates: (select one)
☐ Any recipient of PHA assistance
☐ Any head of household receiving PHA assistance
☐ Any adult recipient of PHA assistance
☐ Any adult member of a resident or assisted family organization
☐ Other (list)

c. Eligible voters: (select all that apply)
☐ All adult recipients of PHA assistance (public housing and section 8 tenant-based assistance)
☐ Representatives of all PHA resident and assisted family organizations
☐ Other (list)

C. Statement of Consistency with the Consolidated Plan

For each applicable Consolidated Plan, make the following statement (copy questions as many times as necessary).

1. Consolidated Plan jurisdiction: Town of Stratford, CT

2. The PHA has taken the following steps to ensure consistency of this PHA Plan with the Consolidated Plan for the jurisdiction: (select all that apply)

☒ The PHA has based its statement of needs of families in the jurisdiction on the needs expressed in the Consolidated Plan/s.
☒ The PHA has participated in any consultation process organized and offered by the Consolidated Plan agency in the development of the Consolidated Plan.
☒ The PHA has consulted with the Consolidated Plan agency during the development of this PHA Plan.
☒ Activities to be undertaken by the PHA in the coming year are consistent with the initiatives contained in the Consolidated Plan. (list below)

The Stratford Housing Authority has a long history of working hand-in-hand with the Town of Stratford to implement various components of the initiatives of the Consolidated Plan. In addition, the Town of Stratford, the Stratford Housing Authority, Planning Department, and the Economic and Community Development Department are all represented on the Housing Partnership. The Housing Partnership and the Town Departments listed above currently

participate in efforts to enhance coordination between public and private agencies, non-profit service providers and private citizens to provide affordable housing opportunities. More specifically, the Consolidated Plan outlines the following priorities:

1. *Housing Needs The priority housing needs have been placed on renters earning less than 30% of median income and less than 50% of median income.*

2. *Homeless Needs The Town of Stratford will place priority on the continued assessment of homeless needs through various social service agencies.*

3. *Other Special Needs A priority need which has been identified is the need to provide supportive housing for the frail elderly.*

4. *Non-Housing Community Development Needs Stratford's priority non-housing community development needs focus on limited clientele groups including elderly, handicapped, pubic housing residents and residents of low and moderate income areas. Public facilities and improvements will be undertaken to serve these groups. In addition, public services will be targeted toward these groups.*

The Stratford Housing Authority will undertake the following activities in the coming year which are consistent with the initiatives contained in the Consolidated Plan:

1. The Stratford Housing Authority will follow the statutory requirement that at least 40% of newly admitted families in the Public Housing Program in any fiscal year be families whose annual income is at or below 30% of the area median income.

2. The Stratford Housing Authority will meet the statutory requirement that 75% of newly admitted families in the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program in any fiscal year be families who are extremely low income at or below 30% of the area median income.

3. The Stratford Housing Authority in Federal Fiscal Year 1999 (renewed on 12/21/2006 for a 5 year period) designated 55 units at Robert F. Kennedy Apartments, 72 units at Raymond E. Baldwin Apartments, 47 units at Elm Terrace Apartments as elderly only, and 16 units at Robert F. Kennedy Apartments for persons with disabilities. In Federal Fiscal Year 2009e Stratford Housing Authority will endeavor to house 10% of the annual turnover of the Housing Choice Voucher Program to persons with disabilities.

4. The Stratford Housing Authority will encourage and support working families with the implementation of the Flat Rent.

☐ Other: (list below)

4. The Consolidated Plan of the jurisdiction supports the PHA Plan with the following actions and commitments: (describe below)

Vacant Unit Painting - $50,000

D. Other Information Required by HUD

Use this section to provide any additional information requested by HUD.

Attachments

Use this section to provide any additional attachments referenced in the Plans.

PHA Plan
Table Library

Component 7
Capital Fund Program Annual Statement
Parts I, II, and II

Annual Statement
Capital Fund Program (CFP) Part I: Summary

Capital Fund Grant Number FFY of Grant Approval: (MM/YYYY)

☐ Original Annual Statement

Line No.	Summary by Development Account	Total Estimated Cost
1	Total Non-CGP Funds	
2	1406 Operations	
3	1408 Management Improvements	
4	1410 Administration	
5	1411 Audit	
6	1415 Liquidated Damages	
7	1430 Fees and Costs	
8	1440 Site Acquisition	
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18	1498 Mod Used for Development	
19	1502 Contingency	
20	**Amount of Annual Grant (Sum of lines 2-19)**	
21	Amount of line 20 Related to LBP Activities	
22	Amount of line 20 Related to Section 504 Compliance	
23	Amount of line 20 Related to Security	
24	Amount of line 20 Related to Energy Conservation Measures	

Annual Statement
Capital Fund Program (CFP) Part II: Supporting Table

Development Number/Name HA-Wide Activities	General Description of Major Work Categories	Development Account Number	Total Estimated Cost

Annual Statement
Capital Fund Program (CFP) Part III: Implementation Schedule

Development Number/Name HA-Wide Activities	All Funds Obligated (Quarter Ending Date)	All Funds Expended (Quarter Ending Date)

Optional Table for 5-Year Action Plan for Capital Fund (Component 7)

Complete one table for each development in which work is planned in the next 5 PHA fiscal years. Complete a table for any PHA-wide physical or management improvements planned in the next 5 PHA fiscal year. Copy this table as many times as necessary. Note: PHAs need not include information from Year One of the 5-Year cycle, because this information is included in the Capital Fund Program Annual Statement.

Optional 5-Year Action Plan Tables			
Development Number	**Development Name (or indicate PHA wide)**	**Number Vacant Units**	**% Vacancies in Development**

Description of Needed Physical Improvements or Management Improvements	Estimated Cost	Planned Start Date (HA Fiscal Year)
Total estimated cost over next 5 years		

Optional Public Housing Asset Management Table

See Technical Guidance for instructions on the use of this table, including information to be provided.

Public Housing Asset Management								
Development Identification		**Activity Description**						
Name, Number, and Location	Number and Type of units	Capital Fund Program Parts II and III *Component 7a*	Development Activities *Component 7b*	Demolition / disposition *Component 8*	Designated housing *Component 9*	Conversion *Component 10*	Home-ownership *Component 11a*	Other (describe) *Component 17*

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ADMISSIONS AND CONTINUED OCCUPANCY POLICY

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

Further, anytime a condition, statement, or requirement applies, or can apply, to all programs equally, and it is beneficial, expedient, or otherwise in the best interests of the Stratford Housing Authority, then it shall be applicable whether or not it is written specifically in a particular program. This will include State housing programs administered by the Authority also. Applicability to State housing programs shall be at the sole discretion of the Authority and can be deleted, altered or modified at any time.

1.0 FAIR HOUSING

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

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

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

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

2.0 REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION

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

2.1 COMMUNICATION

Anyone requesting an application will also receive a Request for Reasonable Accommodation form.

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

2.2 QUESTIONS TO ASK IN GRANTING THE ACCOMMODATION

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

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

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

B. Is the requested accommodation related to the disability? If it is apparent that the request is related to the apparent or documented disability, the answer to this question is yes. If it is not apparent, the Stratford Housing Authority will obtain documentation that the requested accommodation is needed due to the disability. The Stratford Housing Authority will not inquire as to the nature of the disability.

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

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

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

D. Generally the individual knows best what it is he or she needs; however, the Stratford Housing Authority retains the right to be shown how the requested accommodation enables the individual to access or use the Stratford Housing Authority's programs or services.

If more than one accommodation is equally effective in providing access to the Stratford Housing Authority’s programs and services, the Stratford Housing Authority retains the right to select the most efficient or economic choice.

The cost necessary to carry out approved requests, including requests for physical modifications, will be borne by the Stratford Housing Authority if there is no one else willing to pay for the modifications. If another party pays for the modification, the Stratford Housing Authority will seek to have the same entity pay for any restoration costs.

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

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

3.0 SERVICES FOR LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY APPLICANTS AND RESIDENTS

The Stratford Housing Authority shall do its best, within reason, to assist people with Limited English Proficiency (LEP). This shall be accomplished by assessing the need of LEP persons using the four factors described in the January 22, 2007 Final Guidance to Federal Financial Assistance Recipients Regarding Title VI Prohibition Against National Origin Discrimination Affecting Limited English Proficient Persons; Notice published in the Federal Register. The Stratford Housing Authority shall balance these factors in deciding what to do:

1. The number or proportion of LEP persons served or encountered in the eligible service area;

2. The Frequency with which LEP individuals come in contact with the program;

3. The nature and importance of the program, activity, or service provided by the program; and

4. The resources available to the Housing Authority and costs.

Depending upon what this analysis reveals, the Stratford Housing Authority may or may not prepare a Language Access Plan (LAP). If a LAP is needed, the guidance outlined in the above reference Notice shall be utilized.

In addition, the Stratford Housing Authority will endeavor to have bilingual staff or access to people who speak languages other than English. Finally, the Stratford Housing Authority shall utilize multilingual “I speak” cards to the maximum degree possible.

4.0 FAMILY OUTREACH

The Stratford Housing Authority will publicize the availability and nature of the Public Housing Program for extremely low-income, very low and low-income families in a newspaper of general circulation, minority media, and by other suitable means.

To reach people who cannot or do not read the newspapers, the Stratford Housing Authority will distribute fact sheets to the broadcasting media and initiate personal contacts with members of the news media and community service personnel as feasible. The Stratford Housing Authority will also try to utilize public service announcements.

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

The objective of this effort is to develop a waiting list that is representative of our low-income community. A particular emphasis will be placed on attracting eligible individuals and families least likely to apply for public housing.

5.0 RIGHT TO PRIVACY

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

Any request for applicant or tenant information will not be released unless there is a signed release of information request from the applicant or tenant or unless it is releasable under the Freedom of Information Act.

6.0 REQUIRED POSTINGS

In its main offices, the Stratford Housing Authority will post, in a conspicuous place and at a height easily read by all persons including persons with mobility disabilities, the following information:

A. Statement of Policies and Procedures governing Admission and Continued Occupancy

B. Notice of the status of the waiting list (opened or closed)

C. A listing of all the developments by name, address, number of units, units designed with special accommodations, address of all project offices, office hours, telephone numbers, TDD numbers, and Resident Facilities and operation hours

D. Income Limits for Admission

E. Excess Utility Charges

F. Utility Allowance Schedule

G. Current Schedule of Routine Maintenance Charges

H. Dwelling Lease

I. Grievance Procedure

J. Fair Housing Poster

K. Equal Opportunity in Employment Poster

L. Any current Stratford Housing Authority Notices

7.0 TAKING APPLICATIONS

Families wishing to apply for the Public Housing Program will be required to complete an application for housing assistance. Applications will be accepted at the main office, during regular business hours at:

295 Everett Street
Stratford, CT

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

Completed applications will be accepted either in person or by mail for all applicants and the Stratford Housing Authority will verify the information.

Applications may be made in person at the main office, located at 295 Everett Street, Stratford, CT on Monday through Friday, 8:30 am to 4:30 p.m. Applications will be mailed to interested families upon request.

The completed application will be dated and time stamped upon its return to the Stratford Housing Authority.

Persons with disabilities who require a reasonable accommodation in completing an application may call the Stratford Housing Authority to make special arrangements. A Telecommunication Device for the Deaf (TDD) is available for the deaf. The TDD telephone number is (800) 855-1155.

The application process will involve two phases. The first phase is the initial application for housing assistance or the pre-application. The pre-application requires the family to provide limited basic information (i.e., family composition, income, etc.) establishing any

preferences to which they may be entitled. This first phase results in an apparently eligible family's placement on the waiting list.

Upon receipt of the family's pre-application, the Stratford Housing Authority will make a preliminary determination of eligibility. The Stratford Housing Authority will provide an apparently eligible family with written receipt indicating the date and time of placement on the waiting list, and the approximate wait before housing may be offered. If the Stratford Housing Authority determines the family to be ineligible, the notice will state the reasons therefore and will offer the family the opportunity of an informal review of the determination.

The applicant may at any time report changes in their applicant status including changes in family composition, income, or preference factors. The Stratford Housing Authority will annotate the applicant's file and will update their place on the waiting list. Confirmation of the changes will be made in writing.

The second phase is the final determination of eligibility, referred to as the full application. The full application takes place when the family nears the top of the waiting list. The Stratford Housing Authority will ensure that verification of all preferences, eligibility, suitability and selection factors are current (less than 90 days old) in order to determine the family's final eligibility for admission into the Public Housing Program.

8.0 ELIGIBILITY FOR ADMISSION

8.1 INTRODUCTION

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

8.2 ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

A. Family Status - All families must have a Head of Household or Co-Heads of Household.

1. A **family with or without children**. Such a family is defined as a group of people related by blood, marriage, adoption or operation of law and regularly living together in a stable family relationship.

   a. Children temporarily absent from the home due to placement in foster care are considered family members.

b. Unborn children and children in the process of being adopted are considered family members for the purpose of determining bedroom size but are not considered family members for determining income limit.

2. An **elderly family**, which is:

a. A family whose head, spouse, or sole member is a person who is at least 62 years of age;

b. Two or more persons who are at least 62 years of age living together; or

c. One or more persons who are at least 62 years of age living with one or more live-in aides.

3. A **near elderly family**, which is:

a. A family whose head, spouse, or sole member is a person who is at least 50 years of age but below the age of 62;

b. Two or more persons, who are at least 50 years of age but below the age of 62, living together; or

c. One or more persons, who are at least 50 years of age but below the age of 62, living with one or more live-in aides.

4. A **disabled family**, which is:

a. A family whose head, spouse, or sole member is a person with disabilities;

b. Two or more persons with disabilities living together; or

c. One or more persons with disabilities living with one or more live-in aides.

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

5. A **displaced family**, which is a family in which each member, or whose sole member, has been displaced by governmental action, or whose

dwelling has been extensively damaged or destroyed as a result of a disaster declared or otherwise formally recognized pursuant to Federal disaster relief laws.

6. A **remaining member of a tenant family**.

7. A **single person** who is not an elderly or displaced person, a person with disabilities, or the remaining member of a tenant family.

B. Income Eligibility

1. To be eligible for admission to developments or scattered-site units, the family's annual income must be within the low-income limit set by HUD. This means the family income cannot exceed 80 percent of the median income for the area. If the property has Low Income Tax Credits on it, a lower income cap will apply.

2. Income limits apply only at admission and are not applicable for continued occupancy.

3. A family may not be admitted to the public housing program from another assisted housing program (e.g., tenant-based Section 8) or from a public housing program operated by another housing authority without meeting the income requirements of the Stratford Housing Authority.

4. If the Stratford Housing Authority acquires a property for federal public housing purposes, the families living there must have incomes within the low-income limit in order to be eligible to remain as public housing residents.

5. Income limit restrictions do not apply to families transferring within our Public Housing Program.

6. The Stratford Housing Authority may allow police officers who would not otherwise be eligible for occupancy in public housing to reside in a public housing dwelling unit. Such occupancy must be needed to increase security for public housing residents. Their rent shall at least equal the cost of operating the public housing unit.

C. Citizenship/Eligibility Status

1. To be eligible for public housing each member of the family must be a citizen, national, or a noncitizen who has eligible immigration status under one of the categories set forth in Section 214 of the Housing and

Community Development Act of 1980 (see 42 U.S.C. 1436a(a)).

2. Family eligibility for assistance.

a. A family shall not be eligible for assistance unless at least one member of the family residing in the unit is determined to have eligible status, with the exception noted below.

b. Despite the ineligibility of one or more family members, a mixed family may be eligible for one of three types of assistance (See Section 13.6 for calculating rents under the noncitizen rule).

c. A family without any eligible members and receiving assistance on June 19, 1995 may be eligible for temporary deferral of termination of assistance.

D. Social Security Number Documentation

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

E. Signing Consent Forms

1. In order to be eligible, each member of the family who is at least 18 years of age, and each family head and spouse regardless of age, shall sign one or more consent forms.

2. The consent form must contain, at a minimum, the following:

a. A provision authorizing HUD or the Stratford Housing Authority to obtain from State Wage Information Collection Agencies (SWICAs) any information or materials necessary to complete or verify the application for participation or for eligibility for continued occupancy;

b. A provision authorizing HUD or the Stratford Housing Authority to verify with previous or current employers or other sources of income information pertinent to the family's eligibility for or level of assistance;

c. A provision authorizing HUD to request income information from the IRS and the SSA for the sole purpose of verifying income

information pertinent to the family's eligibility or level of benefits; and

d. A statement allowing the Stratford Housing Authority permission to access the applicant's criminal record with any and all police and/or law enforcement agencies, and

e. A statement that the authorization to release the information requested by the consent form expires 15 months after the date the consent form is signed.

F. Special College Student Eligibility Rules

In order to be eligible for public housing, college students living outside their parents or guardians homes must have established a separate household for at least one year prior to applying to the public housing program. This will be verified by presenting to the Stratford Housing Authority evidence of the establishment of the separate household.

The college student must not be claimed as a dependent by parents or guardians on their IRS returns. This will be verified by examining the student's IRS return for the previous year. The Stratford Housing Authority will examine the box that asks if someone else claimed them on their tax return.

If the student is receiving athletic scholarship that includes over $5,000 a year for housing costs, the student shall not be eligible for public housing.

8.3 SUITABILITY

A. Applicant families will be evaluated to determine whether, based on their recent behavior, such behavior could reasonably be expected to result in noncompliance with the public housing lease. The Stratford Housing Authority will look at past conduct as an indicator of future conduct. Emphasis will be placed on whether a family's admission could reasonably be expected to have a detrimental effect on the development environment, other tenants, Stratford Housing Authority employees, or other people residing in the immediate vicinity of the property. Otherwise eligible families will be denied admission if they fail to meet the suitability criteria. Suitability will also apply to persons requested to be designated as live-in-aides.

B. The Stratford Housing Authority will consider objective and reasonable aspects of the family's background, including the following:

1. History of meeting financial obligations, especially rent and utility

payments;

2. Ability to maintain (or with assistance would have the ability to maintain) their housing in a decent and safe condition based on living or housekeeping habits and whether such habits could adversely affect the health, safety, or welfare of other tenants;

3. History of criminal activity by any household member involving crimes of physical violence against persons or property and any other criminal activity including drug-related criminal activity that would adversely affect the health, safety, or well being of other tenants or staff or cause damage to the property;

4. History of disturbing neighbors or destruction of property;

5. Having committed fraud in connection with any Federal housing assistance program, including the intentional misrepresentation of information related to their housing application or benefits derived there from; and

6. History of abusing alcohol in a way that may interfere with the health, safety, or right to peaceful enjoyment by others.

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

1. A credit check of the head, spouse, co-head, and any other adult family members;

2. A rental history check of all adult family members;

3. A criminal background check on all adult household members, including live-in aides. This check will be made through State or local law enforcement or court records in those cases where the household member has lived in the local jurisdiction for the last three years. Where the individual has lived outside the local area, the Stratford Housing Authority may contact law enforcement agencies where the individual had lived or request a check through the FBI's National Crime Information Center (NCIC);

4. A home visit. The home visit provides the opportunity for the family to demonstrate their ability to maintain their home in a safe and sanitary

manner. This inspection considers cleanliness and care of rooms, appliances, and appurtenances. The inspection may also consider any evidence of criminal activity; and

5. A check of the State's lifetime sex offender registration program for each adult household member, including live-in aides. No individual registered with this program will be admitted to public housing. The Stratford Housing Authority will check with our State registry and if the applicant has resided in another State(s), with that State(s)'s list.

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

8.4 GROUNDS FOR DENIAL

The Stratford Housing Authority is not required or obligated to assist applicants who:

A. Do not meet any one or more of the eligibility criteria;

B. Do not supply timely information or documentation required by the application process;

C. Have failed to respond to a written request for information or a request to declare their continued interest in the program;

D. Have a history of not meeting financial obligations, especially rent;

E. Do not have the ability to maintain (with assistance) their housing in a decent and safe condition where such habits could adversely affect the health, safety, or welfare of other tenants;

F. Have a history of criminal activity by any household member involving crimes of physical violence against persons or property and any other criminal activity including drug-related criminal activity that would adversely affect the health, safety, or well being of other tenants or staff or cause damage to the property;

An applicant who is or has been a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking is not an appropriate basis for denial of program assistance or for denial of admission, if the applicant otherwise qualifies for assistance or admission. The Authority will require verification in all cases where an applicant claims protection against an action proposed to be taken by the Authority involving such individual. Types of acceptable verifications are outlined in Section 20.2B of the

ACOP, and must be submitted within 10 business days after receipt of the Housing Authority's request for verification.

G. Have a history of disturbing neighbors or destruction of property;

H. Currently owe rent or other amounts to any housing authority in connection with their public housing or Section 8 programs;

I. Have committed fraud, bribery or any other corruption in connection with any Federal housing assistance program, including the intentional misrepresentation of information related to their housing application or benefits derived there from;

J. Were evicted from assisted housing within three years of the projected date of admission because of drug-related criminal activity involving personal use or possession for personal use;

K. Were evicted from assisted housing within five years of the projected date of admission because of drug-related criminal activity involving the illegal manufacture, sale, distribution, or possession with the intent to manufacture, sell, distribute a controlled substance as defined in Section 102 of the Controlled Substances Act, 21 U.S.C. 802;

L. Are illegally using a controlled substance or are abusing alcohol in a way that may interfere with the health, safety, or right to peaceful enjoyment of the premises by other residents. The Stratford Housing Authority at its sole discretion may waive this requirement if:

1. The person demonstrates to the Stratford Housing Authority's satisfaction that the person is no longer engaging in drug-related criminal activity or abuse of alcohol;

2. Has successfully completed a supervised drug or alcohol rehabilitation program;

3. Has otherwise been rehabilitated successfully; or

4. Is participating in a supervised drug or alcohol rehabilitation program.

M. Have engaged in or threatened abusive or violent behavior towards any Stratford Housing Authority staff member or resident;

N. Have a household member who as an adult has ever been evicted from public housing;

O. Have a family household member who as an adult has been terminated under the certificate or voucher program;

P. Fugitive felons, parole violators, and persons fleeing to avoid prosecution, or custody or confinement after conviction, for a crime, or attempt to commit a crime, that is a felony under the laws of the place from which the individual flees;

Q. **Denied for Life:** If any family member has been convicted of manufacturing or producing methamphetamine (speed) in a public housing development or in a Section 8 assisted property, or on the premises of other federally assisted housing;

R. **Denied for Life:** Has a lifetime registration under a State sex offender registration program.

Before the Stratford Housing Authority denies admission to the Stratford Housing Authority's public housing program on the basis of a criminal record, the Stratford Housing Authority must notify the household of the proposed action to be based on the information and must provide the subject of the record and the applicant with a copy of the criminal record and an opportunity to dispute the accuracy and relevance of that record. The applicant will have seven (7) calendar days to dispute the accuracy and relevance of the record in writing. If the Stratford Housing Authority does not receive the dispute within seven (7) calendar days, the applicant will be denied.

Additionally, if the Stratford Housing Authority prohibits admission of persons for a prescribed period of time after some disqualifying behavior or event, the Stratford Housing Authority may apply that prohibition for a longer period of time at its sole discretion.

8.5 INFORMAL REVIEW

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

The informal review may be conducted by any person designated by the Stratford Housing Authority, other than a person who made or approved the decision under review or subordinate of this person. The applicant must be given the opportunity to present written or oral objections to the Stratford Housing Authority's decision. The Stratford Housing Authority must notify the applicant of the final decision

within 14 business days after the informal review, including a brief statement of the reasons for the final decision.

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

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

9.0 MANAGING THE WAITING LIST

9.1 OPENING AND CLOSING THE WAITING LIST

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

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

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

Any approved venture preference applicant may be exempt from the closed waiting list at the sole discretion of the Stratford Housing Authority. (see “Preferences,” 10.1)

9.2 ORGANIZATION OF THE WAITING LIST

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

A. The application will be a permanent file;

B. All applications will be maintained in order of bedroom size, preference, and then in order of date and time of application; and

C. Any pertinent contact between the Stratford Housing Authority and the applicant will be documented in the applicant file.

9.3 FAMILIES NEARING THE TOP OF THE WAITING LIST

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

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

9.4 PURGING THE WAITING LIST

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

9.5 REMOVAL OF APPLICANTS FROM THE WAITING LIST

The Stratford Housing Authority will not remove an applicant's name from the waiting list unless:

A. The applicant requests in writing that the name be removed;

B. The applicant fails to respond to a written request for information or a request to declare their continued interest in the program;

C. The applicant does not meet either the eligibility or suitability criteria for the program; or

D. The applicant is housed.

Applicants will be offered the right to an informal review before being removed from the waiting list.

9.6 MISSED APPOINTMENTS

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

The Stratford Housing Authority will allow the family to reschedule for good cause. Generally, no more than one opportunity will be given to reschedule without good cause, and no more than two opportunities will be given for good cause. When good cause exists for missing an appointment, the Stratford Housing Authority will work closely with the family to find a more suitable time.

9.7 NOTIFICATION OF NEGATIVE ACTIONS

Any applicant whose name is being removed from the waiting list will be notified by the Stratford Housing Authority, in writing, that they have ten (10) business days from the date of the written correspondence to present mitigating circumstances or request in writing an informal review. The letter will also indicate that their name will be removed from the waiting list if they fail to respond within the timeframe specified. The Stratford Housing Authority system of removing applicant names from the waiting list will not violate the rights of persons with disabilities. If an applicant claims that their failure to respond to a request for information or updates was caused by a disability and files a written request for a reasonable accommodation, the Stratford Housing Authority will verify that there is in fact a disability and the disability caused the failure to respond, and provide a reasonable accommodation. An example of a reasonable accommodation would be to reinstate the applicant on the waiting list based on the date and time of the original application.

10.0 TENANT SELECTION AND ASSIGNMENT PLAN

10.1 PREFERENCES

The Stratford Housing Authority will select families based on the following preferences within each bedroom size category based on our local housing needs and priorities:

A. Venture Preference: At the sole discretion of the SHA, and on a case by case basis, the Authority may grant preference to those tenants who have voluntarily ventured out from Public Housing in an attempt to improve their social and/or economic status, to otherwise make valid life improvements, or for other good reason as solely determined by the SHA, where the venture has proven unsuccessful and the tenant again needs public housing program assistance.

The former tenant applicant, if approved, would be immediately placed at the top of the waiting list and assigned the next available unit appropriate to the family size.

The following will be considered in the approval of venture preferences:

1. The SHA tenant history including rent payment record, housekeeping, reason for vacating and anything else the SHA deems appropriate.

2. The reason(s) the venture was unsuccessful.

3. Any other factor, reason or circumstance the Authority deems appropriate.

The former tenant must make application within twenty-four (24) months. The time period may be extended by the Stratford Housing Authority on a case-by case basis, at its sole discretion, if it is determined that such an extension would benefit the former tenant and serve the best interest of the Stratford Housing Authority.

B. Residency Preference: Applicants with an adult family member who either lives or works or has been hired to work in the Town of Stratford will qualify for a residency preference.

The Residency Preference will not have the purpose or effect of delaying or otherwise denying admission to the program based on the race, color, ethnic origin, gender, religion, disability, or age of any member of an applicant family.

C. Applicants with an adult member enrolled in an employment-training program, currently working 30 hours per week or more, or attending school on a full time basis. This is also extended equally to elderly families and all families whose head or spouse is receiving income based on an inability to work

D. Applicants not currently housed or assisted through a Federal, State or similar public housing or housing choice voucher program.

E. All other applicants

Of the preferences specified above, a Venture Preference shall be weighted the highest and shall place the applicant at the top of the waiting list. All other preferences specified above shall be weighted equally, in which case families with the highest number of preferences shall be selected before families with fewer preferences.

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

NOTE: A resident is defined as any person verified as living in the municipal jurisdiction of the Town of Stratford, CT or any person working or notified that they have been hired to work in the municipal jurisdiction of the Town of Stratford. The Executive Director may, at his sole discretion and on a case-by-case basis, grant residency status for applicants who are not currently residents but who were former residents for a period of time. Among the factors to be considered will be duration and continuity of former residency, and any other considerations deemed appropriate by the Executive Director.

Buildings Designated as Elderly Only Housing: The following developments have been approved by HUD as being designated for elderly only:

55 elderly only units – Robert F. Kennedy Apartments
72 elderly only units – Raymond E. Baldwin Apartments
47 elderly only units – Elm Terrace Apartments

In filling vacancies in these developments, first priority will be given to elderly families. If there are no elderly families on the list, next priority will be given to the near-elderly. If there are no near-elderly, units will be offered to families who qualify for the appropriate bedroom size. Using these priorities, families will be selected from the waiting list using the preferences as outlined above.

Buildings Designated for Disabled Only Housing: Robert F. Kennedy Apartments has been approved by HUD as being designated for persons with disabilities only for 16 units. In filling vacancies in this development, first priority will be given to disabled families. If there are no disabled families on the list, next priority will be given to families who qualify for the appropriate bedroom size. Using these priorities, families will be selected from the waiting list using the preferences as outlined above.

Accessible Units: Accessible units will be first offered to families on the transfer list who may
benefit from the accessible features who reside in the development that has the vacancy. If there are no families residing in that development needing the accessible unit, it shall then be offered to families residing in other developments who may benefit from the accessible unit and on the transfer list. If there are no

families residing in the other developments needing the accessible unit, it shall then be offered to applicants on the waiting list who may benefit from the accessible features. Applicants for these units will be selected utilizing the same preference system as outlined above.

If there are no applicants who would benefit from the accessible features, the units will be offered to other applicants in the order that their names come to the top of the waiting list. Such applicants, however, will be requested to sign a lease rider stating they will accept a transfer (at the Housing Authority's expense) if, at a future time, a family requiring an accessible feature applies or a family requires a transfer from a non-accessible unit. Any family required to transfer will be given a 30-day notice.

10.2 ASSIGNMENT OF BEDROOM SIZES

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

Number of Bedrooms	Number of Persons	
	Minimum	Maximum
0	1	1
1	1	2
2	2	4
3	3	6
4	4	8

These standards are based on the assumption that each bedroom will accommodate no more than two (2) persons. Zero bedroom units will only be assigned to one-person families. Local codes will apply. Two adults will share a bedroom unless related by blood.

In determining bedroom size, the Stratford Housing Authority will include the presence of children to be born to a pregnant woman, children who are in the process of being adopted, children whose custody is being obtained, children currently under a 50% or more joint custody decree, children who are temporarily away at school, or children who are temporarily in foster-care.

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

A. Children of the same sex will share a bedroom.

B. Children of the opposite sex, both under the age of six (6), will share a bedroom.

C. Adults and children will not be required to share a bedroom.

D. Foster adults and/or foster children will not be required to share a bedroom with family members.

E. Live-in aides will get a separate bedroom.

Exceptions to normal bedroom size standards include the following:

A. Units smaller than assigned through the above guidelines – A family may request a smaller unit size than the guidelines allow. The Stratford Housing Authority will allow the smaller size unit so long as generally no more than two (2) people per bedroom are assigned and it does not violate local code. In such situations, the family will sign a certification stating they understand they will be ineligible for a larger size unit until the family size changes.

B. Units larger than assigned through the above guidelines – A family may request a larger unit size than the guidelines allow. The Stratford Housing Authority may allow the larger size unit if the family provides a verified medical need that the family be housed in a larger unit. The Stratford Housing Authority retains the right to obtain and/or require independent medical verification at the Stratford Housing Authority's expense.

C. If there are no families on the waiting list for a larger size, smaller families may be housed if they sign a release form stating they will transfer (at the family's own expense) to the appropriate size unit when an eligible family needing the larger unit applies. The family transferring will be given a 30-day notice before being required to move.

D. Larger units may be offered in order to improve the marketing of a development suffering a high vacancy rate.

E. In no event will a single person who is not an elderly person, a displaced person, or a person with disabilities be provided with a unit that is larger than one-bedroom.

10.3 SELECTION FROM THE WAITING LIST

The Stratford Housing Authority shall follow the statutory requirement that at least 40% of newly admitted families in any fiscal year be families whose annual income is at or below 30% of the area median income. To ensure this requirement is met we shall quarterly monitor the incomes of newly admitted families and the incomes of the families on the waiting list. If it appears that the requirement to house extremely low-income families will not be met, we will skip higher income families on the waiting list to reach extremely low-income families.

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

If admissions of extremely low-income families to the Stratford Housing Authority's voucher program during a fiscal year exceed the 75 % minimum targeting requirement for the Stratford Housing Authority's voucher program, such excess shall be credited (subject to the limitations in this paragraph) against the Stratford Housing Authority's basic targeting requirement for the same fiscal year.

The fiscal year credit for voucher program admissions that exceeds the minimum voucher program targeting requirement shall not exceed the lower of:

A. 10 % of public housing waiting list admissions during the Stratford Housing Authority fiscal year;

B. 10 % of waiting list admissions to the Stratford Housing Authority's Section 8 tenant-based assistance program during the PHA fiscal year; or

C. The number of qualifying low income families who commence occupancy during the fiscal year of Stratford Housing Authority public housing units located in census tracts with a poverty rate of 30 % or more. For this purpose, qualifying low income family means a low-income family other than an extremely low-income family.

10.4 DECONCENTRATION POLICY

It is the Stratford Housing Authority's policy to provide for deconcentration of poverty and encourage income mixing by bringing higher income families into lower income developments and lower income families into higher income developments. Toward this end, we will skip families on the waiting list to reach other families with a lower or higher income. We will accomplish this in a uniform and non-discriminating manner.

The Stratford Housing Authority will affirmatively market our housing to all eligible income groups. Lower income residents will not be steered toward lower income

developments and higher income people will not be steered toward higher income developments.

Prior to the beginning of each fiscal year, we will analyze the income levels of families residing in each of our developments and the income levels of the families on the waiting list. Based on this analysis, we will determine the level of marketing strategies and deconcentration incentives to implement.

10.5 DECONCENTRATION INCENTIVES

The Stratford Housing Authority may offer one or more incentives to encourage applicant families whose income classification would help to meet the deconcentration goals of a particular development.

Various incentives may be used at different times, or under different conditions, but will always be provided in a consistent and nondiscriminatory manner.

10.6 OFFER OF A UNIT

When the Stratford Housing Authority discovers that a unit may become available, we will contact the first family on the waiting list who has the highest priority for this type of unit or development and whose income category would help to meet the deconcentration goal and/or the income targeting goal.

The Stratford Housing Authority will contact the family via first class mail or by telephone to make the unit offer. If the family is contacted by first class mail, they will have seventy-two hours from the date of the letter to accept or reject the unit. If the family was contacted by telephone, they will have twenty-four (24) hours to accept or reject the unit. This verbal offer and the family's decision must be documented in the tenant file. If the family rejects the offer of the unit, the Stratford Housing Authority will send the family a letter documenting the offer and the rejection and inform them of their removal and their ability to reapply six months after the date of removal from the waiting list.

10.7 REJECTION OF UNIT

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

If the Stratford Housing Authority did not skip over other families on the waiting list to reach this family, did not offer any other deconcentration incentive, and the family rejects

the unit without good cause, the family will be removed from the waiting list and will be required to wait six months before being eligible to reapply.

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

10.8 ACCEPTANCE OF UNIT

The family will be required to sign a lease that will become effective no later than three (3) business days after the date of acceptance or the business day after the day the unit becomes available, whichever is later. This timeframe may be waived at the sole discretion of the Stratford Housing Authority on case by case basis.

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

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

The signing of the lease and the review of financial information are to be privately handled. The head of household and all adult family members will be required to execute the lease prior to admission. One executed copy of the lease will be furnished to the head of household and the Stratford Housing Authority will retain the original executed lease in the tenant's file. A copy of the grievance procedure and the rules and regulations will be attached to the resident's copy of the lease and/or otherwise provided at lease signing.

The family will pay a security deposit at the time of lease signing. The security deposit will be based on the rent system chosen by the resident. It will be equal to either the Total Tenant Payment (if the percent of income rent system is chosen) or the Flat Rent (if that system is chosen), or in either case, $100, whichever is greater.

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

rent payment. This shall be at the sole discretion of the Housing Authority, and on a case by case basis.

In the case of a move within public housing, the security deposit for the first unit will be transferred to the second unit. Additionally, if the security deposit for the second unit is greater than that for the first, the difference will be collected from the family. Conversely, if the security deposit is less, the difference will be refunded to the family.

In the event there are costs attributable to the family for bringing the first unit into condition for re-renting, the family shall be billed for these charges, which may be recovered from the security deposit.

11.0 INCOME, EXCLUSIONS , AND DEDUCTIONS FROM INCOME

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

If a tenant is found to have made misrepresentations at any time which resulted in his being classified as eligible, when in fact, he was ineligible and the misrepresentation resulted in his paying a lower rent than was appropriate, he shall be required to pay the difference between the actual payments and the amount which should have been paid. In justifiable instances the Authority may take such other action as it deems advisable. If it is determined that a tenant has committed fraud, especially in the non-reporting of income, then that tenant shall be processed for eviction.

11.1 INCOME

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

A. Go to (or on behalf of) the family head or spouse (even if temporarily absent) or to any other family member; or

B. Are anticipated to be received from a source outside the family during the 12-month period following admission or annual reexamination effective date; and

C. Are not specifically excluded from annual income.

If it is not feasible to anticipate a level of income over a 12-month period (e.g. seasonal or cyclic income), or the Stratford Housing Authority believes that past income is the best available indicator of expected future income, the Stratford Housing Authority may

annualize the income anticipated for a shorter period, subject to a redetermination at the end of the shorter period.

Annual income includes, but is not limited to, the amounts specified in the federal regulations currently found in 24 CFR 5.609:

A. The full amount, before any payroll deductions, of wages and salaries, overtime pay, commissions, fees, tips and bonuses, and other compensation for personal services.

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

C. Interest, dividends, and other net income of any kind from real or personal property. Expenditures for amortization of capital indebtedness are not used as deductions in determining net income. An allowance for depreciation of assets used in a business or profession may be deducted, based on straight-line depreciation, as provided in Internal Revenue Service regulations. Any withdrawal of cash or assets from an investment is included in income, except to the extent the withdrawal is reimbursement of cash or assets invested by the family. Where the family has net family assets in excess of $5,000, annual income includes the greater of the actual income derived from all net family assets or a percentage of the value of such assets based on the current passbook savings rate, as determined by HUD. Income that could have been derived from assets worth more than $1,000 that were disposed of for less than fair market value within the past two years will be counted as income.

D. The full amount of periodic amounts received from Social Security, annuities, insurance policies, retirement funds, pensions, disability or death benefits, and other similar types of periodic receipts, including a lump-sum amount or prospective monthly amounts for the delayed start of a periodic amount. (However, deferred periodic amounts from supplemental security income and Social Security benefits that are received in a lump sum amount or in prospective monthly amounts are excluded.)

E. Payments in lieu of earnings, such as unemployment and disability compensation, worker's compensation, and severance pay. (However, lump sum additions such as insurance payments from worker's compensation are excluded.)

F. Welfare assistance.

1. Welfare assistance payments

a. Welfare assistance payments made under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program are included in annual income only to the extent such payments:

i. Qualify as assistance under the TANF program definition at 45 CFR 260.31; and

ii. Are not otherwise excluded under paragraph Section 11.2 of this Policy.

b. If the welfare assistance payment includes an amount specifically designated for shelter and utilities that is subject to adjustment by the welfare assistance agency in accordance with the actual cost of shelter and utilities, the amount of welfare assistance income to be included as income consists of:

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

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

2. Imputed welfare income

a. A family's annual income includes the amount of imputed welfare income (because of a specified welfare benefits reductions resulting from either welfare fraud or the failure to comply with economic self-sufficiency requirements, as specified in notice to the Stratford Housing Authority by the welfare agency) plus the total amount of other annual income.

b. At the request of the Stratford Housing Authority, the welfare agency will inform the Stratford Housing Authority in writing of the amount and term of any specified welfare benefit reduction for a family member, and the reason for such reduction, and will also inform the Stratford Housing Authority of any subsequent changes

in the term or amount of such specified welfare benefit reduction. The Stratford Housing Authority will use this information to determine the amount of imputed welfare income for a family.

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

d. The amount of the imputed welfare income is offset by the amount of additional income a family receives that commences after the time the sanction was imposed. When such additional income from other sources is at least equal to the imputed welfare income, the imputed welfare income is reduced to zero.

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

f. If a resident is not satisfied that the Stratford Housing Authority has calculated the amount of imputed welfare income in accordance with HUD requirements, and if the Stratford Housing Authority denies the family's request to modify such amount, then the Stratford Housing Authority shall give the resident written notice of such denial, with a brief explanation of the basis for the Stratford Housing Authority's determination of the amount of imputed welfare income. The Stratford Housing Authority's notice shall also state that if the resident does not agree with the determination, the resident may grieve the decision in accordance with Stratford Housing Authority's grievance policy. The resident is not required to pay an escrow deposit for the portion of the resident's rent attributable to the imputed welfare income in order to obtain a grievance hearing.

3. Relations with welfare agencies

a. The Stratford Housing Authority will ask welfare agencies to inform it of any specified welfare benefits reduction for a family member, the reason for such reduction, the term of any such reduction, and any subsequent welfare agency determination affecting the amount or term of a specified welfare benefits reduction. If the welfare agency determines a specified welfare benefits reduction for a family member, and gives the Stratford

Housing Authority written notice of such reduction, the family's annual income shall include the imputed welfare income because of the specified welfare benefits reduction.

b. The Stratford Housing Authority is responsible for determining the amount of imputed welfare income that is included in the family's annual income as a result of a specified welfare benefits reduction as determined by the welfare agency and specified in the notice by the welfare agency to the housing authority. However, the Stratford Housing Authority is not responsible for determining whether a reduction of welfare benefits by the welfare agency was correctly determined by the welfare agency in accordance with welfare program requirements and procedures, nor for providing the opportunity for review or hearing on such welfare agency determinations.

c., Such welfare agency determinations are the responsibility of the welfare agency, and the family may seek appeal of such determinations through the welfare agency's normal due process procedures. The Stratford Housing Authority shall rely on the welfare agency notice to the Stratford Housing Authority of the welfare agency's determination of a specified welfare benefits reduction.

G. Periodic and determinable allowances, such as alimony, child support payments, and regular contributions or gifts received from organizations or from persons not residing in the dwelling.

H. All regular pay, special pay, and allowances of a member of the Armed Forces. (Special pay to a member exposed to hostile fire is excluded.)

11.2 ANNUAL INCOME

Annual income does not include the following amounts specified in the federal regulations currently found in 24 CFR 5.609:

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

B. Payments received for the care of foster children or foster adults (usually persons with disabilities, unrelated to the tenant family, who are unable to live alone) or payments made under Kin-GAP or similar guardianship care programs for children leaving the juvenile court system.;

C. Lump-sum additions to family assets, such as inheritances, insurance payments (including payments under health and accident insurance and worker's compensation), capital gains, and settlement for personal or property losses;

D. Amounts received by the family that are specifically for, or in reimbursement of, the cost of medical expenses for any family member;

E. Income of a live-in aide;

F. The full amount of student financial assistance paid directly to the student or to the educational institution unless it is an athletic scholarship that includes assistance available for housing costs and that portion is included in income;

G. The special pay to a family member serving in the Armed Forces who is exposed to hostile fire;

H. The amounts received from the following programs:

1. Amounts received under training programs funded by HUD;

2. Amounts received by a person with a disability that are disregarded for a limited time for purposes of Supplemental Security Income eligibility and benefits because they are set aside for use under a Plan to Attain Self-Sufficiency (PASS);

3. Amounts received by a participant in other publicly assisted programs that are specifically for or in reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses incurred (special equipment, clothing, transportation, child care, etc.) and that are made solely to allow participation in a specific program;

4. Amounts received under a resident service stipend. A resident service stipend is a modest amount (not to exceed $200 per month) received by a resident for performing a service for the Housing Authority or owner, on a part-time basis, that enhances the quality of life in the development. Such services may include, but are not limited to, fire patrol, hall monitoring, lawn maintenance, resident initiatives coordination, and serving as a member of the Stratford Housing Authority governing board. No resident may receive more than one such stipend during the same period of time;

5. Incremental earnings and benefits resulting to any family member from participation in qualifying State or local employment training programs (including training programs not affiliated with a local government) and training of a family member as resident management staff. Amounts excluded by this provision must be received under employment training

programs with clearly defined goals and objectives and are excluded only for the period during which the family member participates in the employment training program;

6. Temporary, nonrecurring or sporadic income (including gifts);

7. Reparation payments paid by a foreign government pursuant to claims filed under the laws of that government by persons who were persecuted during the Nazi era;

8. Earnings in excess of $480 for each full-time student 18 years old or older (excluding the head of household and spouse);

9. Adoption assistance payments in excess of $480 per adopted child;

10. The incremental earnings due to employment during a cumulative 12-month period following date of the initial hire shall be excluded. This exclusion is only available to the following families:

    a. Families whose income increases as a result of employment of a family member who was previously unemployed for one or more years.

    b. Families whose income increases during the participation of a family member in any economic self-sufficiency or other job training program.

    c. Families who are or were, within 6 months, assisted under a State TANF or Welfare-To-Work program.

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

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

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

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

12. Amounts received by the family in the form of refunds or rebates under State or local law for property taxes paid on the dwelling unit;

13. Amounts paid by a State agency to a family with a member who has a developmental disability and is living at home to offset the cost of services and equipment needed to keep the developmentally disabled family member at home; or

14. Amounts specifically excluded by any other Federal statute from consideration as income for purposes of determining eligibility or benefits. These exclusions include:

    a. The value of the allotment of food stamps

    b. Payments to volunteers under the Domestic Volunteer Services Act of 1973

    c. Payments received under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act

    d. Income from submarginal land of the U.S. that is held in trust for certain Indian tribes

    e. Payments made under HHS's Low-Income Energy Assistance Program

    f. Payments received under the Job Training Partnership Act

    g. Income from the disposition of funds of the Grand River Band of Ottawa Indians

    h. The first $2000 per capita received from judgment funds awarded for certain Indian claims

    i. Amount of scholarships awarded under Title IV including Work Study

    j. Payments received under the Older Americans Act of 1965

    k. Payments from Agent Orange Settlement

l. Payments received under the Maine Indian Claims Act

m. The value of child care under the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990

n. Earned income tax credit refund payments

o. Payments for living expenses under the AmeriCorps Program

p. Payments by the Indian Claims Commission to the Confederated Tribes and Bands of Yakima Indian Nation or the Apache Tribe of Mescalero Reservation (Pub. L. 95–433);

q. Any allowance paid under the provisions of 38 U.S.C. 1805 to a child suffering from spina bifida who is the child of a Vietnam veteran (38 U.S.C. 1805);

r. Any amount of crime victim compensation (under the Victims of Crime Act) received through crime victim assistance (or payment or reimbursement of the cost of such assistance) as determined under the Victims of Crime Act because of the commission of a crime against the applicant under the Victims of Crime Act (42 U.S.C. 10602); and

s. Allowances, earnings and payments to individuals participating in programs under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2931).

t. Any low-income subsidy received to assist low-income persons in paying for their Medicare Prescription Drug Program.

u. Income payments from the U. S. Census Bureau defined as employment lasting no longer than 180 days and not culminating in permanent employment.

The Stratford Housing Authority will not provide exclusions from income in addition to those already provided for by HUD.

11.3 DEDUCTIONS FROM ANNUAL INCOME

The following deductions will be made from annual income:

A. $480 for each dependent;

B. $400 for any elderly family or disabled family;

C. The sum of the following, to the extent the sum exceeds 3 % of annual income:

1. Unreimbursed medical expenses of any elderly family or disabled family including any fee paid by the participant for the Medicare Prescription Drug Program; and

2. Unreimbursed reasonable attendant care and auxiliary apparatus expenses for each member of the family who is a person with disabilities, to the extent necessary to enable any member of the family (including the member who is a person with disabilities) to be employed, but this allowance may not exceed the earned income received by family members who are 18 years of age or older who are able to work because of such attendant care or auxiliary apparatus.

D. Reasonable child care expenses for children 12 and younger necessary to enable a member of the family to be employed or to further his or her education. This deduction shall not exceed the amount of employment income that is included in annual income.

11.4 RECEIPT OF A LETTER OR NOTICE FROM HUD CONCERNING INCOME

A. If a public housing resident receives a letter or notice from HUD concerning the amount or verification of family income, the letter shall be brought to the person responsible for income verification within thirty (30) days of receipt by the resident.

B. The **Project Manager** shall reconcile any difference between the amount reported by the resident and the amount listed in the HUD communication. This shall be done as promptly as possible.

C. After the reconciliation is complete, the Stratford Housing Authority shall, if appropriate adjust the resident's rent beginning at the start of the next month. If the reconciliation is completed during the final five (5) days of the month the new rent shall take effect on the first day of the second month following the end of the current month. In addition, if the resident had not previously reported the proper income, the Stratford Housing Authority shall do one of the following:

1. Immediately collect the back rent due to the agency;

2. Establish a repayment plan for the resident to pay the sum due to the agency;

3. Terminate the lease and evict for failure to report income; or

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

11.5 COOPERATING WITH WELFARE AGENCIES

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

A. To target assistance, benefits and services to families receiving assistance in the public housing and Section 8 tenant-based assistance program to achieve self-sufficiency; and

B. To provide written verification to the Stratford Housing Authority concerning welfare benefits for families applying for or receiving assistance in our housing assistance programs.

11.6 COOPERATING WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

The Stratford Housing Authority will comply, on a case-by case basis, with information requests from Federal, State or local law enforcement officers regarding possible fugitive felons and/or a parole or probation violators. The Stratford Housing Authority will supply upon legitimate request (1) the current address, (2) Social Security number and (3) photograph (if available) of any recipient of assistance.

The Federal, State or local enforcement officer must submit a request that is (1) written, (2) on law enforcement agency letterhead, and (3) is signed by the requesting officer and his or her immediate supervisor. The request for information must provide the name of the fugitive felon and/or parole or probation violator being sought, and may include other personal information used for identification. The request should also comply with the following requirements:

A. The law enforcement agency shall notify Stratford Housing Authority that the fugitive felon and/or parole or probation violator (i) is fleeing to avoid prosecution, custody or confinement after conviction, under the laws of the place from which the individual flees, for a crime, or attempt to commit a crime, which is a felony under the laws of the place from which the individual flees, or which, in the case of the State of New Jersey, is a high misdemeanor; or (ii) is violating a

condition of probation or parole imposed under Federal or State law; or (iii) has information that is necessary for the officer to conduct his/her official duties;

B. The location or apprehension of the recipient is within the Stratford Housing Authority's official duties; and,

C. The request is made in the proper exercise of the law enforcement agency's official duties.

12.0 VERIFICATION

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

12.1 ACCEPTABLE METHODS OF VERIFICATION

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

Other information will be verified by the following five verification methods acceptable to HUD, in the order of preference indicated:

1. Up-front Income Verifications (UIV)

UIV is the verification of income through an independent source that systematically maintains income information in computerized form for a large number of individuals.

Current UIV resources include the following:

a. **Enterprise Income Verification (EIV)** – HUD's online wage and benefit system that allows PHAs to verify tenant-reported income from an independent source in computerized form.

b. **State Wage Information Collection Agencies (SWICAs)**

c. **State systems for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program**

d. **Credit Bureau Information (CBA) credit reports**

e. **Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Letter 1722**

f. **Private sector databases (e.g. The Work Number)**

The Stratford Housing Authority will use additional UIV resources as they become available. This will be done before, during and/or after examinations and/or re-examinations of household income as appropriate.

It is important to note that UIV data will only be used to verify an resident's eligibility for participation in a rental assistance program and to determine the level of assistance the resident is entitled to receive and only by properly trained persons[1] whose duties require access to this information. Any other use, unless approved by the HUD Headquarters UIV Security System Administrator, is specifically prohibited and will not occur.

No adverse action can be taken against a resident until the Stratford Housing Authority has independently verified the UIV information and the resident has been granted an opportunity to contest any adverse findings through the established grievance procedure. The consequences of adverse findings may include the Stratford Housing Authority requiring the immediate payment of any over-subsidy, the entering into a repayment agreement, eviction, criminal prosecution, or any other appropriate remedy.

Furthermore, the information the Stratford Housing Authority derives from the UIV system will be protected to ensure that it is utilized solely for official purposes and not disclosed in any way that would violate the privacy of the affected individuals.

2. **Third –Party Written Verifications**

This type of verification includes written documentation, with forms sent directly to and received directly from a source, not passed through the hands of the family. It may also be a report generated automatically by another government agency, i.e., Department of Welfare, Veterans Administration, etc.

Third-party written verifications may also be used to supplement Up-front Income Verifications. They will be utilized when there is a discrepancy of $200 a month or more and the participant disputes the UIV results.

Third party verification of SS and SSI benefits shall be obtained by getting a copy of an official Social Security Administration letter of benefits from the person receiving the benefits and verification from HUD's on-line systems. If either of these forms is not obtainable, then the file shall be documented as to why third party verification was not used.

The Stratford Housing Authority will allow two (2) weeks for the return of third party written verifications prior to continuing on to the next type of verification.

3. Third-Party Oral Verifications

This type of verification includes direct contact with the source, in person or by telephone. When this method is used, staff members will be required to document in writing with whom they spoke, the date of the conversation and the facts obtained.

The Stratford Housing Authority will allow two (2) business days for the return of third party oral verifications prior to continuing on to the next type of verification.

4. Review of Documents

When UIV, written and oral third party verifications are not available within the two (2) week and two (2) business days period allowed in paragraphs 2 and 3 above, the Housing Authority will use the information received by the family, provided that the documents provide complete information. Photocopies of the documents, excluding government checks, provided by the family will be maintained in the file. In cases in which documents are viewed and cannot be photocopied, staff reviewing the documents will complete a written statement as to the contents of the document(s).

5. Self-Certification and Self-Declaration

When UIV, written and oral third party verifications are not available within the two (2) week and two (2) business days period allowed in paragraphs 2 and 3 above, and hand-carried verification cannot be obtained, the Housing Authority will accept a statement detailing information needed, signed by the head, spouse, co-head, or other adult family member.

Verification forms and reports received will be contained in the applicant/tenant file. Oral third party documentation will include the same information as if the documentation had been written, i.e. name, date of contact, amount received, etc.

When any verification method other than Up-Front Income Verification is utilized, the Stratford Housing Authority will document the reason for the choice of the verification methodology in the applicant/resident's file.

12.2 TYPES OF VERIFICATION

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

Verification Requirements for Individual Items		
Item to Be Verified	**3rd party verification**	**Hand-carried verification**
General Eligibility Items		
Social Security Number	Letter from Social Security, electronic reports	Social Security card or a third party document stating the Social Security Number
Adult Status of the Head of Household		Valid drivers license, identification card issued by a government agency, or a birth certificate.
Citizenship	N/A	Signed certification, voter's registration card, birth certificate, etc.
Eligible immigration status	INS SAVE confirmation #	INS card

Verification Requirements for Individual Items		
Item to Be Verified	**3rd party verification**	**Hand-carried verification**
Disability	Letter from medical professional, SSI, etc.	Proof of SSI or Social Security disability payments
Full time student status (if >18)	Letter from school	For high school and/or college students, any document evidencing enrollment
Need for a live-in aide	Letter from doctor or other professional knowledgeable of condition	N/A
Child care costs	Letter from care provider	Bills and receipts
Disability assistance expenses	Letters from suppliers, care givers, etc.	Bills and records of payment
Medical expenses	Letters from providers, prescription record from pharmacy, medical professional's letter stating assistance or a companion animal is needed	Bills, receipts, records of payment, dates of trips, mileage log, receipts for fares and tolls
Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage		A card issued by the private prescription drug plan with the words Rx on it.
Value of and Income from Assets		
Savings, checking accounts	Letter from institution	Passbook, most current statements
CDs, bonds, etc.	Letter from institution	Tax return, information brochure from institution, the CD, the bond
Stocks	Letter from broker or holding company	Stock or most current statement, price in newspaper or through Internet
Real property	Letter from tax office, assessment,	Property tax statement (for

Verification Requirements for Individual Items		
Item to Be Verified	**3rd party verification**	**Hand-carried verification**
	etc.	current value), assessment, records or income and expenses, tax return
Personal property held as an investment	Assessment, bluebook, etc.	Receipt for purchase, other evidence of worth
Cash value of whole life insurance policies	Letter from insurance company	Current statement
Assets disposed of for less than fair market value	N/A	Original receipt and receipt at disposition, other evidence of worth
Income		
Earned income	Letter from employer	Multiple pay stubs
Self-employed	N/A	Tax return from prior year, books of accounts
Regular gifts and contributions	Letter from source, letter from organization receiving gift (i.e., if grandmother pays day care provider, the day care provider could so state)	Bank deposits, other similar evidence
Alimony/child support	Court order, letter from source, letter from Human Services	Record of deposits, divorce decree
Social Security Administration		Letter from Social Security as verified by HUD computer systems.
Periodic payments (i.e., welfare, pensions, workers compensation, unemployment)	Letter or electronic reports from the source	Award letter, letter announcing change in amount of future payments
Training program participation	Letter from program provider indicating - whether enrolled or completed - whether training is HUD-funded - whether Federal, State, local govt.,	N/A

Verification Requirements for Individual Items		
Item to Be Verified	**3rd party verification**	**Hand-carried verification**
	or local program - whether it is employment training - whether it has clearly defined goals and objectives - whether program has supportive services - whether payments are for out-of-pocket expenses incurred in order to participate in a program - date of first job after program completion	Evidence of job start

12.3 VERIFICATION OF CITIZENSHIP OR ELIGIBLE NONCITIZEN STATUS

The citizenship/eligible noncitizen status of each family member regardless of age must be determined.

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

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

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

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

Noncitizen students on student visas, though in the country legally, are not eligible to be admitted to public housing. If they are members of families that include citizens, the rent

must be pro-rated.

Any family member who does not choose to declare their status must be listed on the statement of non-eligible members.

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

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

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

12.4 VERIFICATION OF SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS

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

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

If an individual states that they do not have a Social Security number, they will be required to sign a statement to this effect. The Stratford Housing Authority will not require any individual who does not have a Social Security number to obtain a Social Security number.

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

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

given one hundred and twenty (120) days to provide the verification. If the individual fails to provide the verification within the time allowed, the family will be evicted.

12.5 TIMING OF VERIFICATION

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

When an interim reexamination is conducted, the Housing Authority will verify and update those elements reported to have changed.

12.6 FREQUENCY OF OBTAINING VERIFICATION

Household composition will be verified annually. Household income will be verified depending on the type of rent method chosen by the family.

For each family member, citizenship/eligible noncitizen status will be verified only once unless the family member is an eligible immigrant in a transitional stage of admission. In this situation, their status must be updated until they are admitted for permanent residency. This verification will be obtained prior to admission. If the status of any family member was not determined prior to admission, verification of their status will be obtained at the next regular reexamination. Prior to a new member joining the family, their citizenship/eligible noncitizen status will be verified.

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

12.7 SPECIAL VERIFICATION FOR ADULT STUDENTS

In addition to other verification procedures, student head of households must provide a written signed certification that the student does or does not receive any financial support from his or her parents or guardians and whether or not the student is receiving an athletic scholarship. If support is received, the certification must state the amount of the anticipated support. The Stratford Housing Authority shall verify using normal third party verification procedures that amount by communicating directly with the supporting person(s). If an athletic scholarship is involved, the Stratford Housing Authority shall determine if any of the scholarship is available for housing costs.

13.0 DETERMINATION OF TOTAL TENANT PAYMENT AND TENANT RENT

13.1 FAMILY CHOICE

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

A. Families who opt for the flat rent will be required to go through the income reexamination process every three years, rather than the annual review they would otherwise undergo.

B. Families who opt for the flat rent may request to have a reexamination and return to the income based method at any time for any of the following reasons:

1. The family's income has decreased.

2. The family's circumstances have changed increasing their expenses for child care, medical care, etc.

3. Other circumstances creating a hardship on the family such that the formula method would be more financially feasible for the family.

C. Families have only one choice per year except for financial hardship cases. In order for families to make informed choices about their rent options, the Stratford Housing Authority will provide them with the following information whenever they have to make rent decisions:

1. The Stratford Housing Authority's policies on switching types of rent in case of a financial hardship; and

2 The dollar amount of tenant rent for the family under each option. If the family chose a flat rent for the previous year, the Stratford Housing Authority will provide the amount of income-based rent for the subsequent year only for the year the Stratford Housing Authority conducts an income reexamination or if the family specifically requests it and submits updated income information.

13.2 THE INCOME METHOD

The total tenant payment is equal to the highest of:

A. 10% of the family's monthly income;

B. 30% of the family's adjusted monthly income; or

C. If the family is receiving payments for welfare assistance from a public agency and a part of those payments, adjusted in accordance with the family's actual housing costs, is specifically designated by such agency to meet the family's housing costs, the portion of those payments which is so designated. If the family's welfare assistance is ratably reduced from the standard of need by applying a percentage, the amount calculated under this provision is the amount resulting from one application of the percentage; or

D. The minimum rent of $**50.00**.

13.3 MINIMUM RENT

The Stratford Housing Authority has set the minimum rent at $50.00. If the family requests a hardship exemption, however, the Stratford Housing Authority will suspend the minimum rent beginning the month following the family's request until the Housing Authority can determine whether the hardship exists and whether the hardship is of a temporary or long-term nature.

A. A hardship exists in the following circumstances:

1. When the family has lost eligibility for or is waiting an eligibility determination for a Federal, State, or local assistance program, including a family that includes a member who is a non-citizen lawfully admitted for permanent residence under the Immigration and Nationality Act who would be entitled to public benefits but for title IV of the Personal Responsibility and Work opportunity Act of 1996;

2. When the family would be evicted because it is unable to pay the minimum rent;

3. When the income of the family has decreased because of changed circumstances, including loss of employment; and

5. When a death has occurred in the family.

B. No hardship. If the Housing Authority determines there is no qualifying hardship, the minimum rent will be reinstated, including requiring back payment of minimum rent for the time of suspension.

C. Temporary hardship. If the Housing Authority reasonably determines that there is a qualifying hardship but that it is of a temporary nature, the minimum rent will be not be imposed for a period of 90 days from the beginning of the suspension of the minimum rent. At the end of the 90-day period, the minimum rent will be imposed retroactively to the time of suspension. The Housing Authority will offer a repayment agreement in accordance with Section 19 of this policy for any rent not paid during the period of suspension. During the suspension period the Housing Authority will not evict the family for nonpayment of the amount of tenant rent owed for the suspension period.

D. Long-term hardship. If the Housing Authority determines there is a long-term hardship, the family will be exempt from the minimum rent requirement until the hardship no longer exists.

E. Appeals. The family may use the grievance procedure to appeal the Housing Authority's determination regarding the hardship. No escrow deposit will be required in order to access the grievance procedure.

13.4 THE FLAT RENT

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

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

There is no utility allowance for families paying a flat rent because the Stratford Housing Authority has already factored the utilities into the flat rent calculation.

13.5 RENT FOR FAMILIES UNDER THE NONCITIZEN RULE

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

A. The family was receiving assistance on June 19, 1995;

B. The family was granted continuation of assistance before November 29, 1996;

C. The family's head or spouse has eligible immigration status; and

D. The family does not include any person who does not have eligible status other than the head of household, the spouse of the head of household, any parent of the head or spouse, or any child (under the age of 18) of the head or spouse.

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

A. Determine the 95th percentile of gross rents (tenant rent plus utility allowance) for the Stratford Housing Authority. The 95th percentile is called the maximum rent.

B. Subtract the family's total tenant payment from the maximum rent. The resulting number is called the maximum subsidy.

C. Divide the maximum subsidy by the number of family members and multiply the result times the number of eligible family members. This yields the prorated subsidy.

D. Subtract the prorated subsidy from the maximum rent to find the prorated total tenant payment. From this amount subtract the full utility allowance to obtain the prorated tenant rent.

13.6 UTILITY ALLOWANCE

The Stratford Housing Authority shall establish a utility allowance for all check-metered utilities and for all tenant-paid utilities. The allowance will be based on a reasonable consumption of utilities by an energy-conservative household of modest circumstances consistent with the requirements of a safe, sanitary, and healthful environment. In setting the allowance, the Stratford Housing Authority will review the actual consumption of tenant families. Allowances will be evaluated at least annually as well as any time utility rate changes by 10% or more since the last revision to the allowances.

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

For Stratford Housing Authority paid utilities, the Stratford Housing Authority will monitor the utility consumption of each household if feasible. Any consumption in excess of the allowance established by the Stratford Housing Authority will be billed to the

tenant monthly. The Stratford Housing Authority reserves the right to implement or not implement this at any time.

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

Requests for relief from surcharges for excess consumption of Stratford Housing Authority purchased utilities or from payment of utility supplier billings in excess of the utility allowance for tenant-paid utility costs may be granted by the Stratford Housing Authority on reasonable grounds. Requests shall be granted to families that include an elderly member or a member with disabilities. Requests by the family shall be submitted under the Reasonable Accommodation Policy. Families shall be advised of their right to individual relief at admission to public housing and at time of utility allowance changes.

13.7 PAYING RENT

Rent and other charges are due and payable on the first day of the month. All rents shall be paid at the Stratford Housing Authority's main office, located at 295 Everett Street, Stratford, CT. Reasonable accommodations for this requirement will be made for persons with disabilities.

If the rent is not paid by the tenth of the month, a Notice to Vacate will be issued to the tenant. In addition, a $18 late charge will be assessed to the tenant. If rent is paid by a personal check and the check is returned for insufficient funds, this shall be considered a non-payment of rent and will incur the late charge plus an additional charge of $50.00 for processing costs.

14.0 COMMUNITY SERVICE

14.1 GENERAL

In order to be eligible for continued occupancy, each adult family member must either (1) contribute eight hours per month of community service (not including political activities), or (2) participate in an economic self-sufficiency program, or (3) perform eight hours per month of combined activities as previously described unless they are exempt from this requirement. The Stratford Housing Authority will consider fulfillment of this requirement if the adult family member has accumulated 96 hours of community service at any given time within the adult family members lease year term.

14.2 EXEMPTIONS

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

A. Family members who are 62 or older.

B. Family members who are blind or disabled as defined under 216(I)(1) or 1614 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 416(I)(1) and who certifies that because of this disability she or he is unable to comply with the community service requirements.

C. Family members who are the primary care giver for someone who is blind or disabled as set forth in paragraph B above.

D. Family members engaged in work activity as defined in section 407(d) of the Social Security Act, specified below:

1. Unsubsidized employment;

2. Subsidized private-sector employment;

3. Subsidized public-sector employment;

4. Work experience (including work associated with the refurbishing of publicly assisted housing) if sufficient private sector employment is not available;

5. On-the-job-training;

6. Job-search and job-readiness assistance;

7. Community service programs;

8. Vocational educational training (not to exceed 12 months with respect to any individual);

9. Job-skills training directly related to employment;

10. Education directly related to employment in the case of a recipient who has not received a high school diploma or a certificate of high school equivalency;

11. Satisfactory attendance at secondary school or in a course of study leading to a certificate of general equivalence, in the case of a recipient who has not completed secondary school or received such a certificate; and

12. The provision of childcare services to an individual who is participating in a community service program.

E. Family members who are or would be exempt from work activity under part A title IV of the Social Security Act or under any other State welfare program, including the welfare-to-work program.

F. Family members receiving assistance, benefits or services under a State program funded under part A title IV of the Social Security Act or under any other State welfare program, including welfare-to-work and who are in compliance with that program

14.3 NOTIFICATION OF THE REQUIREMENT

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

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

The notification will advise families that their community service obligation will begin August 1, 2003 , and will apply to all new families admitted after that date. For family's paying a flat rent, the obligation begins on the date their annual reexamination would have been effective had an annual reexamination taken place. It will also advise them that failure to comply with the community service requirement will result in ineligibility for continued occupancy at the time of any subsequent annual reexamination.

14.4 VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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

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

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

Together with the resident advisory councils, the Stratford Housing Authority may create volunteer positions such as hall monitoring, litter patrols, and supervising and record keeping for volunteers.

14.5 THE PROCESS

Upon admission, or at the first annual reexamination on or after August 1, 2003, and each annual reexamination thereafter, the Stratford Housing Authority will do the following:

A. Provide a list of volunteer opportunities to the family members.

B. Provide information about obtaining suitable volunteer positions.

C. Provide a volunteer time sheet to the family member. Instructions for the time sheet require the individual to complete the form and have a supervisor date and sign for each period of work.

D. Assign family members to a Project Manager or other staff person who will assist the family members in identifying appropriate volunteer positions and in meeting their responsibilities.

E. At least thirty (30) days before the family's next lease anniversary date it will be determined by the Stratford Housing Authority whether each applicable adult family member is in compliance with the community service requirement.

14.6 NOTIFICATION OF NON-COMPLIANCE WITH COMMUNITY SERVICE REQUIREMENT

The Stratford Housing Authority will notify any family found to be in noncompliance of the following:

A. The family member(s) has been determined to be in noncompliance;

B. That the determination is subject to the grievance procedure; and

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

14.7 OPPORTUNITY FOR CURE

The Stratford Housing Authority will offer the family member(s) the opportunity to enter into an agreement prior to the anniversary of the lease. The agreement shall state that the family member(s) agrees to enter into an economic self-sufficiency program or agrees to contribute to community service for as many hours as needed to comply with the

requirement over the past 12-month period. It will state the number of hours that the family member is deficient. The cure shall occur over the 12-month period beginning with the date of the agreement and the resident shall at the same time stay current with that year's community service requirement. The first hours a resident earns go toward the current commitment until the current year's commitment is made, or as otherwise arranged by the Stratford Housing Authority.

If any applicable family member does not accept the terms of the agreement, does not fulfill their obligation to participate in an economic self-sufficiency program, or falls behind in their obligation under the agreement to perform community service, the Stratford Housing Authority shall take action to terminate the lease unless the noncompliant family member no longer lives in the unit.

14.8 PROHIBITION AGAINST REPLACEMENT OF AGENCY EMPLOYEES

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

15.0 RECERTIFICATIONS

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

15.1 GENERAL

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

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

15.2 MISSED APPOINTMENTS

If the family fails to respond to the letter and fails to attend the interview, a second letter will be mailed. The second letter will advise of a new time and date for the interview, allowing for the same considerations for rescheduling and accommodation as above. The letter will also advise that failure by the family to attend the second scheduled interview will result in the Stratford Housing Authority taking eviction actions against the family.

15.3 FLAT RENTS

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

A. Each year at the time of the annual reexamination, the family has the option of selecting a flat rent amount in lieu of completing the reexamination process and having their rent based on the income amount.

B. The amount of the flat rent

C. A fact sheet about income rents that explains the types of income counted, the most common types of income excluded, and the categories allowances that can be deducted from income.

D. Families who opt for the flat rent will be required to go through the income reexamination process every three years, rather than the annual review they otherwise would undergo.

E. Families who opt for the flat rent may request to have a reexamination and return to the income -based method at any time for any of the following reasons:

1. The family's income has decreased.

2. The family's circumstances have changed increasing their expenses for child care, medical care, etc.

3. Other circumstances creating a hardship on the family such that the income method would be more financially feasible for the family.

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

F. The dates upon which the Stratford Housing Authority expects to review the amount of the flat rent, the approximate rent increase the family could expect, and

the approximate date upon which a future rent increase could become effective.

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

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

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

15.4 THE INCOME METHOD

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

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

The total tenant payment is equal to the highest of:

A. 10% of the family's monthly income;

B. 30% of the family's adjusted monthly income; or

C. The welfare rent; or

D. The minimum rent.

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

15.5 EFFECTIVE DATE OF RENT CHANGES FOR ANNUAL REEXAMINATIONS

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

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

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

15.6 INTERIM REEXAMINATIONS

During an interim reexamination, only the information affected by the changes being reported will be reviewed and verified.

Families will be required to report any increase in income or decreases in allowable expenses between annual reexaminations. Families are required to report the following changes to the Stratford Housing Authority in writing within 10 business days between regular reexaminations. If the family's rent is being determined under the income method, these changes will trigger an interim reexamination.

A. A member has been added to the family through birth or adoption or court-awarded custody, or any new family member.

B. A household member is leaving or has left the family unit.

C. Increases in income or decreases in allowable expenses.

D. An increase in annual income of at least 10% or more. The Stratford Housing Authority will determine the percentage of income increase. In cases where the Housing Authority has performed an interim reexamination due to a decrease in income, the family must report any increase income, and the Housing Authority will perform an interim reexamination (excludes 10% increase policy) based on the actual increase.

Any reported decreases in income (earned or unearned income) must be of a long-term and enduring nature, and not constitute a temporary loss of income. All reported changes must be in writing.

The Stratford Housing Authority will process interim adjustments in rent as follows:

A. When a decrease in income is reported, and the Authority receives confirmation that the decrease will last less than 30 days, an interim adjustment will not be processed.

B. Residents reporting decreases in income that are expected to last more than 30 days will have an interim adjustment processed.

Residents granted a reduction in rent under these provisions will be required to report for special reexaminations at intervals determined by the Stratford Housing Authority. Reporting is required until income increases or it is time for the next regularly scheduled reexamination, whichever occurs first.

In order to add a household member other than through birth, adoption, or court-awarded custody, or any other member, the family must request that the new member be added to the lease. Before adding the new member to the lease, the individual must complete an application form stating their income, assets, and all other information required of an applicant. The individual must provide their Social Security number if they have one and must verify their citizenship/eligible immigrant status. (Their housing will not be delayed due to delays in verifying eligible immigrant status other than delays caused by the family.) The new family member will go through the screening process similar to the process for applicants. The Stratford Housing Authority will determine the eligibility of the individual before adding them to the lease. If the individual is found to be ineligible or does not pass the screening criteria, they will be advised in writing and given the opportunity for an informal review. If they are found to be eligible and do pass the screening criteria, their name will be added to the lease. At the same time, if the family's rent is being determined under the income method, the family's annual income will be recalculated taking into account the circumstances of the new family member. The effective date of the new rent will be in accordance with Section 15.8.

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

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

15.7 SPECIAL REEXAMINATIONS

If a family's income is too unstable to project for twelve (12) months, including families that temporarily have no income (0 renters) or have a temporary decrease in income, the Stratford Housing Authority may schedule special reexaminations every thirty (30) days or other time period as determined by the Stratford Housing Authority until the income stabilizes and an annual income can be determined.

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

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

If the new rent is a reduction and any delay is beyond the control of the family, the reduction will be effective the first of the month after the interim reexamination should have been completed.

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

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.

15.9 HOUSING AUTHORITY MISTAKES IN CALCULATING RENT

If the Stratford Housing Authority makes a mistake in calculating a resident's rent contribution and overcharges the resident, the resident shall receive a refund for the amount of the mistake going back a maximum of twenty-four (24) months. The refund shall be given to the resident as soon as practical or credited to the resident's account, whichever the resident desires unless the resident owes the Housing Authority money in which case the debt shall be offset to the degree possible before the resident chooses between the two refund methods.

16.0 UNIT TRANSFERS

A transfer shall be made without regard to sex, race, color, or national origin. It shall not be made to a unit of similar size except to alleviate medical hardship as determined by the Executive Director after advice from an independent physician hired by the Authority

licensed to practice medicine in the State of Connecticut, who has reviewed tenants' medical records and has confirmed the need for such transfer.

A tenant requiring such a transfer will be placed on a transfer list. When a suitable unit becomes available, the tenant will be transferred according to priority of medical need rather than the length of time on the waiting list, as recommended by the independent physician hired by the Authority.

Such a transfer may, at the discretion of the Executive Director, upon advice from the physician, as above, take priority over a new admission.

Tenants transferring are required to accept the first suitable unit offered by the Authority. Failure to accept the offer shall nullify the transfer request, and the tenant may not request another transfer for one year. Suitability of the unit will be the determination of the Authority.

16.1 OBJECTIVES OF THE TRANSFER POLICY

The objectives of the Transfer Policy include the following:

A. To address emergency situations.

B. To fully utilize available housing resources while avoiding overcrowding by ensuring that each family occupies the appropriate size unit.

C. To facilitate a relocation when required for modernization or other management purposes.

D. To facilitate relocation of families with inadequate housing accommodations.

E. To provide an incentive for families to assist in meeting the Stratford Housing Authority's deconcentration goal, if appropriate.

F. To eliminate vacancy loss and other expense due to unnecessary transfers.

16.2 CATEGORIES OF TRANSFERS

Category A: Emergency transfers. These transfers are necessary when conditions pose an immediate threat to the life, health, or safety of a family or one of its members. Such situations may involve defects of the unit or the building in which it is located, the health condition of a family member, a hate crime, the safety of witnesses to a crime, or a law enforcement matter particular to the neighborhood.

Category B: Immediate administrative transfers. These transfers are necessary in order to

permit a family needing accessible features to move to a unit with such a feature or to enable modernization, revitalization, disposition or demolition work to proceed. When an accessible unit becomes available, it shall first be offered to families needing it who reside on the site that has the vacancy, then to other public housing residents needing the special accessibility features, and finally to appropriate people on the waiting list.

Category C: Regular administrative transfers. These transfers are made to offer incentives to families willing to help meet certain Stratford Housing Authority occupancy goals, to correct occupancy standards where the unit size is inappropriate for the size and composition of the family, to allow for non-emergency but medically advisable transfers, and other transfers approved by the Stratford Housing Authority when a transfer is the only or best way of solving a serious problem. These transfers are at the sole discretion of the Stratford Housing Authority.

16.3 DOCUMENTATION

When the transfer is at the request of the family, the family may be required to provide third party verification of the need for the transfer. The Stratford Housing Authority reserves the right to obtain and/or require independent medical verification at the Stratford Housing Authority's expense.

16.4 INCENTIVE TRANSFERS

Transfer requests will be encouraged and approved for families who live in a development where their income category (below or above 30% of area median) predominates and wish to move to a development where their income category does not predominate.

Families living in multifamily developments have the opportunity to transfer to available scattered-site housing. Families approved for such transfers will meet the following eligibility criteria:

A. Have been a tenant for three years;

B. For a minimum of one year, at least one adult family member is enrolled in an economic self-sufficiency program or is working at least thirty-five (35) hours per week, the adult family members are 62 years of age or older or are disabled or are the primary care givers to others with disabilities;

C. Adult members who are required to perform community service have been current in these responsibilities since the inception of the requirement or for one year which ever is less;

D. The family is current in the payment of all charges owed to the Stratford Housing

Authority and has not paid late rent for at least one year;

E. The family passes a current housekeeping inspection and does not have any record of housekeeping problems during the last year;

F. The family has not materially violated the lease over the past two years by disturbing the peaceful enjoyment of their neighbors, by engaging in criminal or drug-related activity, or by threatening the health or safety of tenants or Housing Authority staff members.

G. Participates in a series of classes conducted by the Stratford Housing Authority on basic home and yard care.

16.5 PROCESSING TRANSFERS

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

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

Transfers in category C will be at the discretion of the Stratford Housing Authority and may be granted in lieu of new admissions.

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

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

A. If the family rejects with good cause any unit offered, they will not lose their place on the transfer waiting list. Good cause will be at the sole discretion of the Stratford Housing Authority.

B. If the transfer is being made at the request of the Stratford Housing Authority and the family rejects two offers without good cause, the Stratford Housing Authority will take action to terminate their tenancy. If the reason for the transfer is that the current unit is too small to meet the Stratford Housing Authority's optimum occupancy standards, the family may request in writing to stay in the unit without

being transferred so long as their occupancy will not exceed two people per living/sleeping room.

C. If the transfer is being made at the family's request and the rejected offer provides deconcentration incentives, the family will maintain their place on the transfer list and will not otherwise be penalized.

D. If the transfer is being made at the family's request, the family is required to accept the first suitable unit offered by the Stratford Housing Authority. Failure to accept the offer shall nullify the transfer request and the family may not request another transfer for one year. Suitability of the unit will be the determination of the Authority.

16.6 COST OF THE FAMILY'S MOVE

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

A. When the transfer is made at the request of the family or by others on behalf of the family (i.e. by the police);

B. When the transfer is needed to move the family to an appropriately sized unit, either larger or smaller; or

C. When the transfer is needed because action or inaction by the family caused the unit to be unsafe or uninhabitable.

The cost of the transfer will be borne by the Stratford Housing Authority in the following circumstances:

A. When the transfer is needed in order to carry out modernization, revitalization, disposition or demolition activities;

B. When action or inaction by the Stratford Housing Authority has caused the unit to be unsafe or inhabitable: or

C. When the transfer is necessitated because a family with disabilities needs the accessible unit into which the transferring family moved (The family without disabilities signed a statement to this effect prior to accepting the accessible unit).

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

16.7 TENANTS IN GOOD STANDING

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

16.8 TRANSFER REQUESTS

Over-housed or under-housed transfers required by the Authority or requested by the tenant, as covered in the lease, shall be made within the development in which the tenant currently lives. If an appropriate sized apartment is not available, the Authority may delay the transfer until a unit becomes available, or transfer the tenant to a different development. This decision shall be at the discretion of the Authority. Exceptions may be made to accommodate senior tenants in family units moving to elderly units.

All transfer requests shall be made in writing, to the Project Manager. The Authority reserves the right to deny transfers for tenants who are deemed "not in good standing" (i.e., owe money to the Authority, bad housekeeping, apartment damage, etc.)

Upon receipt of the request, it will be time-stamped and dated. The Project Manager shall perform an apartment inspection and review the tenant history within five (5) working days of the request. The Project Manager will then complete a "Resident Transfer Request Form" and submit it to the Director of Rental Management. The Director of Rental Management will then review the request and make a recommendation to the Executive Director. If the request for transfer is approved, the tenant shall be referred for approval by an independent physician.

16.9 RIGHT OF THE STRATFORD HOUSING AUTHORITY IN TRANSFER POLICY

The provisions listed above are to be used as a guide to ensure fair and impartial means of assigning units for transfers. It is not intended that this policy will create a property right or any other type of right for a tenant to transfer or refuse to transfer.

17.0 INSPECTIONS

An authorized representative of the Stratford Housing Authority and an adult family member will inspect the premises prior to commencement of occupancy. A written statement of the condition of the premises will be made, all equipment will be provided, and the statement will be signed by both parties with a copy retained in the Stratford Housing Authority file and a copy given to the family member. An authorized Stratford Housing Authority representative will inspect the premises at the time the resident

vacates and will furnish a statement of any charges to be made provided the resident turns in the proper notice under State law. The resident's security deposit can be used to offset against any Stratford Housing Authority damages to the unit and additional administrative and legal costs necessary from not providing proper notice in accordance with Connecticut State statute and the Stratford Housing Authority Lease.

17.1 MOVE-IN INSPECTIONS

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

17.2 ANNUAL INSPECTIONS

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

17.3 PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE INSPECTIONS

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

17.4 SPECIAL INSPECTIONS

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

17.5 HOUSEKEEPING INSPECTIONS

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

17.6 NOTICE OF INSPECTION

For inspections defined as annual inspections, preventative maintenance inspections, special inspections, and housekeeping inspections the Stratford Housing Authority will give the tenant at least forty eight (48) hours written notice.

17.7 EMERGENCY INSPECTIONS

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

17.8 PRE-MOVE-OUT INSPECTIONS

When a tenant gives notice that they intend to move, the Stratford Housing Authority will offer to schedule a pre-move-out inspection with the family. The inspection allows the Stratford Housing Authority to help the family identify any problems which, if left uncorrected, could lead to vacate charges. This inspection is a courtesy to the family and has been found to be helpful both in reducing costs to the family and in enabling the Stratford Housing Authority to ready units more quickly for the future occupants.

17.9 MOVE-OUT INSPECTIONS

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

18.0 PET POLICY

18.1 EXCLUSIONS

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

18.2 PETS IN PUBLIC HOUSING

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

18.3 APPROVAL

Residents must have the prior written approval of the Housing Authority before moving a pet into their unit. Residents must request approval on the Authorization for Pet Ownership Form that must be fully completed before the Housing Authority will approve the request. Residents must give the Housing Authority a picture of the pet so it can be identified if it is running loose.

18.4 TYPES AND NUMBER OF PETS

The Stratford Housing Authority will allow only common household pets. This means only domesticated animals such as a dog, cat, bird, rabbit, gerbil, hamster, fish in aquariums, or a turtle will be allowed in units. Common household pets do not include reptiles (except turtles) or rodents (except for rabbits, gerbils and hamsters). If this definition conflicts with an applicable federal, state or local law or regulation having jurisdiction over the Authority, then the applicable law or regulation shall govern.

All dogs and cats must be spayed or neutered before they become six months old. A licensed veterinarian must verify this fact.

Only one pet per unit will be allowed.

Any animal deemed to be potentially harmful to the health or safety of others, including attack or fight trained dogs, will not be allowed. Pit Bulls and Rottweilers are expressly prohibited.

No animal may exceed twenty-five (25) pounds in weight projected to full adult size.

18.5 INOCULATIONS

In order to be registered, pets must be appropriately inoculated against rabies, distemper and other conditions prescribed by state and/or local ordinances. They must comply with all other state and local public health, animal control, and anti-cruelty laws including any licensing requirements. A certification signed by a licensed veterinarian or state or local official shall be annually filed with the Stratford Housing Authority to attest to the inoculations.

18.6 PET DEPOSIT

A pet deposit of $200.00, lump sum paid in full is required at the time of registering a dog or cat. Generally pet deposits will not be required for other kinds of pets however the Authority reserves the right to levy the pet deposit for other animals, on a case-by

case basis, if the Authority determines a pet deposit is advisable for certain pets or circumstances.

18.7 FINANCIAL OBLIGATION OF RESIDENTS

Any resident who owns or keeps a pet in their dwelling unit will be required to pay for any damages caused by the pet. Also, any pet-related insect infestation in the pet owner's unit will be the financial responsibility of the pet owner and the Stratford Housing Authority reserves the right to exterminate and charge the resident.

18.8 NUISANCE OR THREAT TO HEALTH OR SAFETY

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

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

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

18.9 DESIGNATION OF PET AREAS

Pets must be kept in the owner's apartment or on a leash at all times when outside the unit (no outdoor cages or fencing may be constructed). Pets will be allowed only in designated areas on the grounds of the property if the Stratford Housing Authority designates a pet area for the particular site. Pet owners must clean up after their pets and are responsible for disposing of pet waste.

With the exception of assistive animals no pets shall be allowed in the community room, community room kitchen, laundry rooms, public bathrooms, lobby, beauty shop, hallways or office in any of our sites.

To accommodate residents who have medically certified allergic or phobic reactions to dogs, cats, or other pets, those pets may be barred from certain wings (or floors) in our development(s)/building(s). This shall be implemented based on demand for this service.

18.10 MISCELLANEOUS RULES

Pets may not be left unattended in a dwelling unit. If the pet is left unattended and no arrangements have been made for its care, the HA will have the right to enter the

premises and take the uncared for pet to be boarded at a local animal care facility at the total expense of the resident.

Pet bedding shall not be washed in any common laundry facilities.

Residents must take appropriate actions to protect their pets from fleas and ticks.

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

Residents owning cats shall maintain waterproof litter boxes for cat waste. Refuse from litter boxes shall not accumulate or become unsightly or unsanitary. Litter shall be disposed of in an appropriate manner.

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

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

A pet owner who violates any other conditions of this policy may be required to remove his/her pet from the development within 10 days of written notice from the Housing Authority. The pet owner may also be subject to termination of his/her dwelling lease.

The Housing Authority's grievance procedures shall be applicable to all individual grievances or disputes arising out of violations or alleged violations of this policy.

18.11 VISITING PETS

Pets that meet the size and type criteria outlined above may visit the developments/buildings where pets are allowed for up to two weeks only with Stratford Housing Authority approval prior to the visit. Tenants who have visiting pets must abide by the conditions of this policy regarding health, sanitation, nuisances, and peaceful enjoyment of others. If visiting pets violate this policy or cause the tenant to violate the lease, the tenant will be required to remove the visiting pet.

18.12 REMOVAL OF PETS

The Stratford Housing Authority, or an appropriate community authority, shall require the removal of any pet from a project if the pet's conduct or condition is determined to be a nuisance or threat to the health or safety of other occupants of the development or of other persons in the community where the project is located. The resident owning the pet

will then forfeit his/her right to pet ownership.

In the event of illness or death of pet owner, or in the case of an emergency which would prevent the pet owner from properly caring for the pet, the Stratford Housing Authority has permission to call the emergency caregiver designated by the resident or the local Pet Law Enforcement Agency to take the pet and care for it until family or friends would claim the pet and assume responsibility for it. Any expenses incurred will be the responsibility of the pet owner.

19.0 REPAYMENT AGREEMENTS

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

20.0 TERMINATION

20.1 TERMINATION BY TENANT

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

20.2 TERMINATION BY THE HOUSING AUTHORITY

The Stratford Housing Authority after 10/1/2000 will not renew the lease of any family that is not in compliance with the community service requirement or an approved Agreement to Cure. If they do not voluntarily leave the property, eviction proceedings will begin.

The Stratford Housing Authority will terminate the lease for serious or repeated violations of material lease terms. Such violations include but are not limited to the following:

A. Nonpayment of rent or other charges;

B. A history of late rental payments;

C. Failure to provide timely and accurate information regarding family composition, income circumstances, or other information related to eligibility or rent.

If a tenant is found to have made misrepresentations at any time which resulted in his being classified as eligible, when in fact, he was ineligible and the misrepresentation resulted in his paying a lower rent than was appropriate, he shall be required to pay the difference between the actual payments and the amount which should have been paid. In justifiable instances the Authority may take such other action as it deems advisable. If it is determined that a tenant has committed fraud especially in the non-reporting of income, then that tenant shall be processed for eviction.

D. Failure to allow inspection of the unit;

E. Failure to maintain the unit in a safe and sanitary manner;

F. Assignment or subletting of the premises;

G. Use of the premises for purposes other than as a dwelling unit (other than for housing authority approved resident businesses);

H. Destruction of property;

I. Acts of destruction, defacement, or removal of any part of the premises or failure to cause guests to refrain from such acts;

J. Any violent or drug-related criminal activity on or off the premises, not just on or near the premises. This includes any tenant, member of the tenant's household or guest, and any such activity engaged in on the premises by any other person under the tenant's control. This includes but is not limited to the manufacture of methamphetamine on the premises of the Stratford Housing Authority or on the premises of any other federally assisted housing;

K. Non-compliance with Non-Citizen Rule requirements;

L. Permitting persons not on the lease to reside in the unit more than fourteen (14) days each year without the prior written approval of the Housing Authority; and

M. Failure to abide by necessary and reasonable Rules and Regulations of Tenancy made by the Stratford Housing Authority for the benefit and well being of the housing development and the Residents;

N. Any activity that threatens the health, safety, or right to peaceful enjoyment of the premises by other residents or employees of the Authority by the Resident, household members, or guests of the resident or threatens the health, safety, or right to peaceful enjoyment of their residences by persons residing in the immediate vicinity of the premises is grounds for termination of tenancy;

O. Alcohol abuse that the Stratford Housing Authority determines interferes with the health, safety, or right to peaceful enhoyment of the premises by other residents;

P. Failure to perform required community service or be exempted therefrom;

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

R. Determination that a household member is illegally using a drug or when the Stratford Housing Authority determines that a pattern of illegal use of a drug interferes with the health, safety, or right to peaceful enjoyment of the premises by other residents;

S. Removing any batteries from a smoke detector or failing to notify the Landlord if the smoke detector is inoperable for any reason.

T. Criminal activity as shown by a criminal record. In such cases the Stratford Housing Authority will notify the household of the proposed action to be based on the information and will provide the subject of the record and the tenant with a copy of the criminal record before the Stratford Housing Authority grievance hearing or court trial concerning the termination of tenancy or eviction. The tenant will be given an opportunity to dispute the accuracy and relevance of that record in the grievance hearing or court trial.

U. Other good cause.

20.2A VAWA PROTECTIONS

Under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), public housing residents have the following specific protections, which will be observed by the Stratford Housing Authority:

An incident or incidents or actual or threatened domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking will not be construed as a serious or repeated violation of the lease by the victim or threatened victim of that violence, and shall not be good cause for terminating the assistance, tenancy, or occupancy rights of the victim of such violence.

The Housing Authority may terminate the assistance to remove a lawful occupant or tenant who engages in criminal acts or threatened acts of violence or stalking to family members or others without terminating the assistance or evicting victimized lawful occupants.

The Housing Authority may honor court orders regarding the rights of access or control of the property, including EPO's, DVO's, and other orders issued to protect the victim and is used to address the distribution or possession or property among household members where the family "breaks up."

There is no limitation on the ability of the Housing Authority to evict for other good cause unrelated to the incident or incidents of domestic violence, dating violence or stalking, other than the victim may not be subject to a "more demanding standard" than non-victims.

There is no prohibition on the Housing Authority evicting if it "can demonstrate an actual and imminent threat to other tenants or those employed at or providing service to the property if that tenant's (victim's) tenancy is not terminated."

Any protections provided by law which give greater protection to the victim are not superseded by these provisions.

The Stratford Housing Authority shall require verification in all cases where an individual claims protection against an action involving such individual proposed to be taken by the Housing Authority. Types of acceptable verifications are outlined below, and must be submitted within 10 business days after receipt of the Housing Authority's request for verification.

20.2B VERIFICATION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, DATING VIOLENCE OR STALKING

The Stratford Housing Authority shall require verification in all cases where an individual claims protection against an action involving such individual proposed to be taken by the Housing Authority.

A. ***Requirement for Verification.*** The law allows, but does not require, the Stratford Housing Authority to verify that an incident or incidents of actual or threatened domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking claimed by a tenant or other lawful occupant is bona fide and meets the requirements of the applicable definitions set forth in this policy. The Housing Authority shall require verification in all cases where an individual claims protection against an action involving such individual proposed to be taken by the Housing Authority.

Verification of a claimed incident or incidents of actual or threatened domestic violence, dating violence or stalking may be accomplished in one of the following three ways:

1. H***UD-approved form (HUD-50066)*** - By providing to the Housing Authority a written certification, on the form approved by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), that the individual is a victim of domestic violence, dating violence or stalking that the incident or incidents in question are bona fide incidents of actual or threatened abuse meeting the requirements of the applicable definition(s) set forth in this policy. The incident or incidents in question must be described in reasonable detail as required in the HUD-approved form, and the completed certification must include the name of the perpetrator.
2. ***Other documentation*** - by providing to the Housing Authority documentation signed by an employee, agent, or volunteer of a victim service provider, an attorney, or a medical professional, from whom the victim has sought assistance in addressing the domestic violence, dating violence or stalking, or the effects of the abuse, described in such documentation. The professional providing the documentation must sign and attest under penalty of perjury (28 U.S.C. 1746) to the professional's belief that the incident or incidents in question are bona fide incidents of abuse meeting the requirements of the applicable definition(s) set forth in this policy. The victim of the incident or incidents of domestic violence, dating violence or stalking described in the documentation must also sign and attest to the documentation under penalty of perjury.
3. ***Police or court record*** – by providing to the Housing Authority a Federal, State, tribal, territorial, or local police or court record describing the incident or incidents in question.

B. ***Time allowed providing verification/ failure to provide.*** An individual who claims protection against adverse action based on an incident or incidents of actual or threatened domestic violence, dating violence or stalking, and who is requested by the Housing Authority to provide verification, must provide such verification within 10 business days after receipt of the request for verification. Failure to provide verification, in proper form within such time will result in loss of protection under VAWA and this policy against a proposed adverse action.

20.2C CONFIDENTIALITY

All information provided under VAWA including the fact that an individual is a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking, shall be retained in confidence and shall not be entered into any shared database or provided to any related entity except to the extent that the disclosure is:

A. Requested or consented to by the individual in writing;

B. Required for used in an eviction proceeding; or

C. Otherwise required by applicable law.

The Stratford Housing Authority shall provide its tenants notice of their rights under VAWA including their right to confidentiality and the limits thereof.

20.3 ABANDONMENT

The Stratford Housing Authority will consider a unit to be abandoned when the occupants have vacated the premises without prior notice to the Stratford Housing Authority and do not intend to return, which intention may be evidenced by the removal by the occupants or their agent of substantially all of their possessions and personal effects from the premises and either (1) nonpayment of rent for more than two months or (2) an express statement by the occupants that they do not intend to occupy the premises after a specified date.

When the Stratford Housing Authority has determined that a unit has been abandoned, the Stratford Housing Authority will terminate the lease in compliance with state statutes.

20.4 RETURN OF SECURITY DEPOSIT

After a family moves out, the Stratford Housing Authority will return the security deposit in accordance with State law and the lease agreement, or give the family a written statement of why all or part of the security deposit is being kept. The rental unit must be restored to the same conditions as when the family moved in, except for normal wear and tear. Deposits will not be used to cover normal wear and tear or damage that existed when the family moved in.

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

21.0 SUPPORT FOR OUR ARMED FORCES

A major and important component of our armed forces are the part-time military personnel that serve in various Reserve and National Guard units. The Stratford Housing Authority is very supportive of these men and women. An unfortunate fact of service in both the Reserves and National Guard is that from time to time their personnel are activated to full-time status and asked to serve our country in a variety of ways and circumstances. Whenever the Federal Government activates Reserve and/or National

Guard personnel, the Stratford Housing Authority wants to support these brave warriors in the following manners:

A. If a family finds it necessary for another adult to temporarily move into a unit solely to serve as a temporary guardian for children residing in the unit, the income received by the temporary guardian will not be counted in determining family income.

B. Although typically a criminal background check is required before anyone can move into a public housing unit, this requirement will be waived for a temporary guardian. Instead, the background check will occur after the person moves in. If the results of the check dictate that the person is ineligible for public housing, the family shall be given a reasonable time to find a replacement temporary guardian.

C. Recognizing that activation in the Reserves or National Guard can be very disruptive to a family's income, the Stratford Housing Authority will expeditiously re-evaluate a resident's rent if requested to do so and will exercise reasonable restraint if the activated resident has trouble paying their rent.

D. Typically a unit cannot be held by a family that is not residing in it as their primary residence. If all members of a military family are temporarily absent from the unit because a member of the family has been called to active duty, the family can retain control of the unit by paying the required rent and returning to the unit within 30 days of the conclusion of the active duty service.

22.0 ANTI-FRAUD POLICY

The Stratford Housing Authority is fully committed to combating fraud in its public housing program. It defines fraud as a single act or pattern of actions that include false statements, the omission of information, or the concealment of a substantive fact made with the intention of deceiving or misleading the Stratford Housing Authority. It results in the inappropriate expenditure of public housing funds and/or a violation of public housing requirements.

Although there are numerous different types of fraud that may be committed, the two most common are the failure to fully report all sources of income and the failure to accurately report who is residing in the residence. The Stratford Housing Authority shall aggressively attempt to prevent all cases of fraud.

When a fraudulent action is discovered, the Stratford Housing Authority shall take action. It shall do one or more of the following things depending on circumstances and what it determines appropriate:

A. Require the resident to immediately repay the amount in question;

B. Require the resident to enter into a satisfactory repayment agreement as set forth in a previous section of this Policy;

C. Terminate the resident's tenancy;

D. Refer the case for criminal prosecution; or

E. Take such other action as the Stratford Housing Authority deems appropriate.

GLOSSARY

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

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

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

Adult: A household member who is 18 years or older or who is the head of the household, or spouse, or co-head. An emancipated minor is also considered an adult. In the anti-drug portions of this policy, it also refers to a minor who has been convicted of a crime as an adult under any Federal, State or tribal law.

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

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

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

A. Go to (or on behalf of) the family head or spouse (even if temporarily absent) or to any other family member; or

B. Are anticipated to be received from a source outside the family during the 12-month period following admission or annual reexamination effective date; and

C. Are not specifically excluded from annual income.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ceiling Rent: Maximum rent allowed for some units in public housing developments under the income method of calculating rent.

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

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

Child care Expenses: Amounts anticipated to be paid by the family for the care of children under 13 years of age during the period for which annual income is computed, but only where such care is necessary to enable a family member to actively seek employment, be gainfully employed, or to further his or her education and only to the extent such amounts are not reimbursed. The amount deducted shall reflect reasonable charges for child care. In the case of child care necessary to permit employment, the amount deducted shall not exceed the amount of employment income that is included in annual income. (24 CFR 5.603(d))

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

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

Consent Form: Any consent form approved by HUD to be signed by assistance applicants and participants for the purpose of obtaining income information from employers and SWICAs, return information from the Social Security Administration, and return information for unearned income from the Internal Revenue Service. The consent forms may authorize the collection of

other information from assistance applicants or participant to determine eligibility or level of benefits. (24 CFR 5.214)

Covered Families: Families who receive welfare assistance or other public assistance benefits ("welfare benefits") from a State or other public agency ("welfare agency") under a program for which Federal, State, or local law requires that a member of the family must participate in an economic self-sufficiency program as a condition for such assistance.

Dating Violence: Violence committed by a person: (A) who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim; and (B) where the existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on a consideration of the following factors: (i) the length of the relationship; (ii) the type of relationship; and (iii) the frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.

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

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

Dependent: A member of the family (except foster children and foster adults), other than the family head or spouse, who is under 18 years of age or is a person with a disability or is a full-time student. (24 CFR 5.603(d))

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

Disability Assistance Expenses: Reasonable expenses that are anticipated, during the period for which annual income is computed, for attendant care and auxiliary apparatus for a disabled family member and that are necessary to enable a family member (including the disabled member) to be employed, provided that the expenses are neither paid to a member of the family nor reimbursed by an outside source. (24 CFR 5.603(d))

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

Disabled Family: A family whose head, spouse, or sole member is a person with disabilities; two or more persons with disabilities living together; or one or more persons with disabilities living with one or more live-in aides. (24 CFR 5.403(b)) (Also see "person with disabilities.")

Disabled Person: See "person with disabilities."

Displaced Family: A family in which each member, or whose sole member, is a person displaced by governmental action (such as urban renewal), or a person whose dwelling has been extensively

damaged or destroyed as a result of a disaster declared or otherwise formally recognized pursuant to Federal disaster relief laws. (24 CFR 5.403(b))

Displaced Person: A person displaced by governmental action or a person whose dwelling has been extensively damaged or destroyed as a result of a disaster declared or otherwise formally recognized pursuant to Federal disaster relief laws. *[1937 Act]*

Domestic Violence: Includes felony or misdemeanor crimes of violence committed by a current or former spouse of the victim, by a person with whom the victim share a child in common, by a person who is cohabitated with or has cohabited with the victim as a spouse, by a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction receiving grant monies, or by any other person against an adult or youth victim who is protected from that persons acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction.

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

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

Elderly Family: A family whose head, spouse, or sole member is a person who is at least 62 years of age; two or more persons who are at least 62 years of age living together; or one or more persons who are at least 62 years of age living with one or more live-in aides. (24 CFR 5.403)

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

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

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

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

Family includes but is not limited to**:**

A. A family with or without children;

B. An elderly family;

C. A near-elderly family;

D. A disabled family;

E. A displaced family;

F. The remaining member of a tenant family; and

G. A single person who is not an elderly or displaced person, a person with disabilities, or the remaining member of a tenant family. (24 CFR 5.403)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Immediate Family Member: a spouse, parent, brother or sister, or child of the person, or an individual to whom that person stands in loco parentis (in place of a parent); or any other person living in the household of that person and related to that person by blood or marriage.

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

Imputed welfare income: The amount of annual income not actually received by a family, as a result of a welfare benefit reduction for welfare fraud or the failure to comply with economic self-sufficiency requirements, that is nonetheless included in the family's annual income for purposes of determining rent.

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

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

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

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

A. Is determined to be essential to the care and well- being of the persons;

B. Is not obligated for the support of the persons; and

C. Would not be living in the unit except to provide the necessary supportive services. (24 CFR 5.403(b))

A live-in aide is not a party to the lease.

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

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

include, but are not limited to, prescription and non-prescription drugs, costs for doctors, dentists, therapists, medical facilities, care for a service animal, transportation for medical purposes.

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

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

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

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

National: A person who owes permanent allegiance to the United States, for example, as a result of birth in a United States territory or possession. (24 CFR 5.504(b))

Near-Elderly Family: A family whose head, spouse, or sole member is a person who is at least 50 years of age but below the age of 62; two or more persons, who are at least 50 years of age but below the age of 62, living together; or one or more persons who are at least 50 years of age but below the age of 62 living with one or more live-in aides. (24 CFR 5.403(b))

Net Family Assets:

A. Net cash value after deducting reasonable costs that would be incurred in disposing of real property, savings, stocks, bonds, and other forms of capital investment, excluding interests in Indian trust land and excluding equity accounts in HUD homeownership programs. The value of necessary items of personal property such as furniture and automobiles shall be excluded.

B. In cases where a trust fund has been established and the trust is not revocable by, or under the control of, any member of the family or household, the value of the trust fund will not be considered an asset so long as the fund continues to be held in trust. Any income distributed from the trust fund shall be counted when determining annual income.

C. In determining net family assets, housing authorities or owners, as applicable, shall include the value of any business or family assets disposed of by an applicant or tenant for less than fair market value (including a disposition in trust, but not in a foreclosure or bankruptcy sale) during the two years preceding the

date of application for the program or reexamination, as applicable, in excess of the consideration received therefor. In the case of a disposition as part of a separation or divorce settlement, the disposition will not be considered to be for less than fair market value if the applicant or tenant receives important consideration not measurable in dollar terms. (24 CFR 5.603(d))

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

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

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

Permanently absent: A person or persons not actually residing in the unit who once lived there and does not intend to return. One becomes permanently absent when one vacates the unit.

Person with Disabilities: A person who:

A. Has a disability as defined in 42 U.S.C. 423

B. Is determined, pursuant to HUD regulations, to have a physical, mental, or emotional impairment that:

1. Is expected to be of long-continued and indefinite duration;

2. Substantially impedes his or her ability to live independently; and

3. Is of such a nature that the ability to live independently could be improved by more suitable housing conditions.

C. Has a developmental disability as defined in 42 U.S.C. 6001.

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

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

Previously unemployed: This includes a person who has earned, in the 12 months previous to employment, no more than would be received for 10 hours of work per week for 50 weeks at the established minimum wage.

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

Proration of Assistance: The reduction in a family's housing assistance payment to reflect the proportion of family members in a mixed family who are eligible for assistance. (24 CFR5.520)

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

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

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

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

Responsible Entity:

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

B. For all other Section 8 programs, responsible entity means the Section 8 project owner.

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

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

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

Specified Welfare Benefit Reduction:

A. A reduction of welfare benefits by the welfare agency, in whole or in part, for a family member, as determined by the welfare agency, because of fraud by a family member in connection wit the welfare program; or because of welfare agency sanction against a family member for noncompliance with a welfare agency requirement to participate in an economic self-sufficiency program.

B. "Specified welfare benefit reduction" does not include a reduction or termination of welfare benefits by the welfare agency:

1. at the expiration of a lifetime or other time limit on the payment of welfare benefits;

2. because a family member is not able to obtain employment, even though the family member has complied with welfare agency economic self-sufficiency or work activities requirements; or

3. because a family member has not complied with other welfare agency requirements.

Stalking: to follow, pursue, or repeatedly commit acts with the intent to kill, injure, harass, or intimidate; or to place under surveillance with the intent to kill, injure, harass, or intimidate another person; and in the course of, or as a result of, such following, pursuit, surveillance, or repeatedly committed acts, to place a person in reasonable fear of the death of, or serious bodily injury to, or to cause substantial emotional harm to (i) that person; (ii) a member of the immediate family of that person; or (iii) the spouse or intimate partner of that person.

State Wage Information Collection Agency (SWICA): The State agency receiving quarterly wage reports from employers in the State or an alternative system that has been determined by the Secretary of Labor to be as effective and timely in providing employment-related income and eligibility information. (24 CFR 5.214)

Temporarily absent: A person or persons not actually residing in a unit for a period of time while still maintaining control of the unit. If the absence exceeds thirty (30) days without Stratford Housing Authority approval, the Housing Authority must agree to the absence.

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

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

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

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

Total Tenant Payment (TTP):

A. Total tenant payment for families whose initial lease is effective on or after August 1, 1982:

1. Total tenant payment is the amount calculated under Section 3(a)(1) of the 1937 Act which is the higher of :

   a. 30% of the family's monthly adjusted income;

   b. 10% of the family's monthly income; or

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

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

2. Total tenant payment for families residing in public housing does not include charges for excess utility consumption or other miscellaneous charges.

B. Total tenant payment for families residing in public housing whose initial lease was effective before August 1, 1982: Paragraphs (b) and (c) of 24 CFR 913.107, as it existed immediately before November 18, 1996), will continue to govern the total tenant payment of families, under a public housing program, whose initial lease was effective before August 1, 1982.

Utility Allowance: If the cost of utilities (except telephone) and other housing services for an assisted unit is not included in the tenant rent but is the responsibility of the family occupying the unit, an amount equal to the estimate made by a housing authority of the monthly cost of a reasonable consumption of such utilities and other services for the unit by an energy-conservative household of modest circumstances consistent with the requirements of a safe, sanitary, and healthful living environment. (24 CFR 5.603)

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

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

Violent criminal activity: means any criminal activity that has as one of its elements the use, attempted use, or threatened use of physical force substantial enough to cause, or be reasonably likely to cause, serious bodily injury or property damage.

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

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

It includes such benefits even when they are:

A. Provided in the form of payments by a TANF agency, or other agency on its behalf, to individual recipients; and

B. Conditioned on participation in work experience or community service (or any other work activity under 45 CFR 261.30).

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

The term “assistance” excludes:

A. Nonrecurrent, short-term benefits that:

1. Are designed to deal with a specific crisis situation or episode of need;

2. Are not intended to meet recurrent or ongoing needs; and

3. Will not extend beyond four months.

B. Work subsidies (i.e., payments to employers or third parties to help cover the costs of employee wages, benefits, supervision, and training);

C. Supportive services such as child care and transportation provided to families who are employed;

D. Refundable earned income tax credits;

E. Contributions to, and distributions from, Individual Development Accounts;

F. Services such as counseling, case management, peer support, childcare information and referral, transitional services, job retention, job advancement, and other employment-related services that do not provide basic income support; and

G. Transportation benefits provided under a Job Access or Reverse Commute project, pursuant to section 404(k) of the Act, to an individual who is not otherwise receiving assistance.

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

Written notification: All written notifications required in this policy shall be hand delivered with a signed receipt or mailed via first class mail unless specified otherwise.

ACRONYMS

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

Attachment (ct027b01)

Annual Statement/Performance and Evaluation Report
Capital Fund Program and Capital Fund Program Replacement Housing Factor (CFP/CFPRHF) Part I: Summary

PHA Name: Stratford Housing Authority	Grant Type and Number Capital Fund Program Grant No: CT26PO2750109 Replacement Housing Factor Grant No:	Federal FY of Grant: 2009

☒ **Original Annual Statement** ☐ **Reserve for Disasters/ Emergencies** ☐ **Revised Annual Statement (revision no:)**
☐ **Performance and Evaluation Report for Period Ending:** ☐ **Final Performance and Evaluation Report**

Line No.	Summary by Development Account	Total Estimated Cost		Total Actual Cost	
		Original	Revised	Obligated	Expended
1	Total non-CFP Funds	0.00			
2	1406 Operations	0.00			
3	1408 Management Improvements	10,000.00			
4	1410 Administration	86,000.00			
5	1411 Audit	0.00			
6	1415 Liquidated Damages	0.00			
7	1430 Fees and Costs	54,030.00			
8	1440 Site Acquisition	0.00			
9	1450 Site Improvement	0.00			
10	1460 Dwelling Structures	282,000.00			
11	1465.1 Dwelling Equipment—Nonexpendable	0.00			
12	1470 Nondwelling Structures	0.00			
13	1475 Nondwelling Equipment	0.00			
14	1485 Demolition	0.00			
15	1490 Replacement Reserve	0.00			
16	1492 Moving to Work Demonstration	0.00			
17	1495.1 Relocation Costs	0.00			
18	1499 Development Activities	0.00			
19	1501 Collaterization or Debt Service	0.00			
20	1502 Contingency	0.00			
21	Amount of Annual Grant: (sum of lines 2 – 20)	432,030.00			
22	Amount of line 21 Related to LBP Activities	0.00			
23	Amount of line 21 Related to Section 504 compliance	0.00			
24	Amount of line 21 Related to Security – Soft Costs	0.00			
25	Amount of Line 21 Related to Security – Hard Costs	0.00			
26	Amount of line 21 Related to Energy Conservation Measures	0.00			

Attachment (ct027b01)

Annual Statement/Performance and Evaluation Report
Capital Fund Program and Capital Fund Program Replacement Housing Factor (CFP/CFPRHF)
Part II: Supporting Pages

PHA Name: Stratford Housing Authority		**Grant Type and Number** Capital Fund Program Grant No: CT26PO2750109 Replacement Housing Factor Grant No:				**Federal FY of Grant: 2009**		
Development Number Name/HA-Wide Activities	General Description of Major Work Categories	Dev. Acct No.	Quantity	Total Estimated Cost		Total Actual Cost		Status of Work
				Original	Revised	Funds Obligated	Funds Expended	
CT27-1A Hearthstone Apts.	Renovate fifty (50) kitchens	1460	50 units	282,000.00				
PHA-Wide Management Improvement	Management and Maintenance Staff Training	1408	100%	10,000.00				
PHA-Wide Administration	Staff salary prorated for Capital Improvements Administration & Administer Central Office Cost Center 10%	1410	100%	86,000.00				
PHA-Wide Fees and Costs	Architectural and Engineering/ Modernization Consulting Fees	1430	100%	54,030.00				
	GRANT TOTAL			**432,030.00**				

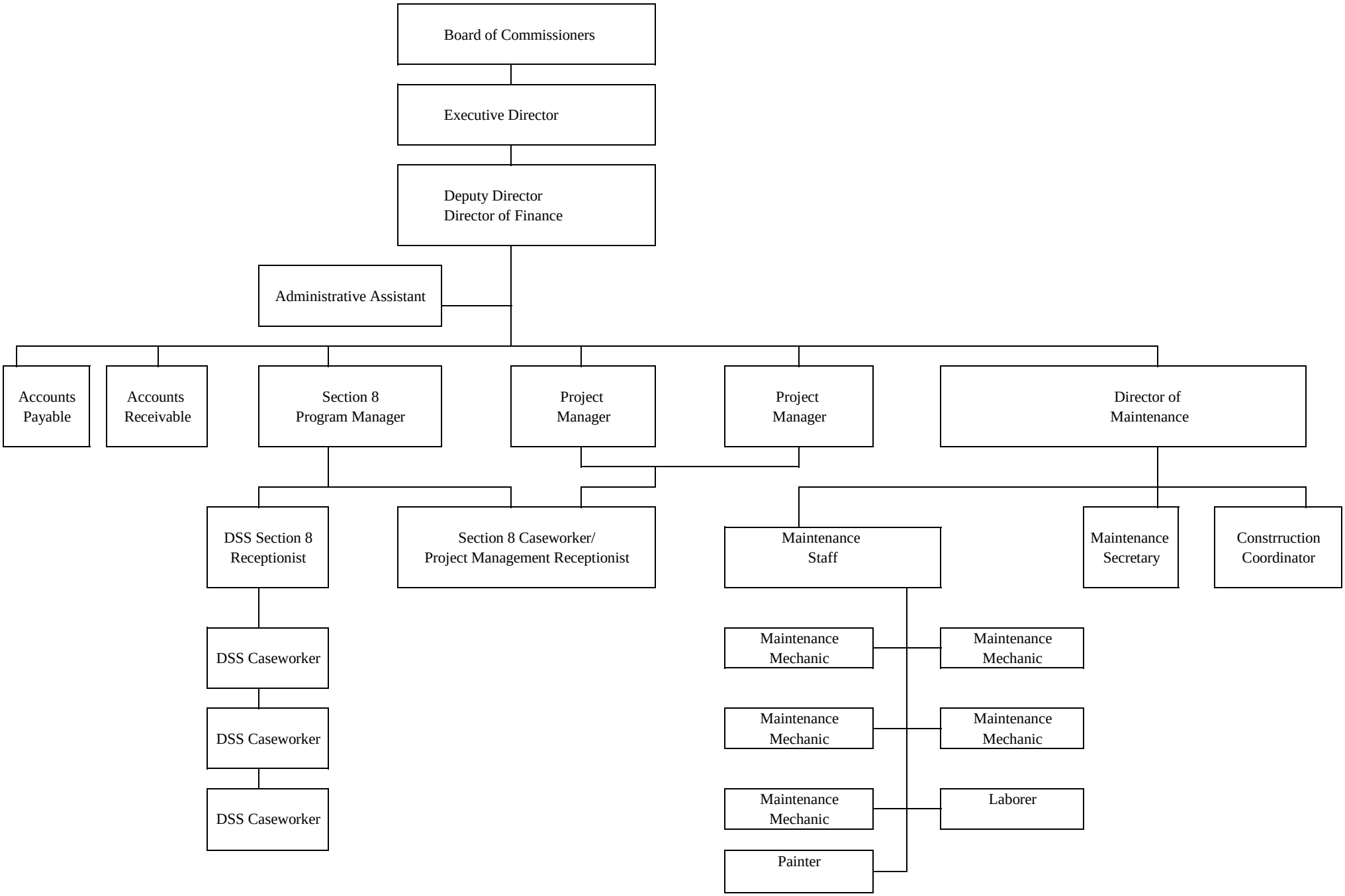
Attachment (ct027b01)

Annual Statement/Performance and Evaluation Report
Capital Fund Program and Capital Fund Program Replacement Housing Factor (CFP/CFPRHF)
Part III: Implementation Schedule

PHA Name: Stratford Housing Authority	**Grant Type and Number** Capital Fund Program No: CT26PO2750109 Replacement Housing Factor No:	**Federal FY of Grant: 2009**

Development Number Name/HA-Wide Activities	All Fund Obligated (Quarter Ending Date)			All Funds Expended (Quarter Ending Date)			Reasons for Revised Target Dates
	Original	Revised	Actual	Original	Revised	Actual	
CT27-1A Hearthstone Apartments	08/17/11			08/17/13			
PHA-Wide	08/17/11			08/17/13			

Organizational Chart
Stratford Housing Authority
2009



Attachment (ct027d01)

Capital Fund Program Five-Year Action Plan
Part I: Summary

PHA Name: **Stratford Housing Authority**				☒ **Original 5-Year Plan** ☐ **Revision No:**	
Development Number/Name/HA-Wide	Year 1	Work Statement for Year 2 FFY Grant: 2010 PHA FY: 2010	Work Statement for Year 3 FFY Grant: 2011 PHA FY: 2011	Work Statement for Year 4 FFY Grant: 2012 PHA FY: 2012	Work Statement for Year 5 FFY Grant: 2013 PHA FY: 2013
	See Annual Statement				
CT27-1A Hearthstone Apts.		291,030.00	291,030.00	151,030.00	101,030.00
CT27-1B Elm Terrace Apts.		0.00	0.00	140,000.00	65,000.00
CT27-2 R. F. Kennedy Apts.		0.00	0.00	0.00	65,000.00
CT27-3 R. E. Baldwin Apts.		0.00	0.00	0.00	60,000.00
PHA-Wide		141,000.00	141,000.00	141,000.00	141,000.00
CFP Funds Listed for 5-year planning		432,030.00	432,030.00	432,030.00	432,030.00
Replacement Housing Factor Funds		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Capital Fund Program Five-Year Action Plan
Part II: Supporting Pages—Work Activities

Activities for Year 1	Activities for Year : __2__ FFY Grant: 2010 PHA FY: 2010			Activities for Year: _3_ FFY Grant: 2011 PHA FY: 2011		
	Development Name/Number	**Major Work Categories**	**Estimated Cost**	**Development Name/Number**	**Major Work Categories**	**Estimated Cost**
See Annual	CT 27-1A Hearthstone Apts.	Renovate Kitchens in Fifty (50) Units	291,030.00	CT 27-1A Hearthstone Apts.	Roof Replacement	151,030.00
					Vinyl Siding	140,000.00
					Subtotal	**291,030.00**
	PHA-Wide	Management Improvements	10,000.00	PHA-Wide	Management Improvements	10,000.00
		Administration	81,000.00		Administration	81,000.00
		Fees and Costs	50,000.00		Fees and Costs	50,000.00
		Subtotal	**141,000.00**		**Subtotal**	**141,000.00**
		Total CFP Estimated Cost	**432,030.00**			**432,030.00**

Capital Fund Program Five-Year Action Plan
Part II: Supporting Pages—Work Activities

Activities for Year :_4__ FFY Grant: 2012 PHA FY: 2012			Activities for Year: __5_ FFY Grant: 2013 PHA FY: 2013		
Development Name/Number	**Major Work Categories**	**Estimated Cost**	**Development Name/Number**	**Major Work Categories**	**Estimated Cost**
CT 27-1A Hearthstone Apts.	Window Replacement	151,030.00	CT 27-1A Hearthstone Apts	Site Improvements	101,030.00
CT27-1B Elm Terrace Apts	Roof Replacement	140,000.00	CT 27-1B Elm Terrace Apts.	Replacement of Gutter System	25,000.00
				Building Exterior Repairs	25,000.00
				Parking Lot Upgrades	15,000.00
				Subtotal	**65,000.00**
			CT 27-2 RFK Apts.	Replacement of Gutter System	25,000.00
				Building Exterior Repairs	25,000.00
				Parking Lot Upgrades	15,000.00
				Subtotal	**65,000.00**
			CT 27-3 REB Apts.	Replacement of Gutter System	25,000.00
				Building Exterior Repairs	25,000.00
				Parking Lot Upgrades	10,000.00
				Subtotal	**60,000.00**
PHA-Wide	Management Improvements	10,000.00	PHA-Wide	Management Improvements	10,000.00
	Administration	81,000.00		Administration	81,000.00
	Fees and Costs	50,000.00		Fees and Costs	50,000.00
	Subtotal	**141,000.00**		**Subtotal**	**141,000.00**
	Total CFP Estimated Cost	**432,030.00**			**432,030.00**

Attachment ct027e01
Implementation of Public Housing Resident Community Service Requirements

The administrative steps that we will take to implement the Community Service Requirements include the following:

1. **Development of Written Description of Community Service Requirement:**
   The Housing Authority of the Town of Stratford has a written developed policy of Community Service Requirements as a part of the Admissions and Continued Occupancy Policy and has completed the required Resident Advisory Board review and public comment period.

2. **Scheduled Changes in Leases:**
   The Housing Authority of the Town of Stratford has made the necessary changes to the lease and has completed the required Resident Advisory Board review and public comment period.

3. **Written Notification to Residents of Exempt Status to each Adult Family Member:**
   The Housing Authority of the Town of Stratford will notify residents at the time of their recertification.

4. **Cooperative Agreements with TANF Agencies**
   The Housing Authority of the Town of Stratford has not secured a Cooperative Agreement with a TANF Agency.

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

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

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

Attachment ct027f01
Pet Policy Statement

The Stratford Housing Authority allows for pet ownership in its developments with the written pre-approval of the Housing Authority.

The Stratford Housing Authority adopts the following reasonable requirements as part of the Pet Policy:

1. Residents are responsible for any damage caused by their pets, including the cost of fumigating or cleaning their units.

2. In exchange for this right, resident assumes full responsibility and liability for the pet and agrees to hold the Stratford Housing Authority harmless from any claims caused by an action or inaction of the pet.

3. Residents must have the prior written approval of the Housing Authority before moving a pet into their unit.

4. Residents must request approval on the Authorization for Pet Ownership Form that must be fully completed before the Housing Authority will approve the request.

5. Residents must give the Housing Authority a picture of the pet so it can be identified if it is running loose.

6. A pet deposit of $200.00, lump sum paid in full is required at the time of registering a dog or cat. Generally pet deposits will not be required for other kinds of pets however the Authority reserves the right to levy the pet deposit for other animals, on a case-by-case basis, if the Authority determines a pet deposit is advisable for certain pets or circumstances.

7. The Stratford Housing Authority will allow only common household pets. This means only domesticated animals such as a dog, cat, bird, rabbit, gerbil, hamster, fish in aquariums, or a turtle will be allowed in units. Common household pets do not include reptiles (except turtles) or rodents (except for rabbits, gerbils and hamsters). If this definition conflicts with an applicable federal, state or local law or regulation having jurisdiction over the Authority, then the applicable law or regulation shall govern.

   All dogs and cats must be spayed or neutered before they become six months old. A licensed veterinarian must verify this fact.

   Only one pet per unit will be allowed. Any animal deemed to be potentially harmful to the health or safety of others, including attack or fight trained dogs,

will not be allowed. Pit Bulls and Rottweilers are expressly prohibited.

No animal may exceed twenty-five (25) pounds in weight projected to full adult size.

8. In order to be registered, pets must be appropriately inoculated against rabies, distemper and other conditions prescribed by state and/or local ordinances. They must comply with all other state and local public health, animal control, and anti-cruelty laws including any licensing requirements. A certification signed by a licensed veterinarian or state or local official shall be annually filed with the Stratford Housing Authority to attest to the inoculations.

9. The Stratford Housing Authority, or an appropriate community authority, shall require the removal of any pet from a project if the pet's conduct or condition is determined to be a nuisance or threat to the health or safety of other occupants of the project or of other persons in the community where the project is located.

Attachment ct027g01
Progress on Meeting Goals and Objectives

Goal One: Manage the Housing Authority of the Town of Stratford's existing public housing program in an efficient and effective manner thereby qualifying as at least a standard performer.

Objectives: HUD shall recognize the Housing Authority of the Town of Stratford as a high performer within five years of the effective date of the final rule on the Public Housing Assessment System.

Progress: **The Stratford Housing Authority has been consistently at least a standard performer and has reached high performer on several occasions.**

Goal Two: Provide a safe and secure environment in the Housing Authority of the Town of Stratford's public housing developments.

Objectives: The Housing Authority of the Town of Stratford shall reduce crime in its developments so that the crime rate is less than their surrounding neighborhood by December 31, 2009.

Progress: **The Stratford Housing Authority has consistently worked with the Police Department to keep crime at minimal levels. The Substation is being reactivated June 26, 2008 by the Stratford Police Department in this effort.**

Goal Three: Expand the range and quality of housing choices available to participants in the Housing Authority of the Town of Stratford's tenant-based assistance program.

Objectives: The Housing Authority of the Town of Stratford shall strive to maintain a utilization rate of 95% through December 31, 2009, in its tenant-based program.

Progress: **The Stratford Housing Authority currently has a utilization rate of 95%.**

Goal Four: Maintain the Housing Authority of the Town of Stratford's real estate in a decent condition, and that meets the codes of the Town of Stratford.

Objectives: The Housing Authority of the Town of Stratford will strive to maintain an appealing, up-to-date environment in its developments by December 31,

2009 provided that HUD maintains the current level of modernization funding and does not effect the diminishment of reserves.

Progress: **The Stratford Housing Authority is currently impeded in this effort by draconian operating and capital fund budget cuts.**

Attachment ct027h01
Resident Member on the PHA Governing Board

1. ☒ Yes ☐ No: Does the PHA governing board include at least one member who is directly assisted by the PHA this year? (if no, skip to #2)

A. Name of resident member(s) on the governing board: Jackie Cooper

B. How was the resident board member selected: (select one)?

☐ Elected
☒ Appointed

C. The term of appointment is (include the date term expires): 6/30/2008 through 6/30/2013

2. A. If the PHA governing board does not have at least one member who is directly assisted by the PHA, why not?

☐ the PHA is located in a State that requires the members of a governing board to be salaried and serve on a full time basis
☐ the PHA has less than 300 public housing units, has provided reasonable notice to the resident advisory board of the opportunity to serve on the governing board, and has not been notified by any resident of their interest to participate in the Board.
☐ Other (explain):

B. Date of next term expiration of a governing board member:

C. Name and title of appointing official(s) for governing board (indicate appointing official for the next position):

Attachment ct027i01
The Housing Authority of the Town of Stratford
Membership of Resident Advisory Board

- Dorothy Baggs
- Evelyn Dlugos
- Jackie Cooper

Attachment (ct027j01)

Annual Statement/Performance and Evaluation Report
Capital Fund Program and Capital Fund Program Replacement Housing Factor (CFP/CFPRHF) Part I: Summary

PHA Name: Stratford Housing Authority	Grant Type and Number Capital Fund Program Grant No: CT26PO2750105 Replacement Housing Factor Grant No:	Federal FY of Grant: 2005

☐ Original Annual Statement ☐ Reserve for Disasters/ Emergencies ☒ Revised Annual Statement (revision no: 4)
☒ Performance and Evaluation Report for Period Ending: 06/30/08 ☐ Final Performance and Evaluation Report

Line No.	Summary by Development Account	Total Estimated Cost		Total Actual Cost	
		Original	Revised	Obligated	Expended
1	Total non-CFP Funds	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	1406 Operations	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	1408 Management Improvements	10,000.00	8,610.00	8,610.00	8,610.00
4	1410 Administration	46,000.00	46,000.00	46,000.00	46,000.00
5	1411 Audit	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6	1415 Liquidated Damages	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7	1430 Fees and Costs	71,000.00	73,581.33	73,581.33	73,581.33
8	1440 Site Acquisition	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
9	1450 Site Improvement	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
10	1460 Dwelling Structures	309,626.00	308,311.97	308,311.97	308,311.97
11	1465.1 Dwelling Equipment—Nonexpendable	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
12	1470 Nondwelling Structures	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
13	1475 Nondwelling Equipment	25,000.00	25,122.70	25,122.70	0.00
14	1485 Demolition	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
15	1490 Replacement Reserve	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
16	1492 Moving to Work Demonstration	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
17	1495.1 Relocation Costs	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
18	1499 Development Activities	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
19	1501 Collaterization or Debt Service	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
20	1502 Contingency	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
21	Amount of Annual Grant: (sum of lines 2 – 20)	461,626.00	461,626.00	461,626.00	436,503.30
22	Amount of line 21 Related to LBP Activities	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
23	Amount of line 21 Related to Section 504 compliance	36,000.00	36,000.00	0.00	0.00
24	Amount of line 21 Related to Security – Soft Costs	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
25	Amount of Line 21 Related to Security – Hard Costs	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
26	Amount of line 21 Related to Energy Conservation Measures	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Annual Statement/Performance and Evaluation Report
Capital Fund Program and Capital Fund Program Replacement Housing Factor (CFP/CFPRHF)
Part II: Supporting Pages

PHA Name: Stratford Housing Authority		**Grant Type and Number** Capital Fund Program Grant No: CT26PO2750105 Replacement Housing Factor Grant No:				**Federal FY of Grant: 2005**		
Development Number Name/HA-Wide Activities	General Description of Major Work Categories	Dev. Acct No.	Quantity	Total Estimated Cost		Total Actual Cost		Status of Work
				Original	Revised	Funds Obligated	Funds Expended	
CT27-1A Hearthstone Apts.	Bathroom Renovations	1460	45 units	289,626.00	304,922.52	304,922.52	304,922.52	
CT27-2 Robert F. Kennedy Apts.	Range Hoods	1460	75 units	20,000.00	3,389.45	3,389.45	3,389.45	
PHA-Wide Non-Dwelling Equipment	New Truck with Plow	1475	100%	25,000.00	25,122.70	25,122.70	0.00	
PHA-Wide Management Improvement	Management and Maintenance Staff Training	1408	100%	10,000.00	8,610.00	8,610.00	8,610.00	
PHA-Wide Administration	Staff salary prorated for Capital Improvements Administration	1410	100%	46,000.00	46,000.00	46,000.00	46,000.00	
PHA-Wide Fees and Costs	Architectural and Engineering/ Modernization Consulting Fees	1430	100%	71,000.00	73,581.33	73,581.33	73,581.33	
	GRANT TOTAL			**461,626.00**	**461,626.00**	**461,626.00**	**436,503.30**	

Annual Statement/Performance and Evaluation Report
Capital Fund Program and Capital Fund Program Replacement Housing Factor (CFP/CFPRHF)
Part III: Implementation Schedule

PHA Name: Stratford Housing Authority	**Grant Type and Number** Capital Fund Program No: CT26PO2750105 Replacement Housing Factor No:	**Federal FY of Grant: 2005**

Development Number Name/HA-Wide Activities	All Fund Obligated (Quarter Ending Date)			All Funds Expended (Quarter Ending Date)			Reasons for Revised Target Dates
	Original	Revised	Actual	Original	Revised	Actual	
CT27-1A Hearthstone Apartments	08/17/07	07/30/07	07/30/07	08/17/09	03/30/08	03/30/08	
CT27-2 RFK Apartments	08/17/07	08/24/06	08/24/06	08/17/09	03/30/07	03/30/07	
PHA-Wide	08/17/07	03/30/06	03/30/06	08/17/09			

Attachment (ct027k01)

Annual Statement/Performance and Evaluation Report
Capital Fund Program and Capital Fund Program Replacement Housing Factor (CFP/CFPRHF) Part I: Summary

PHA Name: Stratford Housing Authority	Grant Type and Number Capital Fund Program Grant No: CT26PO2750106 Replacement Housing Factor Grant No:	Federal FY of Grant: 2006

☐ Original Annual Statement ☐ Reserve for Disasters/ Emergencies ☒ Revised Annual Statement (revision no: 5)
☐ Performance and Evaluation Report for Period Ending: 6/30/08 ☐ Final Performance and Evaluation Report

Line No.	Summary by Development Account	Total Estimated Cost		Total Actual Cost	
		Original	Revised	Obligated	Expended
1	Total non-CFP Funds	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	1406 Operations	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	1408 Management Improvements	15,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	4,620.00
4	1410 Administration	41,000.00	41,000.00	41,000.00	41,000.00
5	1411 Audit	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6	1415 Liquidated Damages	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7	1430 Fees and Costs	60,000.00	45,000.00	45,000.00	40,889.64
8	1440 Site Acquisition	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
9	1450 Site Improvement	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
10	1460 Dwelling Structures	334,103.00	359,103.00	359,103.00	350,396.98
11	1465.1 Dwelling Equipment—Nonexpendable	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
12	1470 Nondwelling Structures	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
13	1475 Nondwelling Equipment	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
14	1485 Demolition	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
15	1490 Replacement Reserve	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
16	1492 Moving to Work Demonstration	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
17	1495.1 Relocation Costs	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
18	1499 Development Activities	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
19	1501 Collaterization or Debt Service	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
20	1502 Contingency	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
21	Amount of Annual Grant: (sum of lines 2 – 20)	450,103.00	450,103.00	450,103.00	436,906.62
22	Amount of line 21 Related to LBP Activities	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
23	Amount of line 21 Related to Section 504 compliance	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
24	Amount of line 21 Related to Security – Soft Costs	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Annual Statement/Performance and Evaluation Report
Capital Fund Program and Capital Fund Program Replacement Housing Factor (CFP/CFPRHF) Part I: Summary

PHA Name: Stratford Housing Authority	Grant Type and Number Capital Fund Program Grant No: CT26PO2750106 Replacement Housing Factor Grant No:	Federal FY of Grant: 2006

☐ Original Annual Statement ☐ Reserve for Disasters/ Emergencies ☒ Revised Annual Statement (revision no: 5)
☐ Performance and Evaluation Report for Period Ending: 6/30/08 ☐ Final Performance and Evaluation Report

Line No.	Summary by Development Account	Total Estimated Cost		Total Actual Cost	
		Original	Revised	Obligated	Expended
25	Amount of Line 21 Related to Security – Hard Costs	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
26	Amount of line 21 Related to Energy Conservation Measures	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Annual Statement/Performance and Evaluation Report
Capital Fund Program and Capital Fund Program Replacement Housing Factor (CFP/CFPRHF)
Part II: Supporting Pages

PHA Name: Stratford Housing Authority		**Grant Type and Number** Capital Fund Program Grant No: CT26PO2750106 Replacement Housing Factor Grant No:				**Federal FY of Grant: 2006**		
Development Number Name/HA-Wide Activities	General Description of Major Work Categories	Dev. Acct No.	Quantity	Total Estimated Cost		Total Actual Cost		Status of Work
				Original	Revised	Funds Obligated	Funds Expended	
CT27-1A Hearthstone Apts.	Renovate Bathrooms	1460	48 units	334,103.00	359,103.00	359,103.00	350,396.98	
PHA-Wide Management Improvement	Management and Maintenance Staff Training	1408	100%	15,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	4,620.00	
PHA-Wide Administration	Staff salary prorated for Capital Improvements Administration	1410	100%	41,000.00	41,000.00	41,000.00	41,000.00	
PHA-Wide Fees and Costs	Architectural and Engineering/ Modernization Consulting Fees	1430	100%	60,000.00	45,000.00	45,000.00	40,889.64	
	GRANT TOTAL			**450,103.00**	**450,103.00**	**450,103.00**	**436,906.62**	

Annual Statement/Performance and Evaluation Report
Capital Fund Program and Capital Fund Program Replacement Housing Factor (CFP/CFPRHF)
Part III: Implementation Schedule

PHA Name: Stratford Housing Authority	**Grant Type and Number** Capital Fund Program No: CT26PO2750106 Replacement Housing Factor No:	**Federal FY of Grant: 2006**

Development Number Name/HA-Wide Activities	All Fund Obligated (Quarter Ending Date)			All Funds Expended (Quarter Ending Date)			Reasons for Revised Target Dates
	Original	Revised	Actual	Original	Revised	Actual	
CT27-1A Hearthstone Apartments	08/17/08	07/30/07	07/30/07	08/17/10	08/17/10		
PHA-Wide	08/17/08	03/30/07	03/30/07	08/17/10	08/17/10		

Attachment (ct027l01)

Annual Statement/Performance and Evaluation Report
Capital Fund Program and Capital Fund Program Replacement Housing Factor (CFP/CFPRHF) Part I: Summary

PHA Name: Stratford Housing Authority	Grant Type and Number Capital Fund Program Grant No: CT26PO2750107 Replacement Housing Factor Grant No:	Federal FY of Grant: 2007

☐ Original Annual Statement ☐ Reserve for Disasters/ Emergencies ☒ Revised Annual Statement (revision no: 2)
☒ Performance and Evaluation Report for Period Ending: 06/30/08 ☐ Final Performance and Evaluation Report

Line No.	Summary by Development Account	Total Estimated Cost		Total Actual Cost	
		Original	Revised	Obligated	Expended
1	Total non-CFP Funds	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	1406 Operations	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	1408 Management Improvements	10,000.00	10,000.00	0.00	0.00
4	1410 Administration	43,000.00	43,000.00	43,000.00	43,000.00
5	1411 Audit	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6	1415 Liquidated Damages	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7	1430 Fees and Costs	65,000.00	65,000.00	65,000.00	0.00
8	1440 Site Acquisition	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
9	1450 Site Improvement	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
10	1460 Dwelling Structures	298,992.00	290,000.00	0.00	0.00
11	1465.1 Dwelling Equipment—Nonexpendable	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
12	1470 Nondwelling Structures	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
13	1475 Nondwelling Equipment	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
14	1485 Demolition	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
15	1490 Replacement Reserve	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
16	1492 Moving to Work Demonstration	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
17	1495.1 Relocation Costs	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
18	1499 Development Activities	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
19	1501 Collaterization or Debt Service	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
20	1502 Contingency	15,038.00	24,030.00	0.00	0.00
21	Amount of Annual Grant: (sum of lines 2 – 20)	432,030.00	432,030.00	108,000.00	43,000.00
22	Amount of line 21 Related to LBP Activities	0.00	0.00	0.00	
23	Amount of line 21 Related to Section 504 compliance	0.00	0.00	0.00	
24	Amount of line 21 Related to Security – Soft Costs	0.00	0.00	0.00	

Annual Statement/Performance and Evaluation Report
Capital Fund Program and Capital Fund Program Replacement Housing Factor (CFP/CFPRHF) Part I: Summary

PHA Name: Stratford Housing Authority	Grant Type and Number Capital Fund Program Grant No: CT26PO2750107 Replacement Housing Factor Grant No:	Federal FY of Grant: 2007

☐ Original Annual Statement ☐ Reserve for Disasters/ Emergencies ☒ Revised Annual Statement (revision no: 2)
☒ Performance and Evaluation Report for Period Ending: 06/30/08 ☐ Final Performance and Evaluation Report

Line No.	Summary by Development Account	Total Estimated Cost		Total Actual Cost	
		Original	Revised	Obligated	Expended
25	Amount of Line 21 Related to Security – Hard Costs	0.00	0.00	0.00	
26	Amount of line 21 Related to Energy Conservation Measures	0.00	0.00	0.00	

Annual Statement/Performance and Evaluation Report
Capital Fund Program and Capital Fund Program Replacement Housing Factor (CFP/CFPRHF)
Part II: Supporting Pages

PHA Name: Stratford Housing Authority		**Grant Type and Number** Capital Fund Program Grant No: CT26PO2750107 Replacement Housing Factor Grant No:				**Federal FY of Grant: 2007**		
Development Number Name/HA-Wide Activities	General Description of Major Work Categories	Dev. Acct No.	Quantity	Total Estimated Cost		Total Actual Cost		Status of Work
				Original	Revised	Funds Obligated	Funds Expended	
CT27-1A Hearthstone Apts.	Replace Bi-fold doors	1460	100 units	298,992.00	265,000.00	0.00	0.00	
	Bathroom Renovations	1460	100 units	0.00	25,000.00	0.00	0.00	
	Subtotal			**298,992.00**	**290,000.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	
PHA-Wide Management Improvement	Management and Maintenance Staff Training	1408	100%	10,000.00	10,000.00	0.00	0.00	
PHA-Wide Administration	Staff salary prorated for Capital Improvements Administration	1410	100%	43,000.00	43,000.00	43,000.00	43,000.00	
PHA-Wide Fees and Costs	Architectural and Engineering/ Modernization Consulting Fees	1430	100%	65,000.00	65,000.00	65,000.00	0.00	
PHA-Wide Contingency	Contingency	1502	100%	15,038.00	24,030.00	0.00	0.00	
	GRANT TOTAL			**432,030.00**	**432,030.00**	**108,000.00**	**43,000.00**	

Annual Statement/Performance and Evaluation Report
Capital Fund Program and Capital Fund Program Replacement Housing Factor (CFP/CFPRHF)
Part III: Implementation Schedule

PHA Name: Stratford Housing Authority	**Grant Type and Number** Capital Fund Program No: CT26PO2750107 Replacement Housing Factor No:	**Federal FY of Grant: 2007**

Development Number Name/HA-Wide Activities	All Fund Obligated (Quarter Ending Date)			All Funds Expended (Quarter Ending Date)			Reasons for Revised Target Dates
	Original	Revised	Actual	Original	Revised	Actual	
CT27-1A Hearthstone Apartments	08/17/09			08/17/11			
CT27-1B Elm Terrace Apartments	08/17/09			08/17/11			
CT27-2 RFK Apartments	08/17/09			08/17/11			
CT27-3 REB Apartments	08/17/09			08/17/11			
PHA-Wide	08/17/09			08/17/11			

Attachment (ct027m01)

Annual Statement/Performance and Evaluation Report
Capital Fund Program and Capital Fund Program Replacement Housing Factor (CFP/CFPRHF) Part I: Summary

PHA Name: Stratford Housing Authority	Grant Type and Number Capital Fund Program Grant No: CT26PO2750108 Replacement Housing Factor Grant No:	Federal FY of Grant: 2008

☐ **Original Annual Statement** ☐ **Reserve for Disasters/ Emergencies** ☒ **Revised Annual Statement (revision no:** 1)
☒ **Performance and Evaluation Report for Period Ending: 06/30/08** ☐ **Final Performance and Evaluation Report**

Line No.	Summary by Development Account	Total Estimated Cost		Total Actual Cost	
		Original	Revised	Obligated	Expended
1	Total non-CFP Funds	0.00	0.00		
2	1406 Operations	0.00	0.00		
3	1408 Management Improvements	20,000.00	20,000.00		
4	1410 Administration	82,999.00	82,999.00		
5	1411 Audit	0.00	0.00		
6	1415 Liquidated Damages	0.00	0.00		
7	1430 Fees and Costs	65,000.00	65,000.00		
8	1440 Site Acquisition	0.00	0.00		
9	1450 Site Improvement	34,000.00	34,000.00		
10	1460 Dwelling Structures	212,993.00	232,993.00		
11	1465.1 Dwelling Equipment—Nonexpendable	0.00	0.00		
12	1470 Nondwelling Structures	0.00	0.00		
13	1475 Nondwelling Equipment	0.00	0.00		
14	1485 Demolition	0.00	0.00		
15	1490 Replacement Reserve	0.00	0.00		
16	1492 Moving to Work Demonstration	0.00	0.00		
17	1495.1 Relocation Costs	0.00	0.00		
18	1499 Development Activities	0.00	0.00		
19	1501 Collaterization or Debt Service	0.00	0.00		
20	1502 Contingency	17,038.00	41,799.00		
21	Amount of Annual Grant: (sum of lines 2 – 20)	432,030.00	476,791.00		
22	Amount of line 21 Related to LBP Activities	0.00	0.00		
23	Amount of line 21 Related to Section 504 compliance	0.00	0.00		
24	Amount of line 21 Related to Security – Soft Costs	0.00	0.00		

Annual Statement/Performance and Evaluation Report
Capital Fund Program and Capital Fund Program Replacement Housing Factor (CFP/CFPRHF) Part I: Summary

PHA Name: Stratford Housing Authority	Grant Type and Number Capital Fund Program Grant No: CT26PO2750108 Replacement Housing Factor Grant No:	Federal FY of Grant: 2008

☐ **Original Annual Statement** ☐ **Reserve for Disasters/ Emergencies** ☒ **Revised Annual Statement (revision no:** 1)
☒ **Performance and Evaluation Report for Period Ending: 06/30/08** ☐ **Final Performance and Evaluation Report**

Line No.	Summary by Development Account	Total Estimated Cost		Total Actual Cost	
		Original	Revised	Obligated	Expended
25	Amount of Line 21 Related to Security – Hard Costs	0.00	0.00		
26	Amount of line 21 Related to Energy Conservation Measures	0.00	0.00		

Annual Statement/Performance and Evaluation Report
Capital Fund Program and Capital Fund Program Replacement Housing Factor (CFP/CFPRHF)
Part II: Supporting Pages

PHA Name: Stratford Housing Authority		**Grant Type and Number** Capital Fund Program Grant No: CT26PO2750108 Replacement Housing Factor Grant No:				**Federal FY of Grant: 2008**		
Development Number Name/HA-Wide Activities	General Description of Major Work Categories	Dev. Acct No.	Quantity	Total Estimated Cost		Total Actual Cost		Status of Work
				Original	Revised	Funds Obligated	Funds Expended	
CT27-1A Hearthstone Apts.	Install Sewer Cleanouts	1460	100 units	76,331.00	76,331.00			
CT27-1B Elm Terrace Apts.	Site Improvements	1450	100%	10,000.00	10,000.00			
CT27-2 Robert F. Kennedy Apts.	Replace Interior Doors	1460	72 units	68,331.00	78,331.00			
	Site Improvements	1450	100%	10,000.00	10,000.00			
	TOTAL			**78,331.00**	**88,331.00**			
CT27-3 Raymond E. Baldwin Apts.	Replace Interior Doors	1460	72 units	68,331.00	78,331.00			
	Site Improvements	1450	100%	14,000.00	14,000.00			
	TOTAL			**82,331.00**	**92,331.00**			
PHA-Wide Management Improvement	Management and Maintenance Staff Training	1408	100%	20,000.00	20,000.00			

Annual Statement/Performance and Evaluation Report
Capital Fund Program and Capital Fund Program Replacement Housing Factor (CFP/CFPRHF)
Part II: Supporting Pages

PHA Name: Stratford Housing Authority		**Grant Type and Number** Capital Fund Program Grant No: CT26PO2750108 Replacement Housing Factor Grant No:				**Federal FY of Grant: 2008**		
Development Number Name/HA-Wide Activities	General Description of Major Work Categories	Dev. Acct No.	Quantity	Total Estimated Cost		Total Actual Cost		Status of Work
				Original	Revised	Funds Obligated	Funds Expended	
PHA-Wide Administration	Staff salary prorated for Capital Improvements Administration. Administer Central Office Cost Center (10%)	1410	100%	82,999.00	82,999.00			
PHA-Wide Fees and Costs	Architectural and Engineering/ Modernization Consulting Fees	1430	100%	65,000.00	65,000.00			
PHA-Wide Contingency	Contingency for cost overruns	1502	100%	17,038.00	41,799.00			
	GRANT TOTAL			**432,030.00**	**476,791.00**			

Annual Statement/Performance and Evaluation Report
Capital Fund Program and Capital Fund Program Replacement Housing Factor (CFP/CFPRHF)
Part III: Implementation Schedule

PHA Name: Stratford Housing Authority	**Grant Type and Number** Capital Fund Program No: CT26PO2750108 Replacement Housing Factor No:	**Federal FY of Grant: 2008**

Development Number Name/HA-Wide Activities	All Fund Obligated (Quarter Ending Date)			All Funds Expended (Quarter Ending Date)			Reasons for Revised Target Dates
	Original	Revised	Actual	Original	Revised	Actual	
CT27-1A Hearthstone Apartments	08/17/10	06/13/10		08/17/12	06/13/12		
CT27-1B Elm Terrace Apartments	08/17/10	06/13/10		08/17/12	06/13/12		
CT27-2 RFK Apartments	08/17/10	06/13/10		08/17/12	06/13/12		
CT27-3 REB Apartments	08/17/10	06/13/10		08/17/12	06/13/12		
PHA-Wide	08/17/10	06/13/10		08/17/12	06/13/12		

Attachment ct027n01
Component 3 (6) Deconcentration and Income Mixing

a. ☒ Yes ☐ No Does the PHA have any general occupancy (family) public housing developments covered by the deconcentration rule? If no, this section is complete. If yes, continue to the next question.

b. ☒ Yes ☐ No Do any of these covered developments have average incomes above or below 85% to 115% of the average incomes of all such developments? If no, this section is complete.

If yes, list these developments as follows:

Deconcentration Policy for Covered Developments			
Development Name	**Number of Units**	**Explanation (if any) [see step 4 at 903.2(c)(1)(iv)]**	**Deconcentration Policy (if no explanation) [see step 5 at 903.2(c)(1)(v)]**
CT02705	1	This is a stand alone one unit development	The Stratford Housing Authority will follow its deconcentration policy as outlined in the Admissions and Continued Occupancy Policy.

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SECTION 8 ADMINISTRATIVE PLAN

1.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

1.1 FAIR HOUSING

It is the policy of the Stratford Housing Authority to comply fully with all Federal, State, and local nondiscrimination laws; the Americans With Disabilities Act; and the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations governing Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity.

No person shall, on the ground of race, color, sex, religion, national or ethnic origin, familial status, or disability be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under the Stratford Housing Authority housing programs.

To further its commitment to full compliance with applicable Civil Rights laws, the Stratford Housing Authority will provide Federal/State/local information to applicants for and participants in the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program regarding discrimination and any recourse available to them if they believe they may be victims of discrimination. Such information will be made available with the application, and all applicable Fair Housing Information and Discrimination Complaint Forms will be made available at the Stratford Housing Authority office. In addition, all written information and advertisements will contain the appropriate Equal Opportunity language and logo.

The Stratford Housing Authority will assist any family that believes they have suffered illegal discrimination by providing them copies of the housing discrimination form. The Stratford Housing Authority will also assist them in completing the form, if requested, and will provide them with the address of the nearest HUD Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity.

1.2 REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION

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

Housing Authority will ensure that all applicants/participants are aware of the opportunity to request reasonable accommodations.

1.3 COMMUNICATION

Anyone requesting an application will also receive a Request for Reasonable Accommodation Form.

Notifications of reexamination, inspection, appointment, or eviction will include information about requesting a reasonable accommodation. Any notification requesting action by the participant will include information about requesting a reasonable accommodation.

All decisions granting or denying requests will be in writing.

1.4 QUESTIONS TO ASK IN GRANTING THE ACCOMMODATION

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

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

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

B. Is the requested accommodation related to the disability? If it is apparent that the request is related to the apparent or documented disability, the answer to this question is yes. If it is not apparent, the Stratford Housing Authority will obtain documentation that the requested accommodation is needed due to the disability. The Stratford Housing Authority will not inquire as to the nature of the disability.

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

1. Would the accommodation constitute a fundamental alteration? The Stratford Housing Authority's business is housing. If the request would alter the fundamental business that the Stratford Housing Authority

conducts, that would not be reasonable. For instance, the Stratford Housing Authority would deny a request to have the Stratford Housing Authority do grocery shopping for the person with disabilities.

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

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

If more than one accommodation is equally effective in providing access to the Stratford Housing Authority's programs and services, the Stratford Housing Authority retains the right to select the most efficient or economic choice.

If the participant requests, as a reasonable accommodation, that he or she be permitted to make physical modifications to their dwelling unit, at their own expense, the request should be made to the property owner/manager. The Housing Authority does not have responsibility for the owner's unit and does not have responsibility to make the unit accessible. The Housing Authority may, however, grant a higher payment standard for units where property owners make physical modification for persons with disabilities so long as the payment standard does not exceed 110% of FMRs.

Any request for an accommodation that would enable a participant to materially violate family obligations will not be approved.

1.5 SERVICES FOR LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY APPLICANTS AND RESIDENTS

The Stratford Housing Authority shall do its best, within reason, to assist people with Limited English Proficiency (LEP). This shall be accomplished by assessing the need of LEP persons using the four factors described in the January 22, 2007 Final Guidance to Federal Financial Assistance Recipients Regarding Title VI Prohibition Against National Origin Discrimination Affecting Limited English Proficient Persons; Notice published in the Federal Register. The Stratford Housing Authority shall balance these factors in deciding what to do:

1. The number or proportion of LEP persons served or encountered in the eligible service area;

2. The Frequency with which LEP individuals come in contact with the program;

3. The nature and importance of the program, activity, or service provided by the program; and

4. The resources available to the Housing Authority and costs.

Depending upon what this analysis reveals, the Stratford Housing Authority may or may not prepare a Language Access Plan (LAP). If a LAP is needed, the guidance outlined in the above reference Notice shall be utilized.

In addition, the Stratford Housing Authority will endeavor to have bilingual staff or access to people who speak languages other than English. Finally, the Stratford Housing Authority shall utilize multilingual "I speak" cards to the maximum degree possible.

1.6 FAMILY/OWNER OUTREACH

As per the SHA's Equal Opportunity Housing Plan, the approach to contact families and owners is as follows:

A. Paid advertisement in local media. All outreach efforts include minority population and residents within surrounding communities. The EHO logo will be used in all advertisements. These newspapers are as follows:

   1. Connecticut Post

   2. New England Minority News and/or other appropriate minority publication

   3. Other publications deemed appropriate

   In addition, the SHA will send notices and informational packets to outreach agencies, such as the following:

   1. Public Welfare Office

   2. Council on Aging

   3. Neighborhood Centers

   4. ABCD

   5. NAACP

B. Bi-lingual materials will be provided as needed, and within capabilities.

C. Outreach to owners and real estate agents to inform them of the Section 8 program will also be made. Extensive efforts will be undertaken to assure that owners and brokers of rental housing have a working knowledge of the Section 8 Program. This effort may include written communication as well as seminars. Owners will be informed that it will be their responsibility to screen potential tenants. SHA responsibility will be to ensure that they are income eligible.

D. Special outreach adjustments – families: Adjustment will be made in the outreach procedures as needed, and by added media coverage as needed. The SHA anticipates that due to the significant number of eligible applicants from the lower income level groups, as well as those on public assistance in the Town of Stratford, a large volume of applicants will be covered by our present outreach procedure.

E. Special outreach efforts – owners: The SHA shall inform prospective owners that screening is an owner responsibility and that the SHA has not screened the family. The SHA shall give prospective owners the family's current and former landlords. The SHA, at its own discretion, and on a case by case basis, shall provide or not provide other family information (e.g., drug trafficking, tenant history, etc.)

The objective of this effort is to develop a waiting list that is representative of our low-income community. A particular emphasis will be placed on attracting eligible individuals and families least likely to apply for the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program.

The Stratford Housing Authority will hold briefings for owners who participate in or who are seeking information about the Section 8 Program. The briefings are intended to:

A. Explain how the program works;

B. Explain how the program benefits owners;

C. Explain owners' responsibilities (including lead-based paint) under the program. Emphasis is placed on quality screening and ways the Stratford Housing Authority helps owners do better screening; and

D. Provide an opportunity for owners to ask questions, obtain written materials, and meet Stratford Housing Authority staff.

The Stratford Housing Authority will particularly encourage owners of suitable units located outside of low-income or minority concentration and owners of accessible units to attend. Targeted mailing lists will be developed and announcements mailed.

1.7 RIGHT TO PRIVACY

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

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

1.8 REQUIRED POSTINGS

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

A. The Section 8 Administrative Plan

B. Notice of the status of the waiting list (opened or closed)

C. Address of all Stratford Housing Authority offices, office hours, telephone numbers, TDD numbers, and hours of operation

D. Income Limits for Admission

E. Informal Review and Informal Hearing Procedures

F. Fair Housing Poster

G. Equal Opportunity in Employment Poster

2.0 STRATFORD HOUSING AUTHORITY/OWNER RESPONSIBILITY/ OBLIGATION OF THE FAMILY

This Section outlines the responsibilities and obligations of the Stratford Housing Authority, the Section 8 Owners/Landlords, and the participating families.

2.1 STRATFORD HOUSING AUTHORITY RESPONSIBILITIES

A. The Stratford Housing Authority will comply with the consolidated ACC, the application, HUD regulations and other requirements, and the Stratford Housing Authority Section 8 Administrative Plan.

B. In administering the program, the Stratford Housing Authority must:

1. Publish and disseminate information about the availability and nature of housing assistance under the program;

2. Explain the program to owners and families, including both party's rights and responsibilities under the Violence Against Women Act;

3. Seek expanded opportunities for assisted families to locate housing outside areas of poverty or racial concentration;

4. Encourage owners to make units available for leasing in the program, including owners of suitable units located outside areas of poverty or racial concentration;

5. Affirmatively further fair housing goals and comply with equal opportunity requirements;

6. Make efforts to help disabled persons find satisfactory housing;

7. Receive applications from families, determine eligibility, maintain the waiting list, select applicants, issue a housing choice voucher to each selected family, and provide housing information to families selected;

8. Determine who can live in the assisted unit at admission and during the family's participation in the program;

9. Obtain and verify evidence of citizenship and eligible immigration status in accordance with 24 CFR part 5;

10. Review the family's request for approval of the tenancy and the owner/landlord lease, including the HUD prescribed tenancy addendum;

11. Inspect the unit before the assisted occupancy begins and at least annually during the assisted tenancy;

12. Determine the amount of the housing assistance payment for a family;

13. Determine the maximum rent to the owner and whether the rent is reasonable;

14. Make timely housing assistance payments to an owner in accordance with the HAP contract;

15. Examine family income, size and composition at admission and at least annually during the family's participation in the program. The examination includes verification of income and other family information;

16. Establish and adjust the Stratford Housing Authority utility allowance;

17. Administer and enforce the housing assistance payments contract with an owner, including taking appropriate action as determined by the Stratford Housing Authority, if the owner defaults (e.g., HQS violation);

18. Determine whether to terminate assistance to a participant family for violation of family obligations;

19. Conduct informal reviews of certain Stratford Housing Authority decisions concerning applicants for participation in the program;

20. Conduct informal hearings on certain Stratford Housing Authority decisions concerning participant families;

21. Provide sound financial management of the program, including engaging an independent public accountant to conduct audits; and

2.2 OWNER RESPONSIBILITY

A. The owner is responsible for performing all of the owner's obligations under the HAP contract and the lease.

B. The owner is responsible for:

1. Performing all management and rental functions for the assisted unit, including selecting a voucher holder to lease the unit, and deciding if the family is suitable for tenancy of the unit (screening the tenant).

2. Maintaining the unit in accordance with HQS, including performance of ordinary and extraordinary maintenance. Prior to the execution of the Housing Assistance Payment contract, the owner must inform the Stratford Housing Authority and the family of any knowledge of the presence of lead-based paint on the surfaces of the residential unit through "Request for Approval of Tenancy Form" or other means dictated by the Stratford Housing Authority.

3. Complying with equal opportunity requirements.

4. Complying with the Housing Assistance Program contract (HAP).

5. Preparing and furnishing to the Stratford Housing Authority information required under the HAP contract.

6. Collecting from the family:

   a. Any security deposit required under the lease.

   b. The tenant contribution (the part of rent to owner not covered by the housing assistance payment.

   c. Any charges for unit damage by the family.

7. Entering into a lease and enforcing tenant obligations under the lease.

8. Including in the lease a clause that provides that engaging in drug-related criminal activity on or near the premises by the tenant, household member, guest, or any other person under the tenant's control is grounds for the owner to terminate tenancy. In addition, the lease must also provide that the owner may evict a family when the owner determines that a household member is illegally using a drug or when the owner determines that a pattern of illegal use of a drug interferes with the health, safety or right to peaceful enjoyment of the premises by other residents.

9. Paying for utilities and services (unless paid by the family under the lease.)

C. For provisions on modifications to a dwelling unit occupied or to be occupied by a person with disabilities see 24 CFR 100.203.

D. The owner is responsible for notifying the Stratford Housing Authority sixty (60) days prior to any rent increase.

2.3 OBLIGATIONS OF THE PARTICIPANT

This Section states the obligations of a participant family under the program.

A. Supplying required information.

1. The family must supply any information that the Stratford Housing Authority or HUD determines is necessary in the administration of the program, including submission of required evidence of citizenship or eligible immigration status. Information includes any requested certification, release or other documentation.

If the participant is found to have made misrepresentations at any time which resulted in his being classified as eligible, when in fact, he was ineligible and the misrepresentation resulted in his paying a lower rent than was appropriate, he shall be required to pay the difference between the actual payments and the amount which should have been paid. In justifiable instances the Authority may take such other action as it deems advisable. If it is determined that the participant has committed fraud especially in the non-reporting of income, then that participant shall be processed for eviction.

2. The family must supply any information requested by the Stratford Housing Authority or HUD for use in a regularly scheduled reexamination or interim reexamination of family income and composition in accordance with HUD requirements.

3. The family must disclose and verify Social Security Numbers and must sign and submit consent forms for obtaining information.

4. All information supplied by the family must be true and complete.

B. HQS breach caused by the Family

The family is responsible for any HQS breach caused by the family or its guests.

C. Allowing Stratford Housing Authority Inspection

The family must allow the Stratford Housing Authority to inspect the unit at reasonable times and after at least 2 days notice.

D. Violation of Lease

The family may not commit any serious or repeated violation of the lease.

E. Family Notice of Move or Lease Termination

The family must notify the Stratford Housing Authority and the owner before the family moves out of the unit or terminates the lease by a notice to the owner.

F. Owner Eviction Notice

The family must promptly give the Stratford Housing Authority a copy of any owner eviction notice it receives.

G. Use and Occupancy of the Unit

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

2. The Stratford Housing Authority must approve the composition of the assisted family residing in the unit. The family must promptly inform the Stratford Housing Authority within ten (10) business days of the birth, adoption or court-awarded custody of a child. The family must request approval from the Stratford Housing Authority to add any other family member as an occupant of the unit. No other person (i.e., no one but members of the assisted family) may reside in the unit (except for a foster child/foster adult or live-in aide as provided in paragraph (4) of this Section). Guests are permitted up to a maximum of fourteen (14) days each year without the prior written approval of the Housing Authority.

3. The family must notify the Stratford Housing Authority within ten (10) business days if any family member no longer resides in the unit.

4. If the Stratford Housing Authority has given approval, a foster child/foster adult or a live-in aide may reside in the unit. It is the policy of the Stratford Housing Authority that approval will only be granted for a foster child/foster adult if a court has awarded custody to the family.

5. Members of the household may engage in legal profit making activities in the unit, but only if such activities are incidental to primary use of the unit for residence by members of the family. Any business uses of the unit must comply with the lease and zoning requirements, and the affected household member must obtain all appropriate licenses.

6. The family must not sublease or let the unit.

7. The family must not assign the lease or transfer the unit.

H. Family Absence from the Unit

The family must supply any information or certification requested by the Stratford Housing Authority to verify that the family is living in the unit, or relating to family absence from the unit, including any Stratford Housing Authority requested information or certification on the purposes of family absences. The family must cooperate with the Stratford Housing Authority for this purpose. The family must promptly notify the Stratford Housing Authority of its absence from the unit.

Absence means that no member of the family is residing in the unit. The family may be absent from the unit for up to 30 days. The family must request permission from the Stratford Housing Authority for absences exceeding 30 days. The Stratford Housing Authority will make a determination within 5 business days of the request. An authorized absence may not exceed 180 days. Any family absent for more than 30 days without authorization will be terminated from the program.

Authorized absences may include, but are not limited to:

1. Prolonged hospitalization

2. Absences beyond the control of the family (i.e., death in the family, other family member illness)

3. Other absences that are deemed necessary by the Stratford Housing Authority

Absences will not be granted for felony imprisonment or any other form of incarceration.

Housing Assistance Payments, the HAP contract and assisted lease all terminate if a family is absent longer than 30 consecutive calendar days without approval. Termination will occur on the 31st day. In the case of longer approved absences, termination will occur on the day after the last approved day of absence. In the case of any absence longer than the 180 consecutive calendar days, termination will be effective on the 181st day of the absence. The owner must reimburse the Stratford Housing Authority for any HAP payment for the period after the termination.

Absent means that no member of the family is residing in the unit. The family must supply any information and/or certification requested by the Stratford Housing Authority to verify that the family is residing in the unit, or relating to family absence from the unit

I. Interest in the Unit

The family may not own or have any interest in the unit (except for owners of manufactured housing renting the manufactured home space).

J. Fraud and Other Program Violation

The members of the family must not commit fraud, bribery, or any other corrupt or criminal act in connection with the programs.

K. Crime by Household Members

The members of the household may not engage in drug-related criminal activity or other violent criminal activity or other criminal activity that threatens he health safety or right to peaceful enjoyment of other residents and persons residing in the immediate vicinity of the premises.

L. Other Housing Assistance

An assisted family, or members of the family, may not receive Section 8 tenant-based assistance while receiving another housing subsidy, for the same unit or for a different unit, under any duplicative (as determined by HUD or in accordance with HUD requirements) Federal, State or local housing assistance program.

M. Alcohol and/or Drug Abuse By Household Members

The members of the household must not abuse alcohol and/or drugs in a way that threatens the health, safety or right to peaceful enjoyment of other residents and/or persons residing in the immediate vicinity of the premises.

3.0 ELIGIBILITY FOR ADMISSION

3.1 INTRODUCTION

There are five eligibility requirements for admission to Section 8 -- qualifies as a family, has an income within the income limits, meets citizenship/eligible immigrant criteria, provides documentation of Social Security Numbers, and signs consent authorization documents. In addition to the eligibility criteria, families must also meet the Stratford Housing Authority screening criteria in order to be admitted to the Section 8 Program.

3.2 ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

A. Family status – All families must have a Head of Household or Co-Heads of Household.

1. A **family with or without children**. Such a family is defined as a group of people related by blood, marriage, adoption or operation of law and regularly living together in a stable family relationship.

   a. Children temporarily absent from the home due to placement in foster care are considered family members.

b. Unborn children and children in the process of being adopted are considered family members for purposes of determining bedroom size, but are not considered family members for determining income limit.

2. An **elderly family**, which is:

a. A family whose head, spouse, or sole member is a person who is at least 62 years of age;

b. Two or more persons who are at least 62 years of age living together; or

c. One or more persons who are at least 62 years of age living with one or more live-in aides

3. A **near elderly family**, which is:

a. A family whose head, spouse, or sole member is a person who is at least 50 years of age but below the age of 62;

b. Two or more persons who are at least 50 years of age but below the age of 62 living together; or

c. One or more persons who are at least 50 years of age but below the age of 62 living with one or more live-in aides.

4. A **disabled family**, which is:

a. A family whose head, spouse, or sole member is a person with disabilities;

b. Two or more persons with disabilities living together; or

c. One or more persons with disabilities living with one or more live-in aides.

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

5. A **displaced family** is a family in which each member, or whose sole member, has been displaced by governmental action, or whose dwelling has been extensively damaged or destroyed as a result of a disaster

declared or otherwise formally recognized pursuant to Federal disaster relief laws.

6. A **remaining member of a tenant family** is a family member of an assisted family who remains in the unit when other family members have left the unit.

7. A **single person** who is not an elderly or displaced person, or a person with disabilities, or the remaining member of a tenant family.

B. Income eligibility

1. To be eligible to receive assistance a family shall, at the time the family initially receives assistance under the Section 8 program be a low-income family that is:

   a. A very low-income family;

   b. A low-income family continuously assisted under the 1937 Housing Act, including families relocated from public housing for the convenience of the agency (continuously assisted families are not counted against the income targeting requirements);

   c. A low-income family that meets additional eligibility criteria specified by the Housing Authority in this Administrative Plan and that is consistent with the agency's Annual Plan and its jurisdiction's Consolidated Plan;

   d. A low-income family that is a non-purchasing tenant in a HOPE 1 or HOPE 2 project or a property subject to a resident homeownership program under 24 CFR 248.173;

   e. A low-income family or moderate-income family that is displaced as a result of the prepayment of the mortgage or voluntary termination of an insurance contract on eligible low-income housing.

2. Income limits apply only at admission and are not applicable for continued occupancy; however, as income rises the assistance will decrease.

3. The applicable income limit for issuance of a housing choice voucher is the highest income limit for the family size for areas within the housing authority's jurisdiction. The applicable income limit for admission to the program is the income limit for the area in which the family is initially

assisted in the program. The family may only use the voucher to rent a unit in an area where the family is income eligible at admission to the program.

4. Families who are moving into the Stratford Housing Authority's jurisdiction under portability and have the status of applicant rather than of participant at their initial housing authority, must meet the income limit for the area where they are initially assisted under the program.

5. Families who are moving into the Stratford Housing Authority's jurisdiction under portability and are already program participants at their initial housing authority do not have to meet the income eligibility requirement for the Stratford Housing Authority program.

6. Income limit restrictions do not apply to families transferring units within the Stratford Housing Authority Section 8 Program.

C. Citizenship/Eligible Immigrant status

To be eligible for a housing choice voucher at least one member of the family must be a citizen, national, or a non-citizen who has eligible immigration status under one of the categories set forth in Section 214 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1980 (see 42 U.S.C. 1436a(a)).

Family eligibility for assistance.

1. A family shall not be eligible for assistance unless at least one member of the family residing in the unit is determined to have eligible status, with the exception noted below.

2. Despite the ineligibility of one or more family members, a mixed family may be eligible for one of three types of assistance. (See Section 11.5(F) for calculating rents under the non-citizen rule).

3. A family without any eligible members and receiving assistance on June 19, 1995, may be eligible for temporary deferral of termination of assistance.

D. Social Security Number Documentation

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

E. Signing Consent Forms

1. In order to be eligible each member of the family who is at least 18 years of age, and each family head and spouse regardless of age, shall sign one or more consent forms.

2. The consent form must contain, at a minimum, the following:

   a. A provision authorizing HUD and the Stratford Housing Authority to obtain from State Wage Information Collection Agencies (SWICAs) any information or materials necessary to complete or verify the application for participation or for eligibility for continued occupancy;

   b. A provision authorizing HUD or the Stratford Housing Authority to verify with previous or current employers or other sources of income information pertinent to the family's eligibility for or level of assistance;

   c. A provision authorizing HUD to request income information from the IRS and the SSA for the sole purpose of verifying income information pertinent to the family's eligibility or level of benefits;

   d. A statement allowing the Stratford Housing Authority permission to access the applicant's criminal record with any and all police and/or law enforcement agencies; and

   e. A statement that the authorization to release the information requested by the consent form expires 15 months after the date the consent form is signed.

F. Suitability for tenancy

The Stratford Housing Authority determines eligibility for participation and will also conduct criminal background checks on all adult household members, including live-in aides. The Stratford Housing Authority will deny assistance to a family because of drug-related criminal activity or violent criminal activity by family members. This check will be made through state or local law enforcement or court records in those cases where the household member has lived in the local jurisdiction for the last three years. If the individual has lived outside the local area, the Stratford Housing Authority may contact law enforcement agencies where the individual had lived or request a check through the FBI's National Crime Information Center (NCIC). This criminal background check will proceed after each adult household member has signed a consent form designed by the

Stratford Housing Authority. The information received as a result of the criminal background check shall be used solely for screening purposes. The information shall be maintained confidentially, not misused or improperly disseminated, and destroyed once the purpose(s) for which it was requested has been accomplished and the period for filing a challenge to the Stratford Housing Authority's action has expired without a challenge or final disposition of any litigation has occurred.

The Stratford Housing Authority will check with the State sex offender registration program and will ban for life any individual who is registered as a lifetime sex offender. The Stratford Housing Authoirty will check with the state registry and if the applicant has resided in another State(s), with that State(s)'s list.

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

Additional screening is the responsibility of the owner. Upon the written request of a prospective owner, the Stratford Housing Authority will provide to the ownerthe name, address, and phone number of the applicant's current landlord and any previous landlords that are known to the housing authority.

In addition, if an owner submits a request to the Stratford Housing Authority for criminal records concerning an adult member of an applicant or resident household, signed consent forms, and the owner's standards for prohibiting admission, the Stratford Housing Authority must request the criminal conviction records from the appropriate law enforcement agency or agencies, as determined by the Housing Authority. If the Stratford Housing Authority receives criminal conviction records requested by an owner, the Stratford Housing Authority must determine whether criminal action by a household member, as shown by such criminal conviction records, may be a basis for applicant screening, lease enforcement or eviction, as applicable in accordance with HUD regulations and the owner's criteria. The Stratford Housing Authority must notify the owner whether the Housing Authority has received criminal conviction records concerning the household member, and of its determination whether such criminal conviction records may be a basis for applicant screening, lease enforcement or eviction. However, the PHA must not disclose the household member's criminal conviction record or the content of that record to the owner, but merely the fact of whether or not they comply with HUD regulations and the owner's criteria. The Stratford Housing Authority will charge owners a fee of **$100** for this service.

The same service shall be available to owners of federally assisted housing in their attempt to determine if an applicant is on the state sex offender list upon the request of the owner. Once again, the information itself will not be disclosed to

the owner; the Stratford Housing Authority will merely apply the criteria the owner establishes. The fee for this service shall be **$100**.

G. Special College Student Eligibility Rules

No assistance shall be provided under Section 8 of the 1937 Act to any individual who:

1. Is enrolled as a student at an institution of higher education, as defined under section 102 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002);
2. Is under 24 years of age;
3. Is not a veteran of the United States military;
4. Is unmarried;
5. Does not have a dependent child; and
6. Is not otherwise individually eligible, or has parent who, individually or jointly, are not eligible on the basis of income to receive assistance under section 8 of the 1937 Act.

4.0 MANAGING THE WAITING LIST

4.1 OPENING AND CLOSING THE WAITING LIST

Opening of the waiting list will be announced via public notice that applications for Section 8 will again be accepted. The public notice will state where, when, and how to apply. The notice will be published in a local newspaper of general circulation, and also by any available minority media. The public notice will state any limitations to who may apply.

The notice will state that applicants already on waiting lists for other housing programs must apply separately for this program, and that such applicants will not lose their place on other waiting lists when they apply for Section 8. The notice will include the Fair Housing logo and slogan and otherwise be in compliance with Fair Housing requirements.

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

Any approved venture preference applicant may be exempt from the closed waiting list at the sole discretion of the Stratford Housing Authority. (See “Preferences,” 5.2)

4.2 TAKING APPLICATIONS

Families wishing to apply for the Section 8 Program will be required to complete an application for housing assistance. Applications will be accepted as advertised. The advertisement will announce the date, time and place for the opening and taking of applications.

Applications are taken to compile a waiting list. Due to the demand for Section 8 assistance in the Stratford Housing Authority jurisdiction, the Stratford Housing Authority may take applications on an open enrollment basis, depending on the length of the waiting list.

When the waiting list is open, completed applications will be accepted from all applicants. The Stratford Housing Authority will later verify the information in the applications relevant to the applicant's eligibility, admission, and level of benefit.

The completed application will be dated and time stamped upon its return to the Stratford Housing Authority.

Persons with disabilities who require a reasonable accommodation in completing an application may call the Stratford Housing Authority to make special arrangements to complete their application. A Telecommunication Device for the Deaf (TDD) is available for the deaf. The TDD telephone number is (800) 855-1155.

The application process will involve two phases. The first phase is the initial application for housing assistance or the pre-application. The pre-application requires the family to provide limited basic information including name, address, phone number, family composition and family unit size, racial or ethnic designation of the head of household, income category, and information establishing any preferences to which they may be entitled. This first phase results in the family's placement on the waiting list if deemed apparently eligible.

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

An applicant is encouraged to report changes in their applicant status including changes in family composition, income, or preference factors. These changes must be made in writing to the Stratford Housing Authority. The Stratford Housing Authority will annotate the applicant's file and will update their place on the waiting list.

The second phase is the final determination of eligibility, referred to as the full application. The full application takes place when the family nears the top of the waiting list. The Stratford Housing Authority will ensure that verification of all preferences, eligibility, suitability selection factors are current in order to determine the family's final eligibility for admission into the Section 8 Program.

4.3 ORGANIZATION OF THE WAITING LIST

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

A. The application will be a permanent file;

B. All applications will be maintained in order of preference and then in order of date and time of application, as a lottery draw. The opening of the waiting list will be advertised as outlined in Section 4.1 and will state either date and time, lottery drawing, or as otherwise advertised;

C. Any significant contact between the Stratford Housing Authority and the applicant will be documented in the applicant file.

All files (applicant or participant) shall be retained for three years from the date the file is closed, whether this is due to the surrender of a housing choice voucher or the removal of a person from the waiting list, whichever is later.

Note: The waiting list cannot be maintained by bedroom size under current HUD regulations.

4.4 FAMILIES NEARING THE TOP OF THE WAITING LIST

When a family nears the top of the waiting list the family will be invited to an interview and the verification process will begin. The invitation will include a date (within 7 days) in which the applicant must supply updated verification of income, preferences, and other circumstances in order to be granted tenant-based assistance. It is at this point in time that the family's waiting list preference will be verified. Annual income must be verified within 60 days of the issuance of a housing choice voucher. If the family no longer qualifies to be near the top of the list, the family's name will be returned to the appropriate spot on the waiting list. The Stratford Housing Authority must notify the family in writing of this determination, and give the family the opportunity for an informal review.

Those applicants who fail to respond within the prescribed period of time shall be removed from the waiting list, unless documented evidence is provided that the family was unable, due to health reasons, to comply with the deadline requirements. All notices

returned undeliverable shall cause the applicant's name to be withdrawn and their name removed from the waiting list.

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

4.5 MISSED APPOINTMENTS

All applicants who fail to keep a scheduled appointment in accordance with the paragraph below will be sent a notice of denial.

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

4.6 PURGING THE WAITING LIST

The Stratford Housing Authority will update and purge its waiting list at least annually to ensure that the pool of applicants reasonably represents interested families. Purging also enables the Housing Authority to update the information regarding address, family composition, income category and preferences.

The purge shall consist of the Stratford Housing Authority mailing via first class mail a form to be completed by the person on the waiting list and returned to the housing authority within a specified number of days. If the envelope is returned as undeliverable or if no response is received from the applicant within the specified time frame, the applicant shall be stricken from the waiting list. If the envelope is returned with a forwarding address on it, the housing authority shall mail the form to the new address, with a new deadline for response.

4.7 REMOVAL OF APPLICANTS FROM THE WAITING LIST

The Stratford Housing Authority will not remove an applicant's name from the waiting list unless:

A. The applicant requests that the name be removed;

B. The applicant fails to respond to a written request for information or a request to declare their continued interest in the program or misses scheduled appointments;

C. The applicant does not meet either the eligibility or screening criteria for the program; or

D. The applicant has been issued a Housing Choice Voucher.

The reason for all removals for the waiting list shall be carefully documented in the applicant's file and retained for three years from the date the file is closed.

4.8 GROUNDS FOR DENIAL

The Stratford Housing Authority will deny assistance to applicants who:

A. Do not meet any one or more of the eligibility criteria;

B. Do not supply information or documentation required by the application process;

C. Fail to respond to a written request for information or a request to declare their continued interest in the program;

D. Fail to complete any aspect of the application or lease-up process;

E. Have a history of criminal activity by any household member involving crimes of physical violence against persons or property, and any other criminal activity including drug-related criminal activity that would adversely affect the health, safety, or well being of other participants, staff, other residents or persons residing in the immediate vicinity, owner, property management staff, or persons performing a contract administration function or responsibility on behalf of the Stratford Housing Authority (including a Stratford Housing Authority employee or a Stratford Housing Authority contractor, subcontractor or agent; or cause damage to the property.

An applicant who is or has been a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking is not an appropriate basis for denial of program assistance or for denial of admission, if the applicant otherwise qualifies for assistance or admission. The Authority will require verification in all cases where an applicant claims protection against an action proposed to be taken by the Authority involving such individual. Types of acceptable verifications are outlined in Section 15.2 of this Section 8 Administrative Plan, and must be submitted within 10 business days after receipt of the Housing Authority's request for verification.

F. Currently owes rent or other amounts to any housing authority in connection with the public housing or Section 8 Programs.

G. Have committed fraud, bribery, or any other corrupt or criminal act in connection with any Federal housing assistance program, including the intentional misrepresentation of information related to their housing application or benefits derived there from;

H. Have a family member who was evicted from public housing within the last three years;

I. Have a family member who was evicted from assisted housing within three years of the projected date of admission because of drug-related criminal activity involving the illegal manufacture, sale, distribution, or possession with the intent to manufacture, sell, distribute a controlled substance as defined in Section 102 of the Controlled Substances Act, 21 U.S.C. 802;

J. Have a household member who is currently engaging in illegal use of a drug, or have a family member who is illegally using a controlled substance or abuses alcohol in a way that may interfere with the health, safety, or right to peaceful enjoyment of the premises by other residents. The Stratford Housing Authority may waive this requirement if:

1. The person demonstrates to the Stratford Housing Authority's satisfaction that the person is no longer engaging in drug-related criminal activity or abuse of alcohol;

2. The person has successfully completed a supervised drug or alcohol rehabilitation program;

3. The person has otherwise been rehabilitated successfully; or

4. The person is participating in a supervised drug or alcohol rehabilitation program.

K. Have engaged in or threatened abusive or violent behavior towards any Stratford Housing staff or residents;

L. Have a family household member who has been terminated under the Housing Choice Voucher Program during the last three years;

M. Have a family member who has been convicted of manufacturing or producing methamphetamine (speed) on the premises of federally assisted housing (Denied for life);

N. Have a family member with a lifetime registration under a State sex offender registration program (Denied for life).

O. Are a welfare-to-work (WTW) family who fails to fulfill its obligations under the welfare-to-work voucher program.

P. Fugitive felons, parole violators and persons fleeing to avoid prosecution, or custody or confinement after conviction, for a crime, or attempt to commit a crime, that is a felony under the laws of the place from which the individual flees.

For purposes of this section, a household member is "currently engaged in" criminal activity if the person has engaged in the behavior recently enough to justify a reasonable belief that the behavior is current.

If the Stratford Housing Authority proposes to deny admission for criminal activity as shown by a criminal record, the Stratford Housing Authority will provide the subject of the record and the applicant with a copy of the criminal record. The Stratford Housing Authority will give the family an opportunity to dispute the accuracy and relevance of that record, in the procedures for the Informal Review Process for Applicants.

The fact that an applicant is or has been a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking is not an appropriate basis for denial of program assistance or for denial of admission, if the applicant otherwise qualifies for assistance or admission. The Authority will require verification in all cases where an applicant claims protection against an action proposed to be taken by the Authority involving such individual. Types of acceptable verifications are outlined in Section 17.2 of this Section 8 Administrative Plan, and must be submitted within 14 business days after receipt of the Housing Authority's written request for verification.

4.9 NOTIFICATION OF NEGATIVE ACTIONS

Any applicant whose name is being removed from the waiting list will be notified by the Stratford Housing Authority, in writing, that they have ten (10) business days, from the date of the written correspondence, to present mitigating circumstances or request an informal review in writing. The letter will also indicate that their name will be removed from the waiting list if they fail to respond within the timeframe specified. The Stratford Housing Authority's system of removing applicants' names from the waiting list will not violate the rights of persons with disabilities. If an applicant's failure to respond to a request for information or updates was caused by the applicant's disability, the Stratford Housing Authority will provide a reasonable accommodation. If the applicant indicates that they did not respond due to a disability, the Stratford Housing Authority will verify that there is in fact a disability and that the accommodation they are requesting is necessary based on the disability. An example of a reasonable accommodation would be to reinstate the applicant on the waiting list.

4.10 INFORMAL REVIEW

If the Stratford Housing Authority determines that an applicant does not meet the criteria for receiving Section 8 assistance, the Stratford Housing Authority will promptly provide the applicant with written notice of the determination. The notice must contain a brief statement of the reason(s) for the decision, and state that the applicant may request an informal review of the decision within 10 business days of the denial. The Stratford Housing Authority will describe how to obtain the informal review. The informal review process is described in Section 16.2 of this Plan.

5.0 SELECTING FAMILIES FROM THE WAITING LIST

5.1 WAITING LIST ADMISSIONS AND SPECIAL ADMISSIONS

The Housing Authority may admit an applicant for participation in the program either as a special admission or as a waiting list admission.

If HUD awards funding that is targeted for families with specific characteristics or families living in specific units, the Stratford Housing Authority will use the assistance for those families. If this occurs, the Stratford Housing Authority will maintain records demonstrating that these targeted housing choice vouchers were used appropriately. When one of these targeted vouchers turns over, the voucher shall be issued to applicants with the same specific characteristic as the targeted program describes.

Currently the Stratford Housing Authority has a special admission requirement of selecting families with disabilities for 10% of the annual turnover of Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers. This special admission requirement is due to the approval of the elderly designation of 55 units at Robert F. Kennedy Apartments, 72 units at Raymond E. Baldwin Apartments and 47 units at Elm Terrace Apartments.

In addition, the Stratford Housing Authority has adopted a “leasing in place” preference. The “leasing in place” preference does not place a household at the top of the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher waiting list. Rather, households that claim and are determined eligible for this preference will be made offers of Housing Choice Vouchers under an “alternate feed” waiting list administrative model. For every household offered a leasing in place preference voucher the Stratford Housing Authority will offer a Housing Choice Voucher to a standard applicant if funding is available.

A household that claims status under the “leasing in place” preference will not be eligible for any other preference and will otherwise be considered a standard applicant in terms of the existing preference structure. This is to assure that an ample number of applicants from outside of Stratford will be given the opportunity to access the Section 8 Program. Nothing precludes an applicant who currently resides in Stratford from not requesting the

"leasing in place" preference and being entitled to claim all other Stratford Housing Authority preferences in effect at the time of application.

Units being offered by landlords must still meet all Section 8 Inspection standards and are also subject to local rent reasonableness. This may mean that some units will not be permitted in the program despite the letter of interest signed by the landlord. Households who claim the "leasing in place" preference but are unable to use the Voucher in their current unit will not be entitled to enter into housing search for another unit.

Assuming that a proposed unit under the "leasing in place" preference fails to qualify for the program, the applicant households will have their status revised to be treated as regular applicant able to claim any other preferences for which the household may qualify. This is contingent upon the Section 8 Waiting list being open to standard applicants and/or for households that qualify for an existing Stratford Housing Authority preference. If the Section 8 waiting is closed in those categories for which the household may qualify, then the household will need to wait until such time as the Stratford Housing Authority Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher waiting list is open in the applicable categories.

Once a household's unit is under a HAP agreement, all existing procedures for units in the Program shall apply. This includes all program procedures for annual inspections, recertification of income, landlord obligation and household obligations. A household may move at any time if proper legal notice is provided to the landlord and is consistent with the terms of the lease into which the household has entered.

In order to qualify for this preference a household must:

- Demonstrate that they are currently under a rental lease for a unit located in the SHA jurisdictional area (generally, the Town of Stratford). A copy of an existing rental lease, which has been legally executed, is sufficient documentation;

- Provide a signed letter of interest from their current landlord of the landlord's interest and willingness to place the applicant's unit in the Section 8 Program. The Housing Authority will provide a form letter to applicants for the landlord to sign and return.

5.2 PREFERENCES

The Stratford Housing Authority will select families based on the following preferences based on local housing needs and priorities. They are consistent with the Stratford Housing Authority's Agency Plan and the Consolidated Plan that covers its jurisdiction.

A. Venture Preference: At the sole discretion of the SHA, and on a case by case

basis, the Authority may grant preference to those tenants who have voluntarily ventured out from Public Housing in an attempt to improve their social and/or economic status, to otherwise make valid life improvements, or for other good reason as solely determined by the SHA, where the venture has proven unsuccessful and the tenant again needs housing assistance.

The former tenant applicant, if approved, would be immediately placed at the top of the waiting list and assigned the next available unit appropriate to the family size.

The following will be considered in the approval of venture preferences:

1. The SHA tenant history including rent payment record, housekeeping, reason for vacating and anything else the SHA deems appropriate.

2. The reason(s) the venture was unsuccessful.

3. Any other factor, reason or circumstance the Authority deems appropriate.

The former tenant must make application within twenty-four (24) months. The time period may be extended by the Stratford Housing Authority on a case-by case basis, at its sole discretion, if it is determined that such an extension would benefit the former tenant and serve the best interest of the Stratford Housing Authority.

B. Residency Preference: Applicants with an adult family member who either lives or works or has been hired to work in the jurisdiction of the SHA will qualify for a residency preference.

C. Applicants with an adult member enrolled in an employment training program, currently working 20 hours per week or more, or attending school on a full time basis. This is also extended equally to elderly families and all families whose head or spouse is receiving income based on an inability to work

D. Applicants not currently housed or assisted through a Federal, State or similar public housing or housing choice voucher program.

E. All other applicants

5.3 SELECTION FROM THE WAITING LIST

Of the preferences specified above, a Venture Preference shall be weighted the highest and shall place the applicant at the top of the waiting list. All other preferences specified

above shall be weighted equally, in which case families with the highest number of preferences shall be selected before families with fewer preferences. The Stratford Housing Authority will allow Venture Preference families to be placed on the waiting list, even if the waiting list is closed.

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

NOTE: A resident is defined as any person verified as living in the municipal jurisdiction of the Town of Stratford, CT or any person working or notified that they have been hired to work in the municipal jurisdiction of the Town of Stratford. The Executive Director may, at his sole discretion and on a case-by-case basis, grant residency status for applicants who are not currently residents but who were former residents for a period of time. Among the factors to be considered will be duration and continuity of former residency, and any other considerations deemed appropriate by the Executive Director.

Notwithstanding the above, if necessary to meet the statutory requirement that 75% of newly admitted families in any fiscal year be families who are extremely low-income, the Stratford Housing Authority retains the right to skip higher income families on the waiting to reach extremely low-income families. This measure will only be taken if it appears the goal will not otherwise be met. To ensure this goal is met, the Housing Authority will monitor incomes of newly admitted families and the income of the families on the waiting list.

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

6.0 ASSIGNMENT OF BEDROOM SIZES (SUBSIDY STANDARDS)

The Stratford Housing Authority will issue a housing choice voucher for a particular bedroom size – the bedroom size is a factor in determining the family's level of assistance. The following guidelines will determine each family's unit size without overcrowding or over-housing:

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

2	2	4
3	3	6
4	4	8

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

In determining bedroom size, the Stratford Housing Authority will include the presence of children to be born to a pregnant woman, children who are in the process of being adopted, children whose custody is being obtained, children currently under a 50% or more joint custody decree, children who are temporarily away at school or temporarily in foster-care.

Bedroom size will also be determined using the following guidelines:

A. Children of the same sex will share a bedroom.

B. Children of the opposite sex, both under the age of six (6), will share a bedroom.

C. Persons of different generations will not be required to share a bedroom.

D. Foster adults and children will not be required to share a bedroom with family members.

E. Live-in aides will get a separate bedroom.

The Stratford Housing Authority will grant exceptions to normal occupancy standards when a family requests a larger size than the guidelines allow and documents a disability or a medical reason why the larger size is necessary. The Stratford Housing Authority retains the right to obtain and/or require independent medical verification at the Stratford Housing Authority's expense.

The family unit size will be determined by the Stratford Housing Authority in accordance with the above guidelines and will determine the maximum rent subsidy for the family; however, the family may select a unit that may be larger or smaller than the family unit size. If the family selects a smaller unit, the payment standard for the smaller size will be used to calculate the subsidy. If the family selects a larger size, the payment standard for the family unit size will determine the maximum subsidy.

6.1 BRIEFING

When the Stratford Housing Authority selects a family from the waiting list, the family will be invited to attend a briefing explaining how the program works. In order to receive a housing choice voucher all of the adult members of the family are required to attend the briefing. If they cannot attend the originally scheduled briefing, they may attend a later session. If the family fails to attend two briefings without good cause, they will be denied admission.

If an applicant with a disability requires auxiliary aids to gain full benefit from the briefing, the Housing Authority will furnish such aids where doing so would not result in a fundamental alteration of the nature of the program or in an undue financial or administrative burden. In determining the most suitable auxiliary aid, the Housing Authority will give primary consideration to the requests of the applicant. Families unable to attend a briefing due to a disability may request a reasonable accommodation such as having the briefing presented at an alternate location.

The briefing will cover at least the following subjects:

A. A description of how the program works;

B. Family and owner responsibilities;

C. Where the family may rent a unit, including inside and outside the Housing Authority’s jurisdiction;

D. Types of eligible housing;

E. For families qualified to lease a unit outside the Housing Authority's jurisdiction under portability, an explanation of how portability works;

F. An explanation of the advantages of living in an area that does not have a high concentration of poor families, including maps that show locations of housing opportunities outside areas of poverty or minority concentration, both within and outside its jurisdiction and neighboring its jurisdiction; assembled information about job opportunities, schools, transportation, and other sevies in these areas;

G. An explanation that the family share of rent may not exceed 40% of the family’s monthly adjusted income if the gross rent exceeds the applicable payment standard when the family initially rents a unit and the fact that the family may have to pay a security deposit from its own funds;.

H. A description of the homeownership program if one exists; and

I. An explanation of information contained in the Housing Choice Voucher packet.

6.2 PACKET

During the briefing, the Housing Authority will give the family a packet covering at least the following subjects:

A. The term of the housing choice voucher and the Housing Authority's policy on extensions and suspensions of the term. The packet will include information on how to request an extension and forms for requesting extensions;

B. How the Housing Authority determines the housing assistance payment and total tenant payment for the family;

C. Information on the payment standard, exception payment standard rent areas, and the utility allowance schedule;

D. How the Housing Authority determines the maximum rent for an assisted unit;

E. Where the family may lease a unit. For families qualified to lease outside the Housing Authority's jurisdiction, the packet includes an explanation of how portability works and a list of names, addresses and phone numbers of contact persons at neighboring housing authorities;

F. The HUD-required tenancy addendum that provides the language that must be included in any assisted lease, and a sample contract;

G. The request for approval of the tenancy form and an explanation of how to request Housing Authority approval of a unit;

H. A statement of the Housing Authority's policy on providing information to prospective owners. This policy requires applicants to sign disclosure statements allowing the Housing Authority to provide prospective owners with the family's current and prior addresses and the names and addresses of the landlords for those addresses;

I. The Housing Authority's subsidy standards, including when the Housing Authority will consider granting exceptions to the standards, such as a reasonable accommodation to a person with a disability;

J. The HUD brochure on how to select a unit ("A Good Place to Live");

K. The HUD-required lead-based paint brochure;

L. Information on Federal, State, and local equal opportunity laws; the brochure "Fair Housing: It's Your Right;" and a copy of the housing discrimination complaint form;

M. A list of landlords or other parties known to the Stratford Housing Authority who may be willing to lease a unit to the family or help the family find a unit, including owners with properties located outside areas of poverty or minority concentration;

N. Notice that if the family includes a person with disabilities, the family may request a current list of accessible units known to the Stratford Housing Authority that may be available;

O. The family's obligations under the program;

P. The grounds upon which the Housing Authority may terminate assistance because of the family's action or inaction;

Q. Stratford Housing Authority informal hearing procedures, including when the Housing Authority is required to provide the opportunity for an informal hearing, and information on how to request a hearing;

R. The Stratford Housing Authority owner information brochure. This brochure can be given by the applicant to a prospective owner to help explain the program;

S. An explanation of rights afforded to Housing Choice Voucher participants under the Violence Against Women Act; and

T. A listing or map that delineates areas of poverty or minority concentration in the jurisdiction. Also, applicants shall be given information about job opportunities, schools, and other services in non-concentrated neighborhoods.

6.3 ISSUANCE OF VOUCHER; REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF TENANCY

Once all family information has been verified, their eligibility determined, their subsidy calculated, and they have attended the family briefing, the Stratford Housing Authority will issue the housing choice voucher. At this point the family begins their search for a unit.

When the family finds a unit that the owner is willing to lease under the program, the family and the owner will complete and sign a proposed lease, the HUD required tenancy addendum and the request for approval of the tenancy form. The terms of the HUD tenancy addendum shall prevail over any conflicting provisions of the lease. The family will submit the proposed lease and the request form to the Housing Authority during the

term of the housing choice voucher. The Housing Authority will review the request, the lease, and the HUD required tenancy addendum and make an initial determination of approval of tenancy. The Housing Authority may assist the family in negotiating changes that may be required for the tenancy to be approvable. Once it appears the tenancy may be approvable, the Housing Authority will schedule an appointment to inspect the unit within 15 days after the receipt of inspection request from the family and owner. The 15 day period is suspended during any period the unit is unavailable for inspection. The Housing Authority will promptly notify the owner and the family whether the unit and tenancy are approvable.

During the initial stage of qualifying the unit, the Housing Authority will provide the prospective owner with information regarding the program. Information will include Housing Authority and owner responsibilities for screening and other essential program elements. The Housing Authority will provide the owner with the family's current and prior address as shown in the Housing Authority records along with the name and address (if known) of the landlords for those addresses.

Additional screening is the responsibility of the owner.

6.4 TERM OF THE HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER

The initial term of the voucher will be 60 days and will be stated on the Housing Choice Voucher.

The Housing Authority may grant one or more extensions of the term, but the initial term plus any extensions will never exceed 120 calendar days from the initial date of issuance. To obtain an extension, the family must make a request in writing prior to the expiration date. A statement of the efforts the family has made to find a unit must accompany the request. A sample extension request form and a form for recording their search efforts will be included in the family's briefing packet. If the family documents their efforts and additional time can reasonably be expected to result in success, the Housing Authority will grant the length of request sought by the family or 60 days, whichever is less.

If the family includes a person with disabilities and the family requires an extension due to the disability, the Housing Authority may grant an extension allowing the family the full 120 days search time. If the Housing Authority determines that additional search time would be a reasonable accommodation, it will grant the additional search time.

Upon submittal of a completed request for approval of tenancy form, the Stratford Housing Authority will suspend the term of the housing choice voucher. The term will be in suspension until the date the Housing Authority provides notice that the request has been approved or denied. This policy allows families the full term (60 days, or more with extensions) to find a unit, not penalizing them for the period during which the Housing Authority is taking action on their request. A family may submit a second request for

approval of tenancy before the Housing Authority finalizes action on the first request. In this case the suspension will last from the date of the first submittal through the Housing Authority's action on the second submittal. No more than two requests will be concurrently considered.

If a family's voucher expires, the family is no longer eligible for housing assistance. They are free to re-apply to the Housing Choice Voucher program and start over again at the bottom of the waiting list. If the waiting list is closed, they must wait until the Stratford Housing Authority is once again accepting applicants for the Section 8 program. They will be treated exactly like all other new applicants for the program.

6.5 APPROVAL TO LEASE A UNIT

The Stratford Housing Authority will approve a lease if all of the following conditions are met:

A. The unit is eligible;

B. The unit is inspected by the Housing Authority and passes HQS;

C. The lease is approvable and includes the following:

1. The names of the owner and the resident;

2. The address of the unit rented;

3. The term of the lease (initial term and any provisions for renewal);

4. The amount of the monthly rent to owner;

5. A specification of what utilities and appliances are to be supplied by the owner, and what utilities and appliances are to be supplied by the family; and

6. The required HUD tenancy addendum.

D. The rent to owner is reasonable;

E. The family's share of rent does not exceed 40% of their monthly adjusted income if the gross rent exceeds the applicable payment standard;

F. The owner certifies that he or she is not in a conflict of interest situation with the resident;

G. The owner has not been found to be debarred, suspended, or subject to a limited denial of participation by HUD or the Housing Authority; and

H. The family continues to meet all eligibility and screening criteria.

If tenancy approval is denied, the Housing Authority will advise the owner and the family in writing and advise them also of any actions they could take that would enable the Housing Authority to approve the tenancy.

The lease term may begin only after all of the following conditions are met:

A. The unit passes the Housing Authority HQS inspection;

B. The family's share of rent does not exceed 40% of their monthly adjusted income;

C. The landlord and resident sign the lease to include the HUD required addendum; and

D. The Housing Authority approves the leasing of the unit.

The Housing Authority will prepare the contract when the unit is approved for tenancy. Generally, the landlord, simultaneously with the signing of the lease and the HUD required tenancy addendum, will execute the contract. Upon receipt of the executed lease and the signed contract by the landlord, the Housing Authority will execute the contract. The Housing Authority will not pay any housing assistance to the owner until the contract is executed.

In no case will the contract be executed later than 60 days after the beginning of the lease term.

Any contract executed after the 60-day period will be void and the Housing Authority will not pay housing assistance to the owner.

6.6 STRATFORD HOUSING AUTHORITY DISAPPROVAL OF OWNER

The Housing Authority will deny participation by an owner at the direction of HUD (one who has been debarred, suspended, or is subject to a limited denial of participation). The Housing Authority will also deny the owner's participation for any of the following reasons:

A. The owner has violated any obligations under a Section 8 Housing Assistance Payments Contract;

B. The owner has committed fraud, bribery, or any other corrupt or criminal act in connection with any Federal housing program;

C. The owner has engaged in drug-related criminal activity or any violent criminal activity;

D. The owner has a history or practice of non-compliance with HQS for units leased under Section 8 or with applicable housing standards for units leased with project-based Section 8 assistance or leased under any other Federal housing program;

E. The owner has a history or practice of renting units that fail to meet State or local codes; or

F. The owner has not paid State or local real estate taxes, fines, or assessments.

G. The owner refuses (or has a history of refusing) to evict families for drug-related or violent criminal activity, or for activity that threatens the health, safety or right of peaceful enjoyment of the:

1. premises by residents, residences by neighbors;; or

2. threatens the health, or safety of Stratford Housing Authority employees or owner employees

H. If the owner is the parent, child, grandparent, grandchild, sister, or brother or any member of the family unless the Stratford Housing Authority determines that approving the unit would provide reasonable accommodation for a family member who is a person with disabilities.

I. The Housing Authority has been informed by HUD that the federal government has instituted an administrative or judicial action against the owner for a violation of the Fair Housing Act or other federal equal opportunity requirements and such action is pending or a court or administrative agency has determined that the owner violated the Fair Housing Act or other federal equal opportunity requirements; or

J. Other conflicts of interest under Federal, State, or local law.

6.7 INELIGIBLE/ELIGIBLE HOUSING

The following types of housing cannot be assisted under the Section 8 Tenant-Based Program:

A. A public housing or Indian housing unit;

B. A unit receiving project-based assistance under a Section 8 Program;

C. Nursing homes, board and care homes, or facilities providing continual psychiatric, medical or nursing services;

D. College or other school dormitories;

E. Units on the grounds of penal, reformatory, medical, mental, and similar public or private institutions;

F. A unit occupied by its owner. This restriction does not apply to cooperatives or to assistance on behalf of a manufactured home owner leasing a manufactured home space; and

G. A unit receiving any duplicative Federal, State, or local housing subsidy. This does not prohibit renting a unit that has a reduced rent because of a tax credit.

The Stratford Housing Authority will not approve a lease for any of the following special housing types, except as a reasonable accommodation for a family with disabilities:

A. Congregate housing

B. Group homes

C. Shared housing

D. Cooperative housing

E. Single room occupancy housing

The Stratford Housing Authority will approve leases for the following housing types:

A. Single family dwellings

B. Apartments

C. Manufactured housing

D. Manufactured home space rentals

E. Lease-purchase agreements. A family leasing a unit with assistance under the program may enter into an agreement with an owner to purchase the unit. So long as the family is receiving such rental assistance, all requirements applicable to families otherwise leasing units under the tenant-based program apply. Any homeownership premium (e.g., increment of value attributable to the value of the lease-purchase right or agreement such as an extra monthly payment to accumulate a downpayment or reduce the purchase price) included in the rent to the owner that would result in a higher subsidy amount than would otherwise be paid by the Stratford Housing Authority must be absorbed by the family.

In determining whether the rent to owner for a unit subject to a lease-purchase agreement is a reasonable amount in accordance with 24 CFR 982.503, any homeownership premium paid by the family to the owner must be excluded when the Stratford Housing Authority determines rent reasonableness.

If a property has both HUD issued project-based assisted units and market rate units, housing choice vouchers can be utilized in the market rate units, but not the project-based units. In this situation, rent reasonableness will dictate that the rent for the housing choice voucher unit will equal the HUD-approved rent (the basic rent) for the project-based units as long as it is within the Stratford Housing Authority's payment standard. Also, the Stratford Housing Authority's utility schedule will be utilized in setting the rent, not the property's utility schedule. Finally, the Stratford Housing Authority will re-certify everyone living in a property utilizing tenant-based housing choice vouchers and the landlord will be responsible for the re-certification of those residing in the property using project-based vouchers.

6.8 SECURITY DEPOSIT

The owner may collect a security deposit from the participant in an amount not in excess of amounts charged in private market practice and not in excess of amounts charged by the owner to unassisted residents in the same complex.

When the resident moves out of the dwelling unit, the owner, subject to State or local law, may use the security deposit, including any interest on the deposit, in accordance with the lease, as reimbursement for any unpaid rent payable by the participant, damages to the unit or for other amounts the family owes under the lease.

The owner must give the participant a written list of all items charged against the security deposit and the amount of each item. After deducting the amount, if any, used to reimburse the owner, the owner must refund promptly the full amount of the unused balance to the resident in compliance with State law.

If the security deposit is not sufficient to cover amounts the tenant owes under the lease, the owner may seek to collect the balance from the tenant.

7.0 MOVES WITH CONTINUED ASSISTANCE

Participating families are allowed to move to another unit after the initial lease has expired, if the landlord and the participant have mutually agreed to terminate the lease, or if the Housing Authority has terminated the HAP contract. The Stratford Housing Authority will issue the family a new housing choice voucher if the family does not owe the Stratford Housing Authority or any other Housing Authority money, has not violated a Family Obligation, has not moved or been issued a housing choice voucher within the last 12 months, and if the Stratford Housing Authority has sufficient funding for continued assistance. If the move is necessitated for a reason other than family choice, the 12-month requirement may be waived.

7.1 WHEN A FAMILY MAY MOVE

For families already participating in the Housing Choice Voucher Program, the Stratford Housing Authority will allow the family to move to a new unit if:

A. The assisted lease for the old unit has terminated;

B. The owner has given the resident a notice to vacate, has commenced an action to evict the family, or has obtained a court judgment or other process allowing the owner to evict the participant; or

C. The participant has given notice of lease termination (if the participant has a right to terminate the lease on notice to the owner).

7.2 PROCEDURES REGARDING FAMILY MOVES

Families considering transferring to a new unit will be scheduled to attend a mover's briefing. All families who are moving, including any families moving into or out of the Stratford Housing Authority's jurisdiction, will be required to attend a mover's briefing prior to the Stratford Housing Authority entering a new HAP contract on their behalf.

This briefing is intended to provide the following:

A. A refresher on program requirements and the family's responsibilities. Emphasis will be on giving proper notice and meeting all lease requirements such as leaving the unit in good condition;

B. Information about finding suitable housing and the advantages of moving to an area that does not have a high concentration of poor families;

C. Payment standards, exception payment standard rent areas, and the utility allowance schedule;

D. An explanation that the family share of rent may not exceed 40% of the family's monthly adjusted income if the gross rent exceeds the applicable payment standard when initially renting a unit;

E. Portability requirements and opportunities;

F. The need to have a reexamination conducted within 120 days prior to the move;

G. An explanation and copies of the forms required to initiate and complete the move; and

H. All forms and brochures provided to applicants at the initial briefing.

Families are required to give proper written notice of their intent to terminate the lease. In accordance with HUD regulations, no notice requirement may exceed 60 days. During the initial term, families may not end the lease unless they and the owner mutually agree to end the lease. If the family moves from the unit before the initial term of the lease ends without the owner's and the Stratford Housing Authority's approval, it will be considered a serious lease violation and subject the family to termination from the program.

The family is required to give the Stratford Housing Authority a copy of the notice to terminate the lease at the same time as it gives the notice to the landlord. A family's failure to provide a copy of the lease termination notice to the Stratford Housing Authority will be considered a violation of Family Obligations and may cause the family to be terminated from the program.

A family who gives notice to terminate the lease must mail the notice by certified mail or have the landlord or his agent sign a statement stating the date and time received. The family will be required to provide the certified mail receipt and a copy of the lease termination notice to the Stratford Housing Authority, or a copy of the lease termination notice and the signed statement stating the date and time the notice was received. If the landlord or his/her agent does not accept the certified mail receipt, the family will be required to provide the receipt and envelope showing that the attempt was made.

Failure to follow the above procedures may subject the family to termination from the program.

8.0 PORTABILITY

8.1 GENERAL POLICIES OF THE STRATFORD HOUSING AUTHORITY

A family whose head or spouse has a domicile (legal residence) in the jurisdiction of the Stratford Housing Authority at the time the family first submits its application for participation in the program to the Stratford Housing Authority may lease a unit anywhere in the jurisdiction of the Stratford Housing Authority or outside the Stratford Housing Authority jurisdiction as long as there is another entity operating a tenant-based Housing Choice Voucher program covering the location of the proposed unit.

If the head or spouse of the assisted family does not have a legal residence in the jurisdiction of the Stratford Housing Authority at the time of its application, the family will not have any right to lease a unit outside of the Stratford Housing Authority jurisdiction for a 12-month period beginning when the family is first admitted to the program. During this period, the family may only lease a unit located in the jurisdiction of the Stratford Housing Authority. If both the initial housing authority and the receiving housing authority agree, the family may lease a unit outside the housing authority jurisdiction under portability procedures.

Families participating in the Housing Choice Voucher Program will not be allowed to move more than once in any 12-month period and under no circumstances will the Stratford Housing Authority allow a participant to improperly break a lease. Under extraordinary circumstances the Stratford Housing Authority may consider allowing more than one move in a 12-month period.

Families may only move to a jurisdiction where a Housing Choice Voucher Program is being administered.

If a family has moved out of their assisted unit in violation of the lease, the Stratford Housing Authority will not issue a voucher, and will terminate assistance in compliance with Section 17.0, Grounds for Termination of the Lease and Contract.

Any of the above general policies will be waived by the Stratford Housing Authority in order to help participants who are compliant with their existing leases but who reasonably believe they need to move to protect the health and/or safety of a victim of domestic violence, dating violence or stalking. In order to exercise this waiver, the participant shall provide the Stratford Housing Authority with appropriate verification. Types of acceptable verifications are outlined in Section 17.2 of this Section 8 Administrative Plan, and must be submitted within 14 business days after receipt of the Housing Authority's written request for verification.

8.2 INCOME ELIGIBILITY

A. A family must be income-eligible in the area where the family first leases a unit with assistance in the Housing Choice Voucher Program.

B. If a portable family is already a participant in the Initial Housing Authority's Housing Choice Voucher Program, income eligibility is not re-determined.

8.3 PORTABILITY: ADMINISTRATION BY RECEIVING HOUSING AUTHORITY

A. When a family utilizes portability to move to an area outside the Initial Housing Authority jurisdiction, another Housing Authority (the Receiving Housing Authority) must administer assistance for the family if that Housing Authority has a tenant-based program covering the area where the unit is located.

B. A Housing Authority with jurisdiction in the area where the family wants to lease a unit must issue the family a housing choice voucher. If there is more than one such housing authority, the Initial Housing Authority may choose which housing authority shall become the Receiving Housing Authority.

8.4 PORTABILITY PROCEDURES

A. When the Stratford Housing Authority is the Initial Housing Authority:

1. The Stratford Housing Authority will brief the family on the process that must take place to exercise portability. The family will be required to attend an applicant or mover's briefing.

2. The Stratford Housing Authority will determine whether the family is income-eligible in the area where the family wants to lease a unit if the family is not already a program participant.

3. The Stratford Housing Authority will advise the family how to contact and request assistance from the Receiving Housing Authority by giving them the name and telephone number of the person responsible for working with incoming portability families and any procedures related to getting an appointment for the issuance of a voucher.

4. The Stratford Housing Authority will, within ten (10) calendar days, notify the Receiving Housing Authority to expect the family via telephone, fax or email.

5. The Stratford Housing Authority will immediately mail or fax to the Receiving Housing Authority a completed Part I of HUD Form 52665, the most recent HUD Form 50058 (Family Report) for the family, and related verification information. If the family is an applicant and not a participant, the Stratford Housing Authority will provide the Receiving Housing

Authority with the family information and income information in a format similar to that utilized by the 50058.

B. When the Stratford Housing Authority is the Receiving Housing Authority:

1. When the portable family requests assistance from the Stratford Housing Authority, the Stratford Housing Authority will within fourteen (14) calendar days of HAP contract execution (not its effective date) inform the Initial Housing Authority that it will absorb the family into its program or notify the Initial Housing Authority within the time limit set forth in Part I of the 52665 that it will bill the Initial Housing Authority for assistance on behalf of the portable family. Completing Part II of HUD Form 52665 in a timely manner will accomplish this. If the family is absorbed, the Stratford Housing Authority will also send the Initial Housing Authority a new HUD Form 50058.

2. The Stratford Housing Authority will issue a voucher to the family within fourteen (14) calendar days as long as the initial voucher has not expired (if it has expired, the family shall be referred back to the Initial Housing Authority). The term of the Stratford Housing Authority's voucher will not expire before the expiration date of any Initial Housing Authority's voucher. The Stratford Housing Authority will determine whether to extend the voucher term. The decision to extend will take into account the Stratford Housing Authority’s existing absorption policy and the billing deadline date provided by the Initial Housing Authority in the 52665. If an extension is granted, the Initial Housing Authority will be informed of this decision. The family must submit a request for tenancy approval to the Stratford Housing Authority during the term of the Stratford Housing Authority's voucher. If the Stratford Housing Authority has decided to bill the Initial Housing Authority, the request for tenancy approval must be processed in enough time for the Initial Housing Authority to process a Request for Lease Approval and execute a HAP contract before the billing deadline date.

3. The Stratford Housing Authority will determine the family unit size for the portable family. The family unit size is determined in accordance with the Stratford Housing Authority's subsidy standards.

4. The Stratford Housing Authority will notify the Initial Housing Authority if the family has leased an eligible unit under the program, or if the family fails to submit a request for tenancy approval for an eligible unit within the term of the voucher. In any event the Stratford Housing Authority will notify the Initial Housing Authority of what is occurring before the expiration of the deadline established in the HUD Form 52665. If the

family has leased a unit, the Stratford Housing Authority will notify the Initial Housing Authority of this fact in enough time for the Initial Housing Authority to process a Request for Lease Approval and execute a HAP contract if the Stratford Housing Authority intends to bill the Initial Housing Authority.

5. In order to provide tenant-based assistance for portable families, the Stratford Housing Authority will perform all Housing Authority program functions, such as reexaminations of family income and composition. At any time, either the Initial Housing Authority or the Stratford Housing Authority may make a determination to deny or terminate assistance to the family. If assistance is denied or terminated, the family shall have a right to an informal hearing

6. The Stratford Housing Authority may deny or terminate assistance for family action or inaction in accordance with 24 CFR 982.552 and 24 CFR 982.553.

7. Although the Stratford Housing Authority will promptly issue a voucher to an incoming portability family, it will still subject the families to its normal screening procedures. If the family fails to pass the screening thresholds either the voucher will be revoked or the family will be terminated from the program if a unit has already been leased.

C. Absorption by the Stratford Housing Authority

If funding is available under the consolidated ACC for the Stratford Housing Authority's Housing Choice Voucher Program when the portable family is received, the Stratford Housing Authority may absorb the family into its Housing Choice Voucher Program. The decision to absorb or not will be made on a case-by-case basis and will solely be the decision of the Stratford Housing Authority. If absorbed, the family is assisted with funds available under the consolidated ACC for the Stratford Housing Authority's Tenant-Based Program.

D. Portability Billing

To cover assistance for a portable family, the Receiving Housing Authority may bill the Initial Housing Authority for housing assistance payments and administrative fees as long as all HUD required deadlines have been complied with. The billing procedure will be as follows:

1. As the Initial Housing Authority, the Stratford Housing Authority will within thirty (30) calendar days of receipt of the completed Part II of the HUD Form 52665 reimburse the Receiving Housing Authority for the full

amount of the housing assistance payments made by the Receiving Housing Authority for the portable family in a form and manner the Receiving Housing Authority is able and willing to accept. Payments made after the first payment shall be sent in time for the Receiving Housing Authority to receive the payment no later than the fifth working day of the month. The amount of the housing assistance payment for a portable family in the Receiving Housing Authority's program is determined in the same manner as for other families in the Receiving Housing Authority's program.

2. The Initial Housing Authority will promptly reimburse the Receiving Housing Authority for 80% of the Initial Housing Authority's on-going administrative fee for each unit month that the family receives assistance under the tenant-based programs and is assisted by the Receiving Housing Authority.

E. When a Portable Family Moves

When a portable family moves out of the tenant-based program of a Receiving Housing Authority that has not absorbed the family, the Housing Authority in the new jurisdiction to which the family moves becomes the Receiving Housing Authority, and the first Receiving Housing Authority is no longer required to provide assistance for the family.

F. On-going Responsibilities as a Receiving Housing Authority

When the Stratford Housing Authority is a receiving agency it will:

1. Send the Initial Housing Authority an updated HUD Form 50058 at each annual recertification so the Initial Housing Authority can reconcile it with its records.

2. Send the Initial Housing Authority a copy of any new HUD Forms 52665s and 50058s to report any change in the billing amount with ten (10) working days of the effective date of any change in the billing amount.

3. If the Stratford Housing Authority decides to absorb a family it had previously been billing for, it shall notify the Initial Housing Authority within ten (10) working days following the effective date of the termination of the billing arrangement.

4. If the family decides it wants to move to yet another jurisdiction, the Initial Housing Authority shall be promptly notified and requested to send

a new HUD Form 52665 and supporting documentation to the new Receiving Housing Authority.

9.0 DETERMINATION OF FAMILY INCOME

9.1 INCOME, EXCLUSIONS AND DEDUCTIONS FROM INCOME

To determine annual income, the Stratford Housing Authority counts the income of all family members, excluding the types and sources of income that are specifically excluded. Once the annual income is determined, the Stratford Housing Authority subtracts out all allowable deductions (allowances) as the next step in determining the Total Tenant Payment.

If a tenant is found to have made misrepresentations at any time which resulted in his being classified as eligible, when in fact, he was ineligible and the misrepresentation resulted in his paying a lower rent than was appropriate, he shall be required to pay the difference between the actual payments and the amount which should have been paid. In justifiable instances the Authority may take such other action as it deems advisable. If it is determined that a tenant has committed fraud, especially in the non-reporting of income, then that tenant shall be processed for eviction

9.2 INCOME

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

1. Go to (or on behalf of) the family head or spouse (even if temporarily absent) or to any other family member, or

2. Are anticipated to be received from a source outside the family during the 12-month period following admission or annual reexamination effective date; and

3. Are not specifically excluded from annual income.

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

B. Annual income includes, but is not limited to the amounts specified in the federal regulations currently found in 24 CFRR 5.609:

1. The full amount, before any payroll deductions, of wages and salaries, overtime pay, commissions, fees, tips and bonuses, and other compensation for personal services.

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

3. Interest, dividends, and other net income of any kind from real or personal property. Expenditures for amortization of capital indebtedness are not used as deductions in determining net income. An allowance for depreciation of assets used in a business or profession may be deducted, based on straight-line depreciation, as provided in Internal Revenue Service regulations. Any withdrawal of cash or assets from an investment is included in income, except to the extent the withdrawal is reimbursement of cash or assets invested by the family. Where the family has net family assets in excess of $5,000, annual income includes the greater of the actual income derived from all net family assets or a percentage of the value of such assets based on the current passbook savings rate, as determined by HUD. Income that could have been derived from assets worth more than $1,000 that were disposed of for less than fair market value within the past two years will be counted as income.

4. The full amount of periodic amounts received from Social Security, annuities, insurance policies, retirement funds, pensions, disability or death benefits, and other similar types of periodic receipts, including a lump-sum amount or prospective monthly amounts for the delayed start of a periodic amount. (However, deferred periodic amounts from supplemental security income and Social Security benefits that are received in a lump sum amount or in prospective monthly amounts are excluded.)

5. Payments in lieu of earnings, such as unemployment and disability compensation, worker's compensation and severance pay. (However, lump sum additions such as insurance payments from worker's compensation are excluded.)

6. Welfare assistance.

a. Welfare assistance payments

i. Welfare assistance payments made under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program are included in annual income only to the extent such payments:

(1). Qualify as assistance under the TANF program definition at 45 CFR 260.31; and

(2). Are not otherwise excluded under paragraph Section 9.3 of this Plan.

ii. If the welfare assistance payment includes an amount specifically designated for shelter and utilities that is subject to adjustment by the welfare assistance agency in accordance with the actual cost of shelter and utilities, the amount of welfare assistance income to be included as income consists of:

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

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

b. Imputed welfare income.

1). A family's annual income includes the amount of imputed welfare income (because of welfare benefits reductions resulting from either welfare fraud or the failure to comply with economic self-sufficiency requirements, as specified in notice to the Stratford Housing Authority by the welfare agency), plus the total amount of other annual income.

2). At the request of the Stratford Housing Authority, the welfare agency will inform the Stratford Housing Authority

in writing of the amount and term of any specified welfare benefit reduction for a family member, and the reason for such reduction, and will also inform the Stratford Housing Authority of any subsequent changes in the term or amount of such specified welfare benefit reduction. The Stratford Housing Authority will use this information to determine the amount of imputed welfare income for a family.

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

4). The amount of the imputed welfare income is offset by the amount of additional income a family receives that commences after the time the sanction was imposed. When such additional income from other sources is at least equal to the imputed welfare income, the imputed welfare income is reduced to zero.

5). The Stratford Housing Authority will not include imputed welfare income in annual income if the family was not an assisted resident at the time of the sanction.

6). If a participant is not satisfied that the Stratford Housing Authority has calculated the amount of imputed welfare income in accordance with HUD requirements, and if the Stratford Housing Authority denies the family's request to modify such amount, then the Stratford Housing Authority shall give the resident written notice of such denial, with a brief explanation of the basis for the Stratford Housing Authority's determination of the amount of imputed welfare income. The Stratford Housing Authority's notice shall also state that if the resident does not agree with the determination, the resident may contest the decision in accordance with our informal review policy.

7). Relations with welfare agencies

a). The Stratford Housing Authority will ask welfare agencies to inform it of any specified welfare benefits reduction for a family member, the reason

for such reduction, the term of any such reduction, and any subsequent welfare agency determination affecting the amount or term of a specified welfare benefits reduction. If the welfare agency determines a specified welfare benefits reduction for a family member, and gives the Stratford Housing Authority written notice of such reduction, the family's annual income shall include the imputed welfare income because of the specified welfare benefits reduction.

b). The Stratford Housing Authority is responsible for determining the amount of imputed welfare income that is included in the family's annual income as a result of a specified welfare benefits reduction as determined by the welfare agency, and specified in the notice by the welfare agency to the agency. However, the Stratford Housing Authority is not responsible for determining whether a reduction of welfare benefits by the welfare agency was correctly determined by the welfare agency in accordance with welfare program requirements and procedures, nor for providing the opportunity for review or hearing on such welfare agency determinations.

c). Such welfare agency determinations are the responsibility of the welfare agency, and the family may seek appeal of such determinations through the welfare agency's normal due process procedures. The Stratford Housing Authority shall rely on the welfare agency notice to the Stratford Housing Authority of the welfare agency's determination of a specified welfare benefits reduction.

7. Periodic and determinable allowances, such as alimony and child support payments, and regular contributions or gifts received from organizations or from persons not residing in the dwelling.

8. All regular pay, special pay, and allowances of a member of the Armed Forces. (Special pay to a member exposed to hostile fire is excluded.)

9.3 EXCLUSIONS FROM INCOME

Annual income does not include the following amounts specified in the federal

regulations currently found in 24 CFR 5.609:

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

B. Payments received for the care of foster children or foster adults (usually persons with disabilities, unrelated to the participant family, who are unable to live alone) or payments made under Kin-GAP or similar guardianship care programs for children leaving the juvenile court system;

C. Lump-sum additions to family assets, such as inheritances, insurance payments (including payments under health and accident insurance and worker's compensation), capital gains and settlement for personal or property losses;

D. Amounts received by the family specifically for, or in reimbursement of, the cost of medical expenses for any family member;

E. Income of a live-in aide;

F. The amount of student financial assistance paid directly to the student or to the educational institution for tuition. For Section 8, any financial assistance, in excess of amount received for tuition, than an individual receives under the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.), from private sources, or from an institution of higher education (as defined under the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002)), shall be considered income to that individual, except that financial assistance described in this paragraph is not considered annual income for persons over the age of 23 with dependent children. For purposes of this paragraph, “financial assistance” does not include loan proceeds for the purpose determining income;

G. The special pay to a family member serving in the Armed Forces who is exposed to hostile fire;

H. The amounts received from the following programs:

1. Amounts received under training programs funded by HUD;

2. Amounts received by a person with a disability that are disregarded for a limited time for purposes of Supplemental Security Income eligibility and benefits because they are set aside for use under a Plan to Attain Self-Sufficiency (PASS);

3. Amounts received by a participant in other publicly assisted programs that are specifically for or in reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses

incurred (special equipment, clothing, transportation, child care, etc.) and that are made solely to allow participation in a specific program;

4. Amounts received under a resident service stipend. A resident service stipend is a modest amount (not to exceed $200 per month) received by a resident for performing a service for the Housing Authority or owner, on a part-time basis, that enhances the quality of life in the development. Such services may include, but are not limited to, fire patrol, hall monitoring, lawn maintenance, resident initiative coordination, and serving as a member of the Stratford Housing Authority's governing board. No resident may receive more than one such stipend during the same period of time;

5. Incremental earnings and benefits resulting to any family member from participation in qualifying State or local employment training programs (including training programs not affiliated with a local government) and training of a family member as resident management staff. Amounts excluded by this provision must be received under employment training programs with clearly defined goals and objectives and are excluded only for the period during which the family member participates in the employment training program;

6. Temporary, non-recurring, or sporadic income (including gifts);

7. Reparation payments paid by a foreign government pursuant to claims filed under the laws of that government by persons who were persecuted during the Nazi era;

8. Earnings in excess of $480 for each full-time student 18 years old or older (excluding the head of household and spouse);

9. Adoption assistance payments in excess of $480 per adopted child;

10. Deferred periodic amounts from Supplemental Security Income and Social Security benefits that are received in a lump sum amount or in prospective monthly amounts;

11. Amounts received by the family in the form of refunds or rebates under State or local law for property taxes paid on the dwelling unit;

12. Amounts paid by a State agency to a family with a member who has a developmental disability and is living at home to offset the cost of services and equipment needed to keep the developmentally disabled family member at home; or

13. Amounts specifically excluded by any other Federal statute from consideration as income for purposes of determining eligibility or benefits.

These exclusions include:

a. The value of the allotment of food stamps

b. Payments to volunteers under the Domestic Volunteer Services Act of 1973

c. Payments received under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act

d. Income from submarginal land of the U.S. that is held in trust for certain Indian tribes

e. Payments made under HHS's Low-Income Energy Assistance Program

f. Payments received under the Job Training Partnership Act

g. Income from the disposition of funds of the Grand River Band of Ottawa Indians

h. The first $2000 per capita received from judgment funds awarded for certain Indian claims

i. Amount of scholarships awarded under Title IV including Work-Study

j. Payments received under the Older Americans Act of 1965

k. Payments from Agent Orange Settlement

l. Payments received under the Maine Indian Claims Act

m. The value of child care under the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990

n. Earned income tax credit refund payments

o. Payments for living expenses under the AmeriCorps Program

p. Payments by the Indian Claims Commission to the Confederated Tribes and Bands of Yakima Indian Nation or the Apache Tribe of Mescalero Reservation (Pub. L. 95–433);

q. Any allowance paid under the provisions of 38 U.S.C. 1805 to a child suffering from spina bifida who is the child of a Vietnam veteran (38 U.S.C. 1805);

r. Any amount of crime victim compensation (under the Victims of Crime Act) received through crime victim assistance (or payment or reimbursement of the cost of such assistance) as determined under the Victims of Crime Act because of the commission of a crime against the applicant under the Victims of Crime Act (42 U.S.C. 10602); and

s. Allowances, earnings and payments to individuals participating in programs under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2931).

t. Any low-income subsidy received to assist low-income persons in paying for their Medicare Prescription Drug Program.

v. Income payments from the U. S. Census Bureau defined as employment lasting no longer than 180 days and not culminating in permanent employment.

9.4 DEDUCTIONS FROM ANNUAL INCOME

The following deductions will be made from annual income:

A. $480 for each dependent

B. $400 for any elderly family or disabled family

C. The sum of the following, to the extent the sum exceeds three percent of annual income:

1. Unreimbursed medical expenses of any elderly family or disabled family including any fee paid by the participant for the Medicare Prescription Drug Program; and

2. Unreimbursed reasonable attendant care and auxiliary apparatus expenses for each member of the family who is a person with disabilities, to the extent necessary to enable any member of the family (including the

member who is a person with disabilities) to be employed, but this allowance may not exceed the earned income received by family members who are 18 years of age or older who are able to work because of such attendant care or auxiliary apparatus.

D. Reasonable child care expenses for children 12 and younger necessary to enable a member of the family to be employed or to further his or her education. This deduction shall not exceed the amount of employment income that is included in annual income.

E. For persons with disabilities already participating in the program, the incremental earnings due to employment during a cumulative 12-month period following the date of the initial hire shall be excluded. This exclusion is only available to the following families:

1. Families whose income increases as a result of employment of a disabled family member who was previously unemployed (defined as working less than 10 hours a week at the established minimum wage) for one or more years.

2. Families whose income increases during the participation of a disabled family member in any economic self-sufficiency or other job training program.

3. Persons with disabilities who are or were, within 6 months, assisted under a State TANF or Welfare-to-Work program for at least $500.

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

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

9.5 RECEIPT OF A LETTER OR NOTICE FROM HUD CONCERNING INCOME

A. If a Section 8 participant receives a letter or notice from HUD concerning the amount or verification of family income, the letter shall be brought to the person

responsible for income verification within thirty (30) days of receipt by the participant.

B. The Section 8 Coordinator shall reconcile any difference between the amount reported by the participant and the amount listed in the HUD communication. This shall be done as promptly as possible.

C. After the reconciliation is complete, the Stratford Housing Authority shall, if appropriate, adjust the participant's rental contribution beginning at the start of the next month. If the reconciliation is completed during the final five (5) days of the month, the new rent shall take effect on the first day of the second month following the end of the current month. In addition, if the participant had not previously reported the proper income, the Stratford Housing Authority shall do one of the following:

1. Immediately collect the back over paid assistance paid by the agency;

2. Establish a repayment plan for the resident to pay the sum due to the agency;

3. Terminate the participant from the program for failure to report income; or

4. Terminate the participant from the program for failure to report income and collect the back over paid assistance paid by the agency.

9.6 COOPERATING WITH WELFARE AGENCIES

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

A. To target assistance, benefits and services to families receiving assistance in the public housing and Section 8 tenant-based assistance program to achieve self-sufficiency.

B. To provide written verification to the Stratford Housing Authority concerning welfare benefits for families applying for or receiving assistance in our housing assistance programs.

9.7 COOPERATING WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

The Stratford Housing Authority will comply, on a case-by case basis, with information requests from Federal, State or local law enforcement officers regarding possible fugitive felons and/or a parole or probation violators. The Stratford Housing Authority will supply

upon legitimate request (1) the current address, (2) Social Security number and (3) photograph (if available) of any recipient of assistance.

The Federal, State or local enforcement officer must submit a request that is (1) written, (2) on law enforcement agency letterhead, and (3) is signed by the requesting officer and his or her immediate supervisor. The request for information must provide the name of the fugitive felon and/or parole or probation violator being sought, and may include other personal information used for identification. The request should also comply with the following requirements:

A. The law enforcement agency shall notify Stratford Housing Authority that the fugitive felon and/or parole or probation violator (i) is fleeing to avoid prosecution, custody or confinement after conviction, under the laws of the place from which the individual flees, for a crime, or attempt to commit a crime, which is a felony under the laws of the place from which the individual flees, or which, in the case of the State of New Jersey, is a high misdemeanor; or (ii) is violating a condition of probation or parole imposed under Federal or State law; or (iii) has information that is necessary for the officer to conduct his/her official duties;

B. The location or apprehension of the recipient is within the Stratford Housing Authority's official duties; and,

C. The request is made in the proper exercise of the law enforcement agency's official duties.

10.0 VERIFICATION

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

10.1 ACCEPTABLE METHODS OF VERIFICATION

Age, relationship, U.S. citizenship, and Social Security numbers will generally be verified with documentation provided by the family. For citizenship, the family's

certification will be accepted. (Or, for citizenship, documentation such as listed below will be required.) Verification of these items will include photocopies of the Social Security cards and other documents presented by the family, the INS SAVE approval code, and forms signed by the family.

Other information will be verified by the following five verification methods acceptable to HUD, in the order of preference indicated:

1. Up-front Income Verifications (UIV)

UIV is the verification of income through an independent source that systematically maintains income information in computerized form for a large number of individuals.

Current UIV resources include the following:

a. Enterprise Income Verification (EIV)– HUD's online wage and benefit system that allows PHAs to verify tenant-reported income from an independent source in computerized form.

b. State Wage Information Collection Agencies (SWICAs)

c. State systems for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program

d. Credit Bureau Information (CBA) credit reports

e. Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Letter 1722

f. Private sector databases (e.g. The Work Number)

The Stratford Housing Authority will use additional UIV resources as they become available. This will be done before, during and/or after examinations and/or re-examinations of household income as appropriate.

It is important to note that UIV data will only be used to verify an participant's eligibility for participation in a rental assistance program and to determine the level of assistance the resident is entitled to receive and only by properly trained persons[1] whose duties require access to this information. Any other use, unless approved by the HUD Headquarters UIV Security System Administrator, is specifically prohibited and will not occur.

No adverse action can be taken against a resident until the Stratford Housing Authority has independently verified the UIV information and the resident has been granted an opportunity to contest any adverse findings through the established grievance procedure. The consequences of adverse findings may include the Stratford Housing Authority requiring the immediate payment of any over-subsidy, the entering into a repayment agreement, eviction, criminal prosecution, or any other appropriate remedy.

Furthermore, the information the Stratford Housing Authority derives from the UIV system will be protected to ensure that it is utilized solely for official purposes and not disclosed in any way that would violate the privacy of the affected individuals.

2. Third –Party Written Verifications

This type of verification includes written documentation, with forms sent directly to and received directly from a source, not passed through the hands of the family. It may also be a report generated automatically by another government agency, i.e., Department of Welfare, Veterans Administration, etc.

Third-party written verifications may also be used to supplement Up-front Income Verifications. They will be utilized when there is a discrepancy of $200 a month or more and the participant disputes the UIV results.

Third party verification of SS and SSI benefits shall be obtained by getting a copy of an official Social Security Administration letter of benefits from the person receiving the benefits and verification from HUD's on-line systems. If either of these forms is not obtainable, then the file shall be documented as to why third party verification was not used.

The Stratford Housing Authority will allow two (2) weeks for the return of third party written verifications prior to continuing on to the next type of verification.

3. Third-Party Oral Verifications

This type of verification includes direct contact with the source, in person or by telephone. When this method is used, staff members will be required to document in writing with whom they spoke, the date of the conversation and the facts obtained.

The Stratford Housing Authority will allow two (2) business days for the return of third party oral verifications prior to continuing on to the next type of verification.

4. Review of Documents

When UIV, written and oral third party verifications are not available within the two (2) week and two (2) business days period allowed in paragraphs 2 and 3 above, the Housing Authority will use the information received by the family, provided that the documents provide complete information. Photocopies of the documents, excluding government checks, provided by the family will be maintained in the file. In cases in which documents are viewed and cannot be photocopied, staff reviewing the documents will complete a written statement as to the contents of the document(s).

5. Self-Certification and Self-Declaration

When UIV, written and oral third party verifications are not available within the two (2) week and two (2) business days period allowed in paragraphs 2 and 3 above, and hand-carried verification cannot be obtained, the Housing Authority will accept a statement detailing information needed, signed by the head, spouse, co-head, or other adult family member.

Verification forms and reports received will be contained in the applicant/tenant file. Oral third party documentation will include the same information as if the documentation had been written, i.e. name, date of contact, amount received, etc.

When any verification method other than Up-Front Income Verification is utilized, the Stratford Housing Authority will document the reason for the choice of the verification methodology in the applicant/resident's file.

10.2 TYPES OF VERIFICATION

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

Verification Requirements for Individual Items		
Item to Be Verified	**3rd party verification**	**Hand-carried verification**
General Eligibility Items		
Social Security Number	Letter from Social Security, electronic reports	Social Security card or third party document stating the Social Security Number
Adult Status of Head of Household		Valid drivers license, identification card issued by a government agency, or a birth certificate.
Citizenship	N/A	Signed certification, voter's registration card, birth certificate, etc.
Eligible immigration status	INS SAVE confirmation #	INS card
Disability	Letter from medical professional, SSI, etc.	Proof of SSI or Social Security disability payments
Full time student status (if >18)	Letter from school	For high school and/or college students, any document evidencing enrollment
Need for a live-in aide	Letter from doctor or other professional knowledgeable of condition	N/A
Child care costs	Letter from care provider	Bills and receipts
Disability assistance expenses	Letters from suppliers, care givers, etc.	Bills and records of payment
Medical expenses	Letters from providers, prescription record from pharmacy, medical professional's letter stating assistance or a companion animal is needed	Bills, receipts, records of payment, dates of trips, mileage log, receipts for fares and tolls
Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage		A card issued by the private prescription drug plan with the words Medicare Rx on it.

Verification Requirements for Individual Items		
Item to Be Verified	**3rd party verification**	**Hand-carried verification**
Value of and Income from Assets		
Savings, checking accounts	Letter from institution	Passbook, most current statements
CDs, bonds, etc.	Letter from institution	Tax return, information brochure from institution, the CD, the bond
Stocks	Letter from broker or holding company	Stock or most current statement, price in newspaper or through Internet
Real property	Letter from tax office, assessment, etc.	Property tax statement (for current value), assessment, records or income and expenses, tax return
Personal property held as an investment	Assessment, bluebook, etc.	Receipt for purchase, other evidence of worth
Cash value of whole life insurance policies	Letter from insurance company	Current statement
Assets disposed of for less than fair market value	N/A	Original receipt and receipt at disposition, other evidence of worth
Income		
Earned income	Letter from employer	Multiple pay stubs
Self-employed	N/A	Tax return from prior year, books of accounts
Regular gifts and contributions	Letter from source, letter from organization receiving gift (i.e., if grandmother pays day care provider, the day care provider could so state)	Bank deposits, other similar evidence
Alimony/child support	Court order, letter from source, letter	Record of deposits, divorce

Verification Requirements for Individual Items		
Item to Be Verified	**3rd party verification**	**Hand-carried verification**
	from Human Services	decree
Social Security Administration		Letter from Social Security as verified by HUD computer systems.
Periodic payments (i.e., welfare, pensions, workers' comp, unemployment)	Letter or electronic reports from the source	Award letter, letter announcing change in amount of future payments
Training program participation	Letter from program provider indicating - whether enrolled - whether training is HUD-funded - whether State or local program - whether it is employment training - whether payments are for out- of-pocket expenses incurred in order to participate in a program	N/A

10.3 VERIFICATION OF CITIZENSHIP OR ELIGIBLE NONCITIZEN STATUS

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

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

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

Prior to being admitted or at the first reexamination, all eligible non-citizens must sign a declaration of their status and a verification consent form and provide their original INS documentation. The Stratford Housing Authority will make a copy of the individual's INS documentation and place the copy in the file. The Stratford Housing Authority also will verify their status through the INS SAVE system. If the INS SAVE system cannot

confirm eligibility, the Stratford Housing Authority will mail information to the INS so a manual check can be made of INS records.

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

Non-citizen students on student visas, though in the country legally, are not eligible to be admitted to the Section 8 Program. If they are members of families that include citizens, the rent must be pro-rated.

Any family member who does not choose to declare their status must be listed on the statement of non-eligible members.

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

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

If the Stratford Housing Authority determines that a family member has knowingly permitted an ineligible non-citizen (other than any ineligible non-citizens listed on the lease) to permanently reside in their Section 8 unit, the family's assistance will be terminated. Such family will not be eligible to be readmitted to Section 8 for a period of 24 months from the date of termination.

10.4 VERIFICATION OF SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS

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

The best verification of the Social Security Number is the original Social Security card. If the card is not available, the Stratford Housing Authority will accept letters from Social Security that establish and state the number. Documentation from other governmental agencies will also be accepted that establish and state the number. Driver's license, military ID, passports, or other official documents that establish and state the number are also acceptable.

If an individual states that they do not have a Social Security Number they will be required to sign a statement to this effect. An adult must sign for minor children. The

Stratford Housing Authority will not require any individual who does not have a Social Security Number to obtain a Social Security Number.

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

If a member of a participating family indicates they have a Social Security Number, but cannot readily verify it, they shall be asked to certify to this fact and shall have up to 30 days or such other time as allowed by the Stratford Housing Authority to provide the verification. If the individual is at least 62 years of age, they will be given 120 days to provide the verification. If the individual fails to provide the verification within the time allowed, the family will be denied assistance or will have their assistance terminated.

10.5 TIMING OF VERIFICATION

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

When an interim reexamination is conducted, the Housing Authority will verify and update only those elements reported to have changed.

10.6 FREQUENCY OF OBTAINING VERIFICATION

Household income and composition will be verified at least annually.

For each family member, citizenship/eligible non-citizen status will be verified only once unless the family member is an eligible immigrant in a transitional stage of admission. In this situation, their status must be updated until they are admitted for permanent residendcy. This verification will be obtained prior to admission. If the status of any family member was not determined prior to admission, verification of their status will be obtained at the next regular reexamination. Prior to a new member joining the family, their status will be verified.

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

10.7 SPECIAL VERIFICATION FOR ADULT STUDENTS

In addition to other verification procedures, student head of households must provide a written signed certification that the student does or does not receive any financial support from his or her parents or guardians and whether or not the student is receiving an athletic scholarship. If support is received, the certification must state the amount of the anticipated support. The Stratford Housing Authority shall verify using normal third party verification procedures that amount by communicating directly with the supporting person(s). If an athletic scholarship is involved, the Stratford Housing Authority shall determine if any of the scholarship is available for housing costs.

11.0 RENT AND HOUSING ASSISTANCE PAYMENT

11.1 GENERAL

[Reserved]

11.2 RENT REASONABLENESS

The Housing Authority will not approve an initial rent or a rent increase in any of the tenant-based programs without determining that the rent amount is reasonable. Reasonableness is determined prior to the initial lease and at the following times:

A. Before any increase in rent to owner is approved;

B. If 60 days before the contract anniversary date there is a 5% decrease in the published FMR as compared to the previous FMR; and

C. If the Housing Authority or HUD directs that reasonableness be re determined.

11.3 COMPARABILITY

In making a rent reasonableness determination, the Housing Authority will compare the rent for the unit to the rent of comparable units in the same or comparable neighborhoods. The Housing Authority will consider the location, quality, size, number of bedrooms, age, amenities, housing services, maintenance and utilities of the unit and the comparable units. The results of this determination shall be documented in the participant's file.

The Housing Authority will maintain current survey information on rental units in the jurisdiction. The Housing Authority will also obtain from landlord associations and management firms the value of the array of amenities.

The Housing Authority will establish minimum base rent amounts for each unit type and bedroom size. To the base the Housing Authority will be able to add or subtract the dollar value for each characteristic and amenity of a proposed unit.

Owners are invited to submit information to the survey at any time. Owners may review the determination made on their unit and may submit additional information or make improvements to the unit that will enable the Housing Authority to establish a higher value.

The owner must certify the rents charged for other units. By accepting the housing assistance payment each month the owner is certifying that the rent to owner is not more than the rent charged by the owner for comparable unassisted units in the premises.

11.4 MAXIMUM SUBSIDY

The Fair Market Rent (FMR) published by HUD or the exception payment standard rent (requested by the Stratford Housing Authority and approved by HUD) determines the maximum subsidy for a family.

For the Housing Choice Voucher Program, the maximum payment standard will be 110% of the FMR without prior approval from HUD, or the exception payment standard approved by HUD.

For a voucher tenancy in an insured or noninsured 236 project, a 515 project of the Rural Development Administration, or a Section 221(d)(3) below market interest rate project the maximum subsidy may not exceed the basic rent charged including the cost of tenant-paid utilities.

For manufactured home space rental, the maximum subsidy under any form of assistance is the Fair Market Rent for the space as outlined in 24 CFR 982.888.

11.4.1 Setting the Payment Standard

HUD requires that the payment standard be set by the Housing Authority at between 90 and 110% of the FMR. The Stratford Housing Authority will review its determination of the payment standard annually after publication of the FMRs. The Stratford Housing Authority will consider vacancy rates and rents in the market area, size and quality of units leased under the program, rents for units leased under the program, success rates of housing choice voucher holders in finding units, and the percentage of annual income families are paying for rent under the Voucher Program. If it is determined that success rates will suffer or that families are having to rent low quality units located only in poverty-impacted neighborhoods, or pay over 40% of income for rent, the payment standard may be raised to the level judged necessary to alleviate these hardships. The objective is to allow families a reasonable selection of modest, decent, and safe housing in a range of neighborhoods.

The Stratford Housing Authority may establish a higher payment standard (although still within 110% of the published fair market rent) as a reasonable accommodation for a family that includes people with disabilities. With approval of the HUD Field Office, the payment standard can go to 120%.

If a higher payment standard is needed as a reasonable accommodation, the Stratford Housing Authority shall submit the following to HUD:

A. A statement from a health care provider regarding the nature of the disabled person's disability/ies and the features of the unit (which may include its location) which meet that person's needs.

B. The contract rent and utility allowance for the unit.

C. A statement from the agency that it has determined the rent for the unit is reasonable, and that the unit has the feature/s required to meet the needs of the person with disabilities as noted in the statement from the health care provider.

D. The household's monthly adjusted income.

E. The FMR for the unit size for which the family is eligible.

F. Proposed effective date of the new lease or actual effective date of the lease renewal.

Payment standards will not be raised solely to allow the renting of luxury quality units.

If success levels are projected to be extremely high and rents are projected to be at or below 30% of income, the Housing Authority will reduce the payment standard. Payment standards for each bedroom size are evaluated separately so that the payment standard for one bedroom size may increase or decrease while another remains unchanged. The Stratford Housing Authority may consider adjusting payment standards at times other than the annual review when circumstances warrant.

Before increasing any payment standard, the Housing Authority will conduct a financial feasibility test to ensure that in using the higher standard, adequate funds will continue to be available to assist families in the program.

11.4.2 Selecting the Correct Payment Standard for a Family

A. For the housing choice voucher tenancy, the payment standard for a family is the lower of:

1. The payment standard for the family unit size; or

2. The payment standard for the unit size rented by the family.

B. If the unit rented by a family is located in an exception rent area, the Housing Authority will use the appropriate payment standard for the exception rent area.

C. During the HAP contract term for a unit, the amount of the payment standard for a family is the higher of:

1. The initial payment standard (at the beginning of the lease term) minus any amount by which the initial rent to owner exceeds the current rent to owner; or

2. The payment standard as determined at the most recent regular reexamination of family income and composition effective after the beginning of the HAP contract term.

D. At the next annual reexamination following a change in family size or composition during the HAP contract term and for any reexamination thereafter, paragraph C above does not apply.

E. If there is a change in family unit size resulting from a change in family size or composition, the new family unit size will be considered when determining the payment standard at the next annual reexamination.

11.4.3 Area Exception Rents

In order to help families find housing outside areas of high poverty or when housing choice voucher holders are having trouble finding housing for lease under the program, the Housing Authority may request that HUD approve an exception payment standard rent for certain areas within its jurisdiction. The areas may be of any size, though generally not smaller than a census tract. The Housing Authority may request one such exception payment standard area or many. Exception payment standard rent authority may be requested for all or some unit sizes, or for all or some unit types.

When an exception payment standard rent has been approved and the FMR increases, the exception rent remains unchanged until such time as the Housing Authority requests and HUD approves a higher exception payment standard rent. If the FMR decreases, the exception payment standard rent authority automatically expires.

11.5 ASSISTANCE AND RENT FORMULAS

A. Total Tenant Payment

The total tenant payment is equal to the highest of:

1. 10% of monthly income

2. 30% of adjusted monthly income

3. Minimum rent

4. If the family is receiving payments for welfare assistance from a public agency and a part of those payments, adjusted in accordance with the family's actual housing costs, is specifically designated by such agency to meet the family's housing costs, the portion of those payments which is so designated. If the family's welfare assistance is ratably reduced from the standard of need by applying a percentage, the amount calculated under this provision is the amount resulting from one application of the percentage.

Plus any rent above the payment standard.

B. Minimum Rent.

The Stratford Housing Authority has set the minimum rent as $50.00. However, if the family requests a hardship exemption, the Stratford Housing Authority will suspend the minimum rent for the family beginning the month following the family's hardship request. The suspension will continue until the Housing Authority can determine whether hardship exists and whether the hardship is of a temporary of long-term nature. During suspension, the family will not be required to pay a minimum rent and the Housing Assistance Payment will be increased accordingly.

1. A hardship exists in the following circumstances:

   a. When the family has lost eligibility for or is awaiting an eligibility determination for a Federal, State or local assistance program including a family that includes a member who is a non-citizen lawfully admitted for permanent residence under the Immigration and Nationality Act who would be entitled to public benefits but for title IV of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act of 1996;

   b. When the family would be evicted because it is unable to pay the minimum rent;

c. When the income of the family has decreased because of changed circumstances, including loss of employment; and

d. When a death has occurred in the family.

2. No hardship. If the Housing Authority determines there is no qualifying hardship, the minimum rent will be reinstated, including requiring back payment of minimum rent to the Housing Authority for the time of suspension.

3. Temporary hardship. If the Housing Authority determines that there is a qualifying hardship but that it is of a temporary nature, the minimum rent will not be imposed for a period of 90 days from the month following the date of the family's request. At the end of the 90-day period, the minimum rent will be imposed retroactively to the time of suspension. The Housing Authority will offer a reasonable repayment agreement for any minimum rent back payment paid by the Housing Authority on the family's behalf during the period of suspension.

4. Long-term hardship. If the Housing Authority determines there is a long-term hardship, the family will be exempt from the minimum rent requirement until the hardship no longer exists.

5. Appeals. The family may use the informal hearing procedure to appeal the Housing Authority's determination regarding the hardship. No escrow deposit will be required in order to access the informal hearing procedures.

C. Section 8 Merged Vouchers

1. The payment standard is set by the Housing Authority between 90% and 110% of the FMR or higher or lower with HUD approval.

2. The participant pays the greater of the Total Tenant Payment or the minimum rent, plus the amount by which the gross rent exceeds the payment standard.

3. No participant when initially receiving tenant-based assistance on a unit shall pay more than 40% of their monthly-adjusted income.

D. Section 8 Preservation Vouchers

1. Payment Standard

a. The payment standard is the lower of:

i. The payment standard amount for the appropriate family unit size; or

ii. The payment standard amount for the size of the dwelling unit actually rented by the family.

b. If the dwelling unit is located in an exception area, the Stratford Housing Authority will use the appropriate payment standard for the exception area.

c. During the HAP contract term, the payment standard for the family is the higher of :

i. The initial payment standard (at the beginning of the HAP contract term), as determined in accordance with paragraph (1)(a) or (1)(b) of this section, minus any amount by which the initial rent to the owner exceeds the current rent to the owner; or

ii. The payment standard as determined in accordance with paragraph (1)(a) or (1)(b) of this section, as determined at the most recent regular reexamination of family income and composition effective after the beginning of the HAP contract term.

d. At the next regular reexamination following a change in family composition that causes a change in family unit size during the HAP contract term, and for any examination thereafter during the term:

i. Paragraph (c)(i) of this section does not apply; and

ii. The new family unit size must be used to determine the payment standard.

2. The Stratford Housing Authority will pay a monthly housing assistance payment on behalf of the family that equals the lesser of:

a. The payment standard minus the total tenant payment; or

b. The gross rent minus the total tenant payment.

E. Manufactured Home Space Rental: Section 8 Vouchers

1. The payment standard for a participant renting a manufactured home space is the published FMR for rental of a manufactured home space.

2. The space rent is the sum of the following as determined by the Housing Authority:

    a. Rent to the owner for the manufactured home space;

    b. Owner maintenance and management charges for the space; and

    c. Utility allowance for tenant paid utilities.

3. The participant pays the rent to owner less the HAP.

4. HAP equals the lesser of:

    a. The payment standard minus the total tenant payment; or

    b. The rent paid for rental of the real property on which the manufactured home owned by the family is located.

F. Rent for Families under the Non-citizen Rule

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

1. The family was receiving assistance on June 19, 1995;

2. The family was granted continuation of assistance before November 29,1996;

3. The family's head or spouse has eligible immigration status; and

4. The family does not include any person who does not have eligible status other than the head of household, the spouse of the head of household, any parent of the head or spouse, or any child (under the age of 18) of the head or spouse.

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

1. Find the prorated housing assistance payment (HAP) by dividing the HAP by the total number of family members, and then multiplying the result by the number of eligible family members.

2. Obtain the prorated family share by subtracting the prorated HAP from the gross rent (contract rent plus utility allowance).

3. The prorated resident rent equals the prorated family share minus the full utility allowance.

11.6 UTILITY ALLOWANCE

The Housing Authority maintains a utility allowance schedule for all tenant-paid utilities (except telephone and cable television), for cost of tenant-supplied refrigerators and ranges, and for other tenant-paid housing services (e.g., trash collection (disposal of waste and refuse)).

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

The Housing Authority reviews the utility allowance schedule annually and revises any allowance for a utility category if there has been a change of 10% or more in the utility rate since the last time the utility allowance schedule was revised. The Housing Authority maintains information supporting the annual review of utility allowances and any revisions made in its utility allowance schedule. Participants may review this information at any time by making an appointment with the Stratford Housing Authority.

The Housing Authority uses the appropriate utility allowance for the size of dwelling unit actually leased by the family (rather than the family unit size as determined under the Housing Authority subsidy standards).

At each reexamination, the Housing Authority applies the utility allowance from the most current utility allowance schedule.

The Housing Authority will approve a request for a utility allowance that is higher than the applicable amount on the utility allowance schedule if a higher utility allowance is needed as a reasonable accommodation to make the program accessible to and usable by the family member with a disability.

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

11.7 DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSING ASSISTANCE PAYMENT

The Housing Authority pays the owner the lesser of the housing assistance payment or the rent to owner. If payments are not made when due, the owner may charge the Stratford Housing Authority a late payment, agreed to in the Contract and in accordance with generally accepted practices in the Stratford jurisdiction.

11.8 CHANGE OF OWNERSHIP

The Stratford Housing Authority requires a written request by the owner who executed the HAP contract in order to make changes regarding who is to receive the Stratford Housing Authority's rent payment or the address as to where the rent payment should be sent.

In addition, the Stratford Housing Authority requires a written request from the new owner to process a change of ownership. The following documents must accompany the written request:

A. Deed of Trust showing the transfer of title; and

B. Tax Identification Number or Social Security Number.

New owners will be required to execute IRS form W-9. The Stratford Housing Authority may withhold the rent payment until the taxpayer identification number is received.

12.0 INSPECTION POLICIES, HOUSING QUALITY STANDARDS, AND DAMAGE CLAIMS

The Stratford Housing Authority will inspect all units to ensure that they meet Housing Quality Standards (HQS). No unit will be initially placed on the Section 8 Existing Program unless the HQS is met. Units will be inspected at least annually, and at other times as needed, to determine if the units meet HQS.

The Stratford Housing Authority must be allowed to inspect the dwelling unit at reasonable times with reasonable notice. The family and owner will be notified of the inspection appointment by first class mail. If the family can not be at home for the scheduled inspection appointment, the family must call and reschedule the inspection or make arrangements to enable the Housing Authority to enter the unit and complete the inspection.

If the family misses the scheduled inspection and fails to reschedule the inspection, the Stratford Housing Authority will only schedule one more inspection. If the family misses

two inspections, the Stratford Housing Authority will consider the family to have violated a Family Obligation and their assistance will be terminated.

12.1 TYPES OF INSPECTIONS

There are seven types of inspections the Stratford Housing Authority will perform:

A. Initial Inspection - An inspection that must take place to insure that the unit passes HQS before assistance can begin.

B. Annual Inspection - An inspection to determine that the unit continues to meet HQS.

C. Complaint Inspection - An inspection caused by the Authority receiving a complaint on the unit by anyone.

D. Special Inspection - An inspection caused by a third party, i.e. HUD, needing to view the unit.

E. Emergency - An inspection that takes place in the event of a perceived emergency. These will take precedence over all other inspections.

F. Move Out Inspection (if applicable) - An inspection required for units in service before October 2, 1995, and optional after that date. These inspections document the condition of the unit at the time of the move-out.

G. Quality Control Inspection - Supervisory inspections based on at least the minimum number required by the Section Eight Management Assessment Program (SEMAP).

12.2 OWNER AND FAMILY RESPONSIBILITY

A. Owner Responsibility for HQS

1. The owner must maintain the unit in accordance with HQS.

2. If the owner fails to maintain the dwelling unit in accordance with HQS, the Stratford Housing Authority will take prompt and vigorous action to enforce the owner obligations. The Stratford Housing Authority's remedies for such breach of the HQS include termination, suspension or reduction of housing assistance payments and termination of the HAP contract.

3. The Stratford Housing Authority will not make any housing assistance payments for a dwelling unit that fails to meet the HQS, unless the owner

corrects the defect within the period specified by the Stratford Housing Authority and the Stratford Housing Authority verifies the correction. If a defect is life threatening, the owner must correct the defect within no more than 24 hours. For other defects the owner must correct the defect within no more than 30 calendar days (or any Stratford Housing Authority approved extension). If the required repair is not made in a timely manner, the rent shall be abated beginning with the next rent check. If 2 consecutive checks are abated, the assistance shall be cancelled.

4. The owner is not responsible for a breach of the HQS that is not caused by the owner, and for which the family is responsible. Furthermore, the Stratford Housing Authority may terminate assistance to a family because of the HQS breach caused by the family.

B. Family Responsibility for HQS

1. The family is responsible for a breach of the HQS that is caused by any of the following:

   a. The family fails to pay for any utilities that the owner is not required to pay for, but which are to be paid by the resident;

   b. The family fails to provide and maintain any appliances that the owner is not required to provide, but which are to be provided by the participant; or

   c. Any member of the household or a guest damages the dwelling unit or premises (damage beyond ordinary wear and tear).

2. If an HQS breach caused by the family is life threatening, the family must correct the defect within no more than 24 hours. For other family-caused defects, the family must correct the defect within no more than 30 calendar days (or any Stratford Housing Authority approved extension).

3. If the family has caused a breach of the HQS, the Stratford Housing Authority will take prompt and vigorous action to enforce the family obligations. The Stratford Housing Authority may terminate assistance for the family in accordance with 24 CFR 982.552.

12.3 HOUSING QUALITY STANDARDS (HQS) 24 CFR 982.401

This Section states performance and acceptability criteria for these key aspects of the following housing quality standards:

A. Sanitary Facilities

1. Performance Requirements

The dwelling unit must include sanitary facilities located in the unit. The sanitary facilities must be in proper operating condition and adequate for personal cleanliness and the disposal of human waste. The sanitary facilities must be usable in privacy.

2. Acceptability Criteria

a. The bathroom must be located in a separate private room and have a flush toilet in proper operating condition.

b. The dwelling unit must have a fixed basin in proper operating condition, with a sink trap and hot and cold running water.

c. The dwelling unit must have a shower or a tub in proper operating condition with hot and cold running water.

d. The facilities must utilize an approvable public or private disposal system (including a locally approvable septic system).

B. Food Preparation and Refuse Disposal

1. Performance Requirements

a. The dwelling unit must have suitable space and equipment to store, prepare, and serve foods in a sanitary manner.

b. There must be adequate facilities and services for the sanitary disposal of food wastes and refuse, including facilities for temporary storage where necessary (e.g., garbage cans).

2. Acceptability Criteria

a. The dwelling unit must have an oven, a stove or range, and a refrigerator of appropriate size for the family. All of the equipment must be in proper operating condition. Either the owner or the family may supply the equipment. A microwave oven may be substituted for a tenant-supplied oven and stove or range. A microwave oven may be substituted for an owner-supplied oven and stove or range if the resident agrees and microwave ovens are

furnished instead of an oven and stove or range to both subsidized and unsubsidized tenants in the building or premises.

b. The dwelling unit must have a kitchen sink in proper operating condition, with a sink trap and hot and cold running water. The sink must drain into an approvable public or private system.

c. The dwelling unit must have space for the storage, preparation, and serving of food.

d. There must be facilities and services for the sanitary disposal of food waste and refuse, including temporary storage facilities where necessary (e.g., garbage cans).

C. Space and security

1. Performance Requirement

The dwelling unit must provide adequate space and security for the family.

2. Acceptability Criteria

a. At a minimum, the dwelling unit must have a living room, a kitchen area, and a bathroom.

b. The dwelling unit must have at least one bedroom or living/ sleeping room for each two persons. Children of opposite sex, other than very young children, may not be required to occupy the same bedroom or living/sleeping room.

c. Dwelling unit windows that are accessible from the outside, such as basement, first floor, and fire escape windows, must be lockable (such as window units with sash pins or sash locks, and combination windows with latches). Windows that are nailed shut are acceptable only if these windows are not needed for ventilation or as an alternate exit in case of fire.

d. The exterior doors of the dwelling unit must be lockable. Exterior doors are doors by which someone can enter or exit the dwelling unit.

D. Thermal Environment

1. Performance Requirement

The dwelling unit must have and be capable of maintaining a thermal environment healthy for the human body.

2. Acceptability Criteria

a. There must be a safe system for heating the dwelling unit (and a safe cooling system, where present). The system must be in proper operating condition. The system must be able to provide adequate heat (and cooling, if applicable), either directly or indirectly, to each room, in order to assure a healthy living environment appropriate to the climate.

b. The dwelling unit must not contain unvented room heaters that burn gas, oil, or kerosene. Electric heaters are acceptable.

E. Illumination and Electricity

1. Performance Requirement

Each room must have adequate natural or artificial illumination to permit normal indoor activities and to support the health and safety of occupants. The dwelling unit must have sufficient electrical sources so occupants can use essential electrical appliances. The electrical fixtures and wiring must ensure safety from fire.

2. Acceptability Criteria

a. There must be at least one window in the living room and in each sleeping room.

b. The kitchen area and the bathroom must have a permanent ceiling or wall light fixture in proper operating condition. The kitchen area must also have at least one electrical outlet in proper operating condition.

c. The living room and each bedroom must have at least two electrical outlets in proper operating condition. Permanent overhead or wall-mounted light fixtures may count as one of the required electrical outlets.

F. Structure and Materials

1. Performance Requirement

The dwelling unit must be structurally sound. The structure must not present any threat to the health and safety of the occupants and must protect the occupants from the environment.

2. Acceptability Criteria

a. Ceilings, walls, and floors must not have any serious defects such as severe bulging or leaning, large holes, loose surface materials, severe buckling, missing parts, or other serious damage.

b. The roof must be structurally sound and weather tight.

c. The exterior wall structure and surface must not have any serious defects such as serious leaning, buckling, sagging, large holes, or defects that may result in air infiltration or vermin infestation.

d. The condition and equipment of interior and exterior stairs, halls, porches, walkways, etc., must not present a danger of tripping and falling. For example, broken or missing steps or loose boards are unacceptable.

e. Elevators must be working and safe.

G. Interior Air Quality

1. Performance Requirement

The dwelling unit must be free of pollutants in the air at levels that threaten the health of the occupants.

2. Acceptability Criteria

a. The dwelling unit must be free from dangerous levels of air pollution from carbon monoxide, sewer gas, fuel gas, dust, and other harmful pollutants.

b. There must be adequate air circulation in the dwelling unit.

c. Bathroom areas must have one window that can be opened or other adequate exhaust ventilation.

d. Any room used for sleeping must have at least one window. If the window is designed to be opened, the window must work.

H. Water Supply

1. Performance Requirements

The water supply must be free from contamination.

2. Acceptability Criteria

The dwelling unit must be served by an approvable public or private water supply that is sanitary and free from contamination.

I. Lead-based Paint

1. Performance Requirement

The Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act, the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992, and implementing regulations at part 35, subparts A, B, M, and R of this title apply to units assisted under this part.

2. Acceptability Criteria

The requirements apply to dwelling units built prior to 1978 that are occupied or can be occupied by families with children under six years of age, excluding zero bedroom dwellings.

During initial and annual inspections of pre-1978 units that are occupied or will be occupied by families with children under 6 years of age, the inspector must conduct a visual assessment for deteriorated paint surfaces and the owner must stabilize deteriorated surfaces. Applicable areas include painted surfaces within the dwelling unit, exterior painted surfaces associated with the dwelling unit, and common areas of the building through which residents must pass to gain access to the unit and areas frequented by resident children under six years of age, including play areas and child care facilities.

For units occupied by environmental intervention blood lead level (lead poisoned) children under six years of age, a risk assessment must be conducted (paid for by the PHA), and the owner must complete hazard reduction activities if lead hazards are identified during the risk assessment.

J. Access

1. Performance Requirements

The dwelling unit must be able to be used and maintained without unauthorized use of other private properties. The building must provide an alternate means of exit in case of fire (such as fire stairs or egress through windows).

K. Site and Neighborhood

1. Performance Requirements

The site and neighborhood must be reasonably free from disturbing noises and reverberations and other dangers to the health, safety, and general welfare of the occupants.

2. Acceptability Criteria

The site and neighborhood may not be subject to serious adverse environmental conditions, natural or manmade, such as dangerous walks or steps; instability; flooding, poor drainage, septic tank back-ups or sewage hazards; mudslides; abnormal air pollution, smoke or dust; excessive noise, vibration or vehicular traffic; excessive accumulations of trash; vermin or rodent infestation; or fire hazards.

L. Sanitary Condition

1. Performance Requirements

The dwelling unit and its equipment must be in sanitary condition.

2. Acceptability Criteria

The dwelling unit and its equipment must be free of vermin and rodent infestation.

M. Smoke Detectors

1. Performance Requirements

a. Except as provided in paragraph b below of this Section, each dwelling unit must have at least one battery-operated or hard-wired smoke detector, in proper operating condition, on each level of the

dwelling unit, including basements but excepting crawl spaces and unfinished attics. Smoke detectors must be installed in accordance with and meet the requirements of the National Fire Protection Association Standard (NFPA) 74 (or its successor standards). If the dwelling unit is occupied by any hearing-impaired person, smoke detectors must have an alarm system, designed for hearing-impaired persons as specified in NFPA 74 (or successor standards).

b. For units assisted prior to April 24, 1993, owners who installed battery-operated or hard-wired smoke detectors prior to April 24, 1993, in compliance with HUD's smoke detector requirements, including the regulations published on July 30, 1992, (57 FR 33846), will not be required subsequently to comply with any additional requirements mandated by NFPA 74 (i.e., the owner would not be required to install a smoke detector in a basement not used for living purposes, nor would the owner be required to change the location of the smoke detectors that have already been installed on the other floors of the unit).

12.4 LEAD-BASED PAINT REQUIREMENTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Exempt Units

The following units are exempt from this policy by HUD regulation:

1. Units built after December 31, 1977;

2. Zero (0) bedroom and Single Room Occupancy (SRO) units;

3. Housing built for the elderly or persons with disabilities, unless a child of under age six (6) resides or is expected to reside in such housing;

4. Properties for which a paint inspection was completed in accordance with the new regulations that became effective on September 15, 2000 and are certified to have no lead-based paint;

5. Properties in which all lead-based paint was identified, was removed, and that received clearance in accordance with the new regulations which became effective on September 15, 2000.

B. Non-Exempt or Covered Units

For dwellings built before January 1, 1978, and occupied or to be occupied by assisted families with one or more children under age six (6), lead-based paint requirements apply to:

1. The unit interior and exterior paint surfaces; associated with the assisted unit: and

2. The common areas servicing the unit, including those areas through which residents must pass to gain access to the unit, and other areas frequented by resident children less than six (6) such as play areas, and child care facilities. Common areas also include garages and fences on the assisted property.

C. Responsibilities of the Stratford Housing Authority and the Owner

The Stratford Housing Authority is responsible for the following activities:

1. The visual assessment for deteriorated paint (i.e., peeling, chipping, flaking) surfaces at initial and annual inspections;

2. Assuring that clearance examinations are is conducted when required;

3. Carrying out special requirements for children under age six who have environmental intervention blood lead levels as verified by a medical health care provider;

4. Collecting data from the local health department on program participants under age six who have identified environmental intervention blood lead levels; and

5. Record keeping.

Owners of units to be or that are assisted have the responsibility to:

1. Disclose known lead-based paint hazards to all potential residents prior to execution of a lease;

2. Provide all prospective families with a copy of Protect Your Family From Lead in Your Home or other EPA approved document;

3. When necessary, perform paint stabilization to correct deteriorated paint;

4. Each time paint stabilization is performed, notify the resident about the conduct of lead hazard reduction activities and clearance (if required);

5. Conduct lead hazard reduction activities when required by the Stratford Housing Authority;

6. Perform all work in accordance with HUD prescribed safe work practices and conduct clearance activities when required; and

7. Perform ongoing maintenance. As part of ongoing maintenance, the owner must provide written notice to each assisted family asking the occupants to report deteriorated paint. The notice must include the name, address, and phone number of the person responsible for accepting the occupant's complaint.

Before the execution of the lease the owner is required to disclose any knowledge of lead-based paint or lead-based paint hazards in housing built prior to 1978, to all prospective residents. The Stratford Housing Authority will keep a copy of the disclosure notice executed by the owner and resident in the participant's file. The owner will keep the original disclosure notice and forward a copy of the notice to the Stratford Housing Authority.

D. Qualified Inspector

An HQS inspector may conduct the inspection or other party designated party designated by the Stratford Housing Authority. All inspectors will have been trained in visual assessment in accordance with procedures established by HUD.

E. Visual Assessment for Deteriorated Paint

The Stratford Housing Authority during the conduct of initial, annual and any special inspections of pre-1978 units that are occupied or will be occupied by families with children under 6 years of age, the Stratford Housing Authority will conduct a visual inspection for deteriorated paint surfaces at these locations:

1. All unit interior and exterior painted surfaces associated with the assisted unit; and

2. Common areas such as common hallways, access and egress areas, playgrounds, child-care facilities, or other areas including fences and garages frequented by children under age six.

F. Stabilization of Deteriorated Paint Surfaces

When the HQS Inspector or other designated party identifies deteriorated paint surfaces (defined as interior or exterior paint or other coating that is peeling, chipping, flaking, cracking, is otherwise damaged or has separated from the substrate of the surface or fixture), the Stratford Housing Authority will notify and require the owner to perform stabilization of the surfaces within thirty (30) days of the notification by the Stratford

Housing Authority's inspection for occupied units and before commencement of any assisted tenancy.

Owner requirements for compliance with the Stratford Housing Authority's paint stabilization differ, depending upon the amount of deteriorated paint surface to be corrected. The use of lead-safe work practices during paint stabilization activities are differentiated characterized as above or below de minimis levels.

De minimis deteriorated paint surfaces are exceeded when one of the following occurs:

1. 20 square feet on exterior surfaces;

2. 2 square feet on an interior surface in a single room or interior space; or

3. 10 percent of individual small components (e.g., windowsills) on the interior or exterior.

Owners must perform paint stabilization on all deteriorated paint surfaces. Paint stabilization is defined as:

1. Repair of any physical defect in the substrate of the painted surface or building component. Examples of defective substrate conditions include dry-rot, rust, moisture-related defects, crumbling plaster, missing siding, or other components not securely fastened;

2. Removal of all loose paint and other loose material from the surface being treated; and

3. Application of a new protective coat of paint to the stabilized surface.

In no instance may an owner employ any paint stabilization methods that are strictly prohibited by federal, state, or local law such as:

1. Open flame burning and torching;

2. Machine-sanding or grinding without a high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) local exhaust control;

3. Heat guns operating above 1,100 degrees Fahrenheit;

4. Abrasive blasting or sandblasting with HEPA exhaust control;

5. Dry sanding and scraping except limited conditions stated above for limited areas; and

6. Paint stripping in poorly ventilated space using a volatile stripper or a hazardous chemical as defined by Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

Failure to comply with paint stabilization requirements, regardless of the amount of deteriorated surface, will results in the disapproval of the tenancy, abatement of payment to the owner, and/or termination of the HAP contract.

In addition, in order to be in compliance with HUD lead-based paint requirements if the deteriorated paint surface exceeds the de minimis level, the owner must:

1. Conduct all stabilization activities with trained staff;

2. Employ acceptable methods for preparing the surface to be treated, including wet scraping, wet sanding, and power sanding performed in conjunction with a HEPA filtered local exhaust attachment operated according to manufacturer's instruction;

3. Not dry sand or dry scrape within one (1) square foot of electrical outlets;

4. Protect the occupants and their belongings from contamination;

5. Notify the occupants within fifteen (15) calendar days of stabilization activity and provide the results of the clearance examination.

Clearance Activities:

The Stratford Housing Authority will be responsible for clearance activities. All clearance activities will be performed by persons who have EPA or state-approved training and are licensed or certified to perform clearance examinations.

The Stratford Housing Authority will pay for the costs of the first clearance examination. If further clearance examinations are required, the owner is responsible to cover the costs of subsequent tests.

The owner must provide the Stratford Housing Authority with an executed copy of the Lead-Based Paint Owner's Certification for the HQS violation for paint stabilization to be considered closed.

Below de minimis deteriorated paint surfaces:

If the amount of deteriorated paint is below the de minimis level, owners will not be required to perform lead-safe work practices and clearance, but owners must perform paint stabilization as follows:

1. Repair of any physical defect in the substrate of the painted surface or building component. Examples of defective substrate conditions include dry-rot, rust, moisture-related defects, crumbling plaster, missing siding, or other components not securely fastened;

2. Removal of all loose paint and other loose material from the surface being treated; and

3. Application of a new protective coat of paint to the stabilized surface.

In no instance may an owner employ any paint stabilization methods that are strictly prohibited by federal, state, or local law such as:

1. Open flame burning and torching;

2. Machine-sanding or grinding without a high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) local exhaust control;

3. Heat guns operating above 1,100 degrees Fahrenheit;

4. Abrasive blasting or sandblasting with HEPA exhaust control;

5. Dry sanding and scraping except limited conditions stated above for limited areas; and

6. Paint stripping in poorly ventilated space using a volatile stripper or a hazardous chemical as defined by Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

Failure to comply with paint stabilization requirements, regardless of the amount of deteriorated surface, results in disapproval of the tenancy, abatement of payment to the owner, and/or termination of the HAP contract.

Clearance Activities:

The owner <u>must</u> provide the Stratford Housing Authority with an executed copy of the Lead-Based Paint Owner's Certification for the HQS violation for paint stabilization to be considered closed.

G. Requirements for Children with Environmental Intervention Blood Lead Level

Should the Stratford Housing Authority receive information regarding an environmental intervention blood lead level child under age six from the family, owner, or other sources not associated with the medical health community, the Stratford Housing Authority will

immediately verify the information with a public health department or other medical health care provider.

If either the public health department or private medical health agency provides verification that the child has an environmental intervention blood lead level, the Stratford Housing Authority will proceed to complete a risk assessment of the unit, common areas and exterior surfaces as outlined in Subsection H below. This requirement does not apply if the public health department has already conducted an evaluation between the date the child's blood was last sampled and the receipt of notification of the child's condition.

If the Stratford Housing Authority receives a report of an environmental intervention blood lead level child from any source other than the public health department, the Stratford Housing Authority will notify the public health department with five (5) working days.

HUD has defined environmental intervention blood lead level as a confirmed concentration of lead in whole blood equal or greater than 20 ug/dL (micrograms of lead per deciliter) for a single test or 15-19 ug/dL in two tests taken at least three (3) months apart in children under age six.

H. Risk Assessment

Within fifteen (15) calendar days of the notification to the Stratford Housing Authority by a public health department or medical health care provider, the Stratford Housing Authority will complete a risk assessment of the dwelling unit, including common areas servicing the dwelling unit, if the child lived in the unit at the time the child's blood was sampled. If the public health department has already conducted an evaluation between the date the child's blood was last sampled and the receipt of notification of the child's condition, the risk assessment by the Stratford Housing Authority is not required.

The Stratford Housing Authority will only utilize persons trained and certified by an EPA or state-approved agency to perform risk assessments. The risk assessment will identify the appropriate method of correction if correction is required.

The risk assessment will involve an on-site investigation to determine the existence, nature, severity, and location of lead-based paint hazards. The investigation will include dust and soil sampling, visual evaluation, and may include paint inspections (tests for lead in paint). The assessor will issue a report to the housing authority explaining the results of the investigation, as well as option and requirements for reducing lead-based paint hazards. Upon receipt of the risk assessment, the Stratford Housing Authority shall immediately notify the owner of its results.

The owner must notify the building residents of the results of the risk assessment within fifteen (15) calendar days of receipt of the risk assessment results from the Stratford Housing Authority.

I. Hazard Reduction

The owner must complete reduction of identified lead-based paint hazards as identified in the risk assessment as outlined in Subsection H Section 19.6 within thirty (30) days (or date specified by the Stratford Housing Authority if an extension is granted for exterior surfaces).

Hazard reduction activities may include paint stabilization, abatement, interim controls, or dust and soil contamination control. The appropriate method of correction will be identified in the risk assessment.

Hazard reduction will be considered complete by the Stratford Housing Authority when a clearance examination has been competed and the report indicates that all identified hazards have been treated and clearance has been achieved, or when the public health department certifies that the hazard reduction is complete.

The owner must notify all building residents of any hazard reduction activities within fifteen (15) calendar days of completion of activities.

Like paint stabilization compliance, when the Stratford Housing Authority receives the owner's certification, this will signal compliance with lead hazard reduction activities.

Failure by the owner to complete hazard reduction activities (including clearance) within thirty (30) days (or later if the Stratford Housing Authority grants an extension for exterior surfaces) of notification constitutes a violation of HQS, and appropriate action against the owner will be taken if a program family occupies the unit. If the unit is vacant when the Stratford Housing Authority notifies the owner, the unit may not be reoccupied by another assisted family, regardless of the ages of children in the family, until compliance with the lead-based paint requirement is completed.

J. Stratford Housing Authority Data Collection and Record Keeping

Quarterly, the Stratford Housing Authority will attempt to obtain from the public health department having jurisdiction in the same area as the Stratford Housing Authority, the names and addresses of children under age six with an identified environmental intervention blood lead level.

The Stratford Housing Authority will match information received from the health department with information about program families. If a match occurs, the Stratford

Housing Authority will follow all procedures for notifying owners and conducting risk assessments as stated above.

Quarterly, the Stratford Housing Authority will report a list of addresses of units occupied by children under age six, receiving assistance to the public health department, unless the health department indicates in writing that such a report is not necessary.

The Stratford Housing Authority will inform owners of lead-based paint regulations especially those related to prohibited and safe work practices, resident protection during lead-based paint activities, and notification requirements. This will be accomplished through written material provided by the Stratford Housing Authority.

The Stratford Housing Authority is responsible for issuing and maintaining in the file the notification to the owner of any needed corrections and appropriate methods to correct lead hazards, and of the deadline for completing the corrections.

The Stratford Housing Authority will track all known environmental intervention blood lead level children (of program families) until the child reaches age six. This will assure that all Stratford Housing Authority required activities are being addressed in a timely manner and that inspections conducted on behalf of the family will include the inspection for deteriorated paint.

12.5 TIME FRAMES AND CORRECTIONS OF HQS FAIL ITEMS

A. Correcting Initial HQS Fail Items

The Stratford Housing Authority will schedule a timely inspection of the unit on the date the owner indicates that the unit will be ready for inspection, or as soon as possible thereafter (within 5 working days) upon receipt of a Request for Tenancy Approval. The owner and participant will be notified in writing of the results of the inspection. If the unit fails HQS, the owner and the participant will be advised to notify the Stratford Housing Authority to reschedule a re-inspection when the repairs have been properly completed.

On an initial inspection, the owner will be given up to 30 days to correct the items noted as failed, depending on the extent of the repairs that are required to be made. No unit will be placed in the program until the unit meets the HQS requirements.

B. HQS Fail Items for Units under Contract

The owner or participant will be given time to correct the failed items cited on the inspection report for a unit already under contract. If the failed items endanger the family's health or safety (using the emergency item list below), the owner or participant will be given 24 hours to correct the violations. For less serious failures, the owner or participant will be given up to 30 days to correct the failed item(s).

If the owner fails to correct the HQS failed items after proper notification has been given, the Stratford Housing Authority will abate payment and terminate the contract.

If the participant fails to correct the HQS failed items that are family-caused after proper notification has been given, the Stratford Housing Authority will terminate assistance for the family.

C. Time Frames for Corrections

1. Emergency repair items must be abated within 24 hours.

2. Repair of refrigerators, range and oven, or a major plumbing fixture supplied by the owner must be abated within 72 hours.

3. Non-emergency items must be completed within 10 days of the initial inspection.

4. For major repairs, the owner will have up to 30 days to complete.

D. Extensions

At the sole discretion of the Stratford Housing Authority, extensions of up to 30 days may be granted to permit an owner to complete repairs if the owner has made a good faith effort to initiate repairs. If repairs are not completed within 60 days after the initial inspection date, the Stratford Housing Authority will abate the rent and cancel the HAP contract for owner noncompliance. Appropriate extensions will be granted if a severe weather condition exists for such items as exterior painting and outside concrete work for porches, steps, and sidewalks.

12.5 EMERGENCY FAIL ITEMS

The following items are to be considered examples of emergency items that need to be abated within 24 hours:

A. No hot or cold water

B. No electricity

C. Inability to maintain adequate heat

D. Major plumbing leak

E. Natural gas, propane, or LP gas leak

F. Broken lock(s) on first floor doors or windows

G. Broken windows that unduly allow weather elements into the unit

H. Electrical outlet smoking or sparking

I. Exposed electrical wires which could result in shock or fire

J. Unusable toilet when only one toilet is present in the unit

K. Security risks such as broken doors or windows that would allow intrusion

L. Other conditions which pose an immediate threat to health or safety as determined by the Stratford Housing Authority or appropriate local building health and safety officials

12.6 ABATEMENT

When a unit fails to meet HQS and the owner has been given an opportunity to correct the deficiencies, but has failed to do so within in the required timeframe, the rent for the dwelling unit will be abated as of the first day of the next month.

If the corrections of deficiencies are not made the abatement will continue until the HAP contract is terminated. When the deficiencies are corrected, the Stratford Housing Authority will end the abatement the day the unit passes inspection. Rent will resume the day the unit passes inspection and be paid the first day of the next month.

For participant caused HQS deficiencies, the owner will not be held accountable and the rent will not be abated. The participant is held to the same standard and timeframes for correction of deficiencies as owners. If repairs are not completed by the deadline, the Stratford Housing Authority will send a notice of termination to both the participant and the owner. The participant will be given the opportunity to request an informal hearing.

HAP contracts will be terminated after giving the owner thirty (30) days notice from the first day of a month. It will be sent with the Notice of Abatement. Termination will end any abatement action.

13.0 RESERVED

14.0 RECERTIFICATION

14.0.1 CHANGES IN LEASE OR RENT

If the participant and owner agree to any changes in the lease, all changes must be in writing, and the owner must immediately give the Stratford Housing Authority a copy of the changes. The lease, including any changes, must be in accordance with this Administrative Plan.

Owners must notify the Stratford Housing Authority of any changes in the amount of the rent at least sixty (60) days before the changes go into effect. Any such changes are subject to the Stratford Housing Authority determining them to be reasonable.

Assistance shall not be continued unless the Stratford Housing Authority has approved a new tenancy in accordance with program requirements and has executed a new HAP contract with the owner if any of the following changes are made:

A. Requirements governing participant or owner responsibilities for utilities or appliances;

B. In the lease terms governing the term of the lease;

C. If the participant moves to a new unit, even if the unit is in the same building or complex.

The approval of the Stratford Housing Authority is not required for changes other than those specified in A, B, or C above.

However, owners wishing to change ownership must receive the written permission of the Housing Authority prior to assigning a HAP contract. The owner shall inform the Stratford Housing Authority of the impending change and give the Authority ten (10) working days to review the prospective owner to make sure they are appropriate. The new owner shall meet the same criteria as the existing owner. Approval shall not be unreasonably withheld.

14.1 ANNUAL REEXAMINATION

At least annually (within 365 days of the anniversary date of the HAP contract) the Stratford Housing Authority will conduct a reexamination of family income and circumstances. The results of the reexamination determine (1) the rent the family will pay, and (2) whether the family subsidy is correct based on the family unit size.

The Stratford Housing Authority will send a notification letter to the family letting them know that it is time for their annual reexamination and scheduling an appointment. The letter includes forms for the family to complete in preparation for the interview. The letter includes instructions permitting the family to reschedule the interview if necessary. The letter tells families who may need to make alternate arrangements due to a disability that they may contact staff to request an accommodation of their needs.

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

Upon receipt of verification, the Stratford Housing Authority will determine the family's annual income and will calculate their family share.

14.1.1 Effective Date of Rent Changes for Annual Reexaminations

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

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

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

14.1.2 Missed Appointments

If the family fails to respond to the letter and fails to attend the interview, a second letter will be mailed. The second letter will advise of a new time and date for the interview, allowing for the same considerations for rescheduling and accommodation as above. The letter will also advise that failure by the family to attend the second scheduled interview will result in the Stratford Housing Authority taking action to terminate the family’s assistance. If there is no response to the second letter, a termination notice will be issued to both the family and the owner. The termination notice will inform the family of its right to request an informal hearing.

14.2 INTERIM REEXAMINATIONS

During an interim reexamination only the information affected by the changes being reported will be reviewed and verified.

Families will be required to report any increase in income or decreases in allowable expenses between annual reexaminations. Families are required to report the following changes to the Stratford Housing Authority in writing within 10 business days between regular reexaminations. Any of the following changes will trigger an interim reexamination.

A. A member has been added to the family through birth or adoption or court-awarded custody.

B. A household member is leaving or has left the family unit.

C. Family break-up

In circumstances of a family break-up, the Stratford Housing Authority will make a determination of which family member will retain the housing choice voucher, taking into consideration the following factors:

1. To whom the housing choice voucher was issued.

2. The interest of minor children or of ill, elderly, or disabled family members.

3. Whether the assistance should remain with the family members remaining in the unit.

4. Whether family members were forced to leave the unit as a result of actual or threatened physical violence by a spouse or other member(s) of the household.

If a court determines the disposition of property between members of the assisted family in a divorce or separation under a settlement of judicial decree, the Stratford Housing Authority will be bound by the court's determination of which family members continue to receive assistance in the program.

Because of the number of possible different circumstances in which a determination will have to be made, the Stratford Housing Authority will make determinations on a case by case basis.

The Stratford Housing Authority will issue a determination within 10 business days of the request for a determination. The family member requesting the determination may request an informal hearing in compliance with the informal hearings in Section 16.3.

D. An increase in annual income of at least 10% or more. The Stratford Housing Authority will determine the percentage of income increase. In cases where the Housing Authority has performed an interim reexamination due to a decrease in income, the family must report any increase income, and the Housing Authority will perform an interim reexamination (excludes 10% increase policy) based on the actual increase.

Any reported decreases in income (earned or unearned income) must be of a long-term and enduring nature, and not constitute a temporary loss of income. All reported changes must be in writing.

The Stratford Housing Authority will process interim adjustments in rent as follows:

A. When a decrease in income is reported, and the Authority receives confirmation that the decrease will last less than 30 days, an interim adjustment will not be processed.

B. Residents reporting decreases in income that are expected to last more than 30 days will have an interim adjustment processed.

Residents granted a reduction in rent under these provisions will be required to report for special reexaminations at intervals determined by the Stratford Housing Authority. Reporting is required until income increases or it is time for the next regularly scheduled reexamination, whichever occurs first.

In order to add a household member other than through birth, adoption, or court-awarded custody the family must request that the new member be added to the lease. Before adding the new member to the lease, the individual must complete an application form stating their income, assets, and all other information required of an applicant. The individual must provide their Social Security Number if they have one, and must verify their citizenship/eligible immigrant status (Their housing will not be delayed due to delays in verifying eligible immigrant status other than delays caused by the family). The new family member will go through the screening process similar to the process for applicants. The Stratford Housing Authority will determine the eligibility of the individual before allowing them to be added to the lease. If the individual is found to be

ineligible or does not pass the screening criteria, they will be advised in writing and given the opportunity for an informal review. If they are found to be eligible and do pass the screening criteria, the Stratford Housing Authority will grant approval to add their name to the lease. At the same time, the family's annual income will be recalculated taking into account the income and circumstances of the new family member. The effective date of the new rent will be in accordance with paragraph below 14.2.2.

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

14.2.1 Special Reexaminations

If a family's income is too unstable to project for 12 months, including families that temporarily have no income or have a temporary decrease in income, the Stratford Housing Authority may schedule special reexaminations every 60 days or at such other times as it determines, until the income stabilizes and an annual income can be determined.

14.2.2 Effective Date of Rent Changes Due to Interim or Special Reexaminations

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

If the new rent is a reduction and any delay is beyond the control of the family, the reduction will be effective the first of the month after the interim reexamination should have been completed.

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

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.

14.3 HOUSING AUTHORITY MISTAKES IN CALCULATING RENT

If the StratfordStratford Housing Authority makes a mistake in calculating a resident’s rent contribution and overcharges the resident, the resident shall receive a refund for the amount of the mistake going back a maximum of twenty-four (24) months. The refund shall be

given to the resident as soon as practical or credited to the resident's account, whichever the resident desires unless the resident owes the Housing Authority money in which case the debt shall be offset to the degree possible before the resident chooses between the two refund methods.

15.0 TERMINATION OF ASSISTANCE TO THE FAMILY BY THE STRATFORD HOUSING AUTHORITY

The Housing Authority may at any time terminate program assistance for a participant, because of any of the actions or inaction by the household:

A. If the family violates any family obligations under the program.

B. If a family member fails to sign and submit consent forms.

C. If a family fails to establish citizenship or eligible immigrant status and is not eligible for or does not elect continuation of assistance, pro-ration of assistance, or temporary deferral of assistance. If the Stratford Housing Authority determines that a family member has knowingly permitted an ineligible non-citizen (other than any ineligible non-citizens listed on the lease) to permanently reside in their Section 8 unit, the family's assistance will be terminated. Such family will not be eligible to be readmitted to Section 8 for a period of 24 months from the date of termination.

D. If any member of the family has ever been an adult evicted from public housing.

E. If the Housing Authority has ever terminated assistance under the Certificate or Voucher Program for any member of the family.

F. If any member of the family commits drug-related criminal activity, or violent criminal activity.

G. If any member of the family commits fraud, bribery or any other corrupt or criminal act in connection with any Federal housing program.

H. If the family currently owes rent or other amounts to the Housing Authority or to another Housing Authority in connection with Section 8 or public housing assistance under the 1937 Act.

I. If the family has not reimbursed any Housing Authority for amounts paid to an owner under a HAP contract for rent, damages to the unit, or other amounts owed by the family under the lease.

J. If the family breaches an agreement with the Housing Authority to pay amounts owed to a Housing Authority, or amounts paid to an owner by a Housing Authority. (The Housing Authority, at its discretion, may offer a family the opportunity to enter an agreement to pay amounts owed to a Housing Authority or amounts paid to an owner by a Housing Authority. The Housing Authority may prescribe the terms of the agreement.)

K. If a family participating in the FSS program fails to comply, without good cause, with the family's FSS contract of participation.

L. If the family has engaged in or threatened abusive or violent behavior toward Housing Authority personnel.

M. If any household member is subject to a lifetime registration requirement under a State sex offender registration program.

N. If any household member is currently engaging in illegal use of a drug; or if a household member's illegal use (or pattern of illegal use) of a controlled substance, or whose abuse (or pattern of abuse) of alcohol, is determined by the Stratford Housing Authority to interfere with the health, safety, or right to peaceful enjoyment of the premises by other residents.

O. Any household member has ever been convicted of drug related criminal activity for manufacture or production of methamphetamine on the premises of federally assisted housing.

For purposes of this section, the Stratford Housing Authority may terminate assistance for criminal activity by a household member as authorized in this section if the Stratford Housing Authority determines, based on a preponderance of the evidence, that the household member has engaged in the activity, regardless of whether the household member has been arrested or convicted of such activity.

If the Stratford Housing Authority proposes to terminate assistance for criminal activity as shown by a criminal record, the Stratford Housing Authority will notify the household of the proposed action to be based on the information and must provide the subject of the record and the residents signing the lease with a copy of the criminal record. The Stratford Housing Authority will give the family an opportunity to dispute the accuracy and relevance of that record in accordance with the procedures established for the Informal Hearing for Participants.

16.0 COMPLAINTS, INFORMAL REVIEWS FOR APPLICANTS, INFORMAL HEARINGS FOR PARTICIPANTS

16.1 COMPLAINTS

The Stratford Housing Authority will investigate and respond to complaints by participant families, owners, and the general public. The Stratford Housing Authority may require that complaints other than HQS violations be put in writing. Anonymous complaints are investigated whenever possible.

16.2 INFORMAL REVIEW FOR THE APPLICANT

A. Informal Review for the Applicant

The Stratford Housing Authority will give an applicant for participation in the Section 8 Existing Program prompt notice of a decision denying assistance to the applicant. The notice will contain a brief statement of the reasons for the Stratford Housing Authority decision. The notice will state that the applicant may request an informal review within 10 business days of the denial and will describe how to obtain the informal review.

B. When an Informal Review is not Required

The Stratford Housing Authority will not provide the applicant an opportunity for an informal review for any of the following reasons:

1. A determination of the family unit size under the Stratford Housing Authority subsidy standards.

2. A Stratford Housing Authority determination not to approve an extension or suspension of a housing choice voucher term.

3. A Stratford Housing Authority determination not to grant approval to lease a unit under the program or to approve a proposed lease.

4. A Stratford Housing Authority determination that a unit selected by the applicant is not in compliance with HQS.

5. A Stratford Housing Authority determination that the unit is not in accordance with HQS because of family size or composition.

6. General policy issues or class grievances.

7. Discretionary administrative determinations by the Stratford Housing Authority.

C. Informal Review Process

The Stratford Housing Authority will give an applicant an opportunity for an informal review of the Stratford Housing Authority decision denying assistance to the applicant. The procedure is as follows:

1. The review will be conducted by any person or persons designated by the Stratford Housing Authority other than the person who made or approved the decision under review or a subordinate of this person.

2. The applicant will be given an opportunity to present written or oral objections to the Stratford Housing Authority decision.

3. The Stratford Housing Authority will notify the applicant of the Stratford Housing Authority decision after the informal review within 14 calendar days. The notification will include a brief statement of the reasons for the final decision.

D. Considering Circumstances

In deciding whether to deny assistance to an applicant because of action or inaction by members of the family, the Housing Authority may consider all of the circumstances in each case, including the seriousness of the case, the extent of participation or culpability of individual family members, and the effects of denial of assistance on other family members who were not involved in the action or failure.

The Housing Authority may impose, as a condition of assistance for other family members, a requirement that family members who participated in or were culpable for the action or failure will not reside in the unit. The Housing Authority may permit the other members of a participant family to receive assistance.

If the Housing Authority seeks to deny assistance because of illegal use, or possession for personal use, of a controlled substance, or pattern of abuse of alcohol, such use or possession or pattern of abuse must have occurred within one year before the date that the Housing Authority provides notice to the family of the Housing Authority determination to deny assistance. In determining whether to deny assistance for these reasons the Stratford Housing Authority will consider evidence of whether the household member:

1. Has successfully completed a supervised drug or alcohol rehabilitation program (as applicable) and is no longer engaging in the illegal use of a controlled substance or abuse of alcohol;

2. Has otherwise been rehabilitated successfully and is no longer engaging in the illegal use of a controlled substance or abuse of alcohol; or

3. Is participating in a supervised drug or alcohol rehabilitation program and is no longer engaging in the illegal use of a controlled substance or abuse of alcohol.

E. Informal Review Procedures for Denial of Assistance on the Basis of Ineligible Immigration Status

The applicant family may request that the Stratford Housing Authority provide for an informal review after the family has notification of the INS decision on appeal, or in lieu of request of appeal to the INS. This request must be made by the applicant family within 30 days of receipt of the *Notice of Denial or Termination of Assistance*, or within 30 days of receipt of the INS appeal decision.

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

16.3 INFORMAL HEARINGS FOR PARTICIPANTS

A. When a Hearing is Required

1. The Stratford Housing Authority will give a participant family an opportunity for an informal hearing to consider whether the following Stratford Housing Authority decisions relating to the individual circumstances of a participant family are in accordance with the law, HUD regulations, and Stratford Housing Authority policies:

   a. A determination of the family's annual or adjusted income, and the use of such income to compute the housing assistance payment.

   b. A determination of the appropriate utility allowance (if any) for tenant-paid utilities from the Stratford Housing Authority utility allowance schedule.

c. A determination of the family unit size under the Stratford Housing Authority subsidy standards.

d. A determination to terminate assistance for a participant family because of the family's action or failure to act.

e. A determination to terminate assistance because the participant family has been absent from the assisted unit for longer than the maximum period permitted under the Stratford Housing Authority policy and HUD rules.

f. Denial of a hardship exemption to the minimum rent requirement.

2. In cases described in paragraphs 16.3(A)(1)(d), (e), and (f), of this Section, the Stratford Housing Authority will give the opportunity for an informal hearing before the Stratford Housing Authority terminates housing assistance payments for the family under an outstanding HAP contract.

B. When a Hearing is not Required

The Stratford Housing Authority will not provide a participant family an opportunity for an informal hearing for any of the following reasons:

1. Discretionary administrative determinations by the Stratford Housing Authority.

2. General policy issues or class grievances.

3. Establishment of the Stratford Housing Authority schedule of utility allowances for families in the program.

4. A Stratford Housing Authority determination not to approve an extension or suspension of a housing choice voucher term.

5. A Stratford Housing Authority determination not to approve a unit or lease.

6. A Stratford Housing Authority determination that an assisted unit is not in compliance with HQS. (However, the Stratford Housing Authority will provide the opportunity for an informal hearing for a decision to terminate assistance for a breach of the HQS caused by the family.)

7. A Stratford Housing Authority determination that the unit is not in accordance with HQS because of the family size.

8. A determination by the Stratford Housing Authority to exercise or not exercise any right or remedy against the owner under a HAP contract.

C. Notice to the Family

1. In the cases described in paragraphs 16.3(A)(1)(a), (b), and (c), of this Section, the Stratford Housing Authority will notify the family that the family may ask for an explanation of the basis of the Stratford Housing Authority's determination, and that if the family does not agree with the determination, the family may request an informal hearing on the decision.

2. In the cases described in paragraphs 16.3(A)(1)(d), (e), and (f), of this Section, the Stratford Housing Authority will give the family prompt written notice that the family may request a hearing within 10 business days of the notification. The notice will:

a. Contain a brief statement of the reasons for the decision; and

b. State that if the family does not agree with the decision, the family may request an informal hearing on the decision within 10 business days of the notification.

D. Hearing Procedures

The Stratford Housing Authority and participants will adhere to the following procedures:

1. Discovery

a. The family will be given the opportunity to examine before the hearing any Stratford Housing Authority documents that are directly relevant to the hearing. The family will be allowed to copy any such document at the family's expense. If the Stratford Housing Authority does not make the document(s) available for examination on request of the family, the Stratford Housing Authority may not rely on the document at the hearing.

b. The Stratford Housing Authority will be given the opportunity to examine, at the Stratford Housing Authority's offices before the hearing, any family documents that are directly relevant to the hearing. The Stratford Housing Authority will be allowed to copy any such document at the Stratford Housing Authority's expense. If the family does not make the document(s) available for

examination on request of the Stratford Housing Authority, the family may not rely on the document at the hearing.

Note: The term **document** includes records and regulations.

2. Representation of the Family

At its own expense, a lawyer or other representative may represent the family.

3. Hearing Officer

a. The hearing will be conducted by any person or persons designated by the Stratford Housing Authority, other than a person who made or approved the decision under review or a subordinate of this person.

b. The person who conducts the hearing will regulate the conduct of the hearing in accordance with the Stratford Housing Authority hearing procedures.

4. Evidence

The Stratford Housing Authority and the family must have the opportunity to present evidence and may question any witnesses. Evidence may be considered without regard to admissibility under the rules of evidence applicable to judicial proceedings.

5. Issuance of Decision

The person who conducts the hearing must issue a written decision within 14 calendar days from the date of the hearing, stating briefly the reasons for the decision. Factual determinations relating to the individual circumstances of the family shall be based on a preponderance of the evidence presented at the hearing.

6. Effect of the Decision

The Stratford Housing Authority is not bound by a hearing decision:

a. Concerning a matter for which the Stratford Housing Authority is not required to provide an opportunity for an informal hearing under this Section, or that otherwise exceeds the authority of the

person conducting the hearing under the Stratford Housing Authority hearing procedures.

b. Contrary to HUD regulations or requirements, or otherwise contrary to Federal, State, or local law.

c. If the Stratford Housing Authority determines that it is not bound by a hearing decision, the Stratford Housing Authority will notify the family within 14 calendar days of the determination, and of the reasons for the determination.

E. Considering Circumstances

In deciding whether to terminate assistance because of action or inaction by members of the family, the Housing Authority may consider all of the circumstances in each case, including the seriousness of the case, the extent of participation or culpability of individual family members, and the effects of denial or termination of assistance on other family members who were not involved in the action or failure.

The Housing Authority may impose, as a condition of continued assistance for other family members, a requirement that family members who participated in or were culpable for the action or failure will not reside in the unit. The Housing Authority may permit the other members of a participant family to continue receiving assistance.

If the Housing Authority seeks to terminate assistance because of illegal use, or possession for personal use, of a controlled substance, or pattern of abuse of alcohol, such use or possession or pattern of abuse must have occurred within one year before the date that the Housing Authority provides notice to the family of the Housing Authority determination to deny or terminate assistance. In determining whether to terminate assistance for these reasons the Stratford Housing Authority will consider evidence of whether the household member:

1. Has successfully completed a supervised drug or alcohol rehabilitation program (as applicable) and is no longer engaging in the illegal use of a controlled substance or abuse of alcohol;

2. Has otherwise been rehabilitated successfully and is no longer engaging in the illegal use of a controlled substance or abuse of alcohol; or

3. Is participating in a supervised drug or alcohol rehabilitation program and is no longer engaging in the illegal use of a controlled substance or abuse of alcohol.

F. Informal Hearing Procedures for Denial of Assistance on the Basis of Ineligible Immigration Status

The participant family may request that the Stratford Housing Authority provide for an informal hearing after the family has notification of the INS decision on appeal, or in lieu of request of appeal to the INS. This request must be made by the participant family within 30 days of receipt of the *Notice of Denial or Termination of Assistance*, or within 30 days of receipt of the INS appeal decision.

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

17.0 TERMINATION OF THE LEASE AND CONTRACT

The term of the lease and the term of the HAP contract are the same. They begin on the same date and they end on the same date. The lease may be terminated by the owner, by the participant, or by the mutual agreement of both. The owner may only terminate the contract by terminating the lease. The HAP contract may be terminated by the Stratford Housing Authority. Under some circumstances the contract automatically terminates.

A. Termination of the lease

1. By the family

The family may terminate the lease without cause upon proper notice to the owner and to the Stratford Housing Authority after the first year of the lease. The length of the notice that is required is stated in the lease (generally 30 days).

2. By the owner.

The owner may terminate tenancy and evict by judicial action a family for criminal activity by a covered person in accordance with this section if the owner determines that the covered person has engaged in the criminal activity, regardless of whether the covered person has been arrested or convicted for such activity and without satisfying the standard of proof used for a criminal conviction.

If the law and regulation permit the owner to take an action but do not require action to be taken, the owner may take or not take the action in

accordance with the owner's standards for eviction. The owner may consider all of the circumstances relevant to a particular eviction case, such as:

a. The seriousness of the offending action;
b. The effect on the community of denial or termination or the failure of the owner to take such action;
c. The extent of participation by the leaseholder in the offending action;
d. The effect of denial of admission or termination of tenancy on household members not involved in the offending activity;
e. The demand for assisted housing by families who will adhere to lease responsibilities;
f. The extent to which the leaseholder has shown personal responsibility and taken all reasonable steps to prevent or mitigate the offending action;
g. The effect of the owner's action on the integrity of the program.

The owner may require a family to exclude a household member in order to continue to reside in the assisted unit, where that household member has participated in or been culpable for action or failure to act that warrants termination.

In determining whether to terminate tenancy for illegal use of drugs or alcohol abuse by a household member who is no longer engaged in such behavior, the owner may consider whether such household member is participating in or has successfully completed a supervised drug or alcohol rehabilitation program, or has otherwise been rehabilitated successfully. For this purpose, the owner may require the participant to submit evidence of the household member's current participation in, or successful completion of, a supervised drug or alcohol rehabilitation program or evidence of otherwise having been rehabilitated successfully.

The owner's termination of assistance actions must be consistent with fair housing and equal opportunity provision of 24 CFR part 5.105.

a. The owner may terminate the lease during its term on the following grounds:

    i. Serious or repeated violations of the terms or conditions of the lease;

ii. Violation of Federal, State, or local law that impose obligations on the participant in connection with the occupancy or use of the unit and its premises;

iii. Criminal activity by the household, a guest, or another person under the control of the household that threatens the health, safety, or right to peaceful enjoyment of the premises by other persons (including property management staff) residing on the premises or in the immediate vicinity of the premises;

iv. Any drug-related criminal activity engaged in, on or near the premises by any resident, household member, or guest, or such activity engaged in on the premises by any other person under the tenant's control, is grounds for the owner to terminate tenancy;

v. Any violent criminal activity on or near the premises by a resident, household member, or guest, or any such activity on the premises by any other person under the resident's control.

vi. When the owner determines that a household member is illegally using a drug or when the owner determines that a pattern of illegal use of a drug interferes with the health, safety, or right to peaceful enjoyment of the premises by other residents.

vii. If a resident is fleeing to avoid prosecution, or custody or confinement after conviction, for a crime, or attempt to commit a crime, that is a felony under the laws of the place from which the individual flees, or that, in the case of the State of New Jersey, is a high misdemeanor; or violating a condition of probation or parole imposed under Federal or State law.

viii. If the resident is violating a condition of probation or parole imposed under Federal or State law.

ix. Other good cause. Other good cause may include, but is not limited to:

(1) Failure by the family to accept the offer of a new lease;

(2) Family history of disturbances of neighbors or destruction of property, or living or housekeeping habits resulting in damage to the property or unit;

(3) The owner's desire to utilize the unit for personal or family use or for a purpose other than use as a residential rental unit;

(4) A business or economic reason such as sale of the property, renovation of the unit, desire to rent at a higher rental amount.

b. During the first year the owner may not terminate tenancy for other good cause unless the reason is because of something the household did or failed to do.

c. The owner may only evict the participant by instituting court action. The owner must give the Stratford Housing Authority a copy of any owner eviction notice to the participant at the same time that the owner gives the notice to the tenant.

d. The owner may terminate the contract at the end of the initial lease term or any extension of the lease term without cause by providing notice to the family that the lease term will not be renewed.

3. Termination of the Lease by mutual agreement

The family and the owner may at any time mutually agree to terminate the lease.

B. Termination of the Contract

1. Automatic termination of the Contract

a. If the Stratford Housing Authority terminates assistance to the family, the contract terminates automatically.

b. If the family moves out of the unit, the contract terminates automatically.

c. The contract terminates automatically 180 calendar days after the last housing assistance payment to the owner.

2. Termination of the contract by the owner

The owner may only terminate tenancy in accordance with lease and State and local law.

3. Termination of the HAP contract by the Stratford Housing Authority

The Housing Authority may terminate the HAP contract because:

a. The Housing Authority has terminated assistance to the family.

b. The unit does not meet HQS space standards because of an increase in family size or change in family composition.

c. When the family breaks up and the Stratford Housing Authority determines that the family members who move from the unit will continue to receive the assistance.

d. The Stratford Housing Authority determines that there is insufficient funding in their contract with HUD to support continued assistance for families in the program.

e. The owner has breached the contract in any of the following ways:

i. If the owner has violated any obligation under the HAP contract for the dwelling unit, including the owner's obligation to maintain the unit in accordance with the HQS.

ii. If the owner has violated any obligation under any other housing assistance payments contract under Section 8 of the 1937 Act.

iii. If the owner has committed fraud, bribery, or any other corrupt or criminal act in connection with any Federal housing program.

iv. For projects with mortgages insured by HUD or loans made by HUD, if the owner has failed to comply with the regulations for the applicable mortgage insurance or loan program, with the mortgage or mortgage note, or with the regulatory agreement;

v. If the owner has engaged in drug trafficking.

4. Final HAP payment to owner

The HAP payment stops when the lease terminates. The owner may keep the payment for the month in which the family moves out. If the owner has begun eviction proceedings and the family continues to occupy the unit, the Housing Authority will continue to make payments until the owner obtains a judgment or the family moves out.

17.1 VAWA PROTECTIONS

Under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), Housing Choice Voucher participants have the following specific protections, which will be observed by the Stratford Housing Authority:

A. An incident or incidents or actual or threatened domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking will not be construed as a serious or repeated violation of the lease by the victim or threatened victim of that violence, and shall not in itself be good cause for terminating the assistance, tenancy, or occupancy rights of the victim of such violence by either the Stratford Housing Authority or the owner or property manager.

B. The Housing Authority may terminate the assistance to remove a lawful occupant or tenant who engages in criminal acts or threatened acts of violence or stalking to family members or others without terminating the assistance or evicting victimized lawful occupants. Also, the owner or property manager may evict a lawful occupant or tenant who engages in criminal acts or threatened acts of violence or stalking to family members or others without evicting other victimized lawful occupants. This is also true even if the household member is not a signatory to the lease. Under VAWA, both the Stratford Housing Authority and the owner or property manager are granted the authority to bifurcate the lease.

C. The Housing Authority and owner or property manager may honor court orders regarding the rights of access or control of the property.

D. There is no limitation on the ability of the Housing Authority to terminate assistance for other good cause unrelated to the incident or incidents of domestic violence, dating violence or stalking, other than the victim may not be subject to a "more demanding standard" than non-victims. Likewise, an owner or property manager can evict for good cause unrelated to the incident or incidents of domestic violence, dating violence or stalking.

E. There is no prohibition on the owner evicting if it "can demonstrate an actual and imminent threat to other tenants or those employed at or providing goods or services to the property if that tenant's (victim's) tenancy is not terminated."

F. Any protections provided by law which give greater protection to the victim are not superseded by these provisions.

17.2 VERIFICATION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, DATING VIOLENCE OR STALKING

The Stratford Housing Authority shall require and the owner or property manager may require verification in all cases where an individual claims protection under VAWA against an action involving such individual proposed to be taken by the Housing Authority.

A. ***Requirement for Verification.*** The law allows, but does not require, the Stratford Housing Authority or a Section 8 owner or property manager to verify that an incident or incidents of actual or threatened domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking claimed by a tenant or other lawful occupant is bona fide and meets the requirements of the applicable definitions set forth in this policy. The Housing Authority shall require verification in all cases where an individual claims protection against an action involving such individual proposed to be taken by the Housing Authority. Section 8 owners or managers receiving rental assistance administered by the Housing Authority may elect to require verification, or not to require it as permitted under applicable law.

Verification of a claimed incident or incidents of actual or threatened domestic violence, dating violence or stalking may be accomplished in one of the following three ways:

1. ***HUD-approved form (HUD-50066)*** - By providing to the Housing Authority or to the requesting Section 8 owner or property manager a written certification, on the form approved by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), that the individual is a victim of domestic violence, dating violence or stalking that the incident or incidents in question are bona fide incidents of actual or threatened abuse meeting the requirements of the applicable definition(s) set forth in this policy. The incident or incidents in question must be described in reasonable detail as required in the HUD-approved form, and the completed certification must include the name of the perpetrator.

2. ***Other documentation*** - by providing to the Housing Authority or to the requesting Section 8 owner or property manager documentation signed by an employee, agent, or volunteer of a victim service provider, an attorney, or a medical professional, from whom the victim has sought assistance in addressing the domestic violence, dating violence or stalking, or the effects of the abuse, described in such documentation. The professional providing the documentation must sign and attest under penalty of perjury

(28 U.S.C. 1746) to the professional's belief that the incident or incidents in question are bona fide incidents of abuse meeting the requirements of the applicable definition(s) set forth in this policy. The victim of the incident or incidents of domestic violence, dating violence or stalking described in the documentation must also sign and attest to the documentation under penalty of perjury.

3. ***Police or court record*** – by providing to the Housing Authority or to the requesting Section 8 owner or property manager a Federal, State, tribal, territorial, or local police or court record describing the incident or incidents in question.

B. ***Time allowed to provide verification/ failure to provide.*** An individual who claims protection against adverse action based on an incident or incidents of actual or threatened domestic violence, dating violence or stalking, and who is requested by the Housing Authority, or a Section 8 owner or property manager to provide verification, must provide such verification within 14 business days after receipt of the written request for verification. Failure to provide verification, in proper form within such time will result in loss of protection under VAWA and this policy against a proposed adverse action.

17.3 CONFIDENTIALITY

Al information provided under VAWA including the fact that an individual is a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking, shall be retained in confidence and shall not be entered into any shared database or provided to any related entity except to the extent that the disclosure is:

A. Requested or consented to by the individual in writing;

B. Required for used in an eviction proceeding; or

C. Otherwise required by applicable law.

The Stratford Housing Authority shall provide its tenants notice of their rights under VAWA including their right to confidentiality and the limits thereof.

18.0 CHARGES AGAINST THE SECTION 8 ADMINISTRATIVE FEE RESERVE

Occasionally, it is necessary for the Stratford Housing Authority to spend money of its Section 8 Administrative Fee Reserve to meet unseen or extraordinary expenditures or for its other housing related purposes consistent with State law.

The Stratford Housing Authority Board of Commissioners authorizes the Executive Director to expend without prior Board approval up to $25,000.00 for authorized expenditures.

Any item(s) exceeding $25,000.00 will require prior Board of Commissioner approval before any charge is made against the Section 8 Administrative Fee Reserve.

19.0 INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

No program receipts may be used to indemnify contractors or subcontractors of the Stratford Housing Authority against costs associated with any judgment of infringement of intellectual property rights.

20.0 STRATFORD HOUSING AUTHORITY OWNED HOUSING

Units owned by the Stratford Housing Authority and not receiving subsidy under any other program are eligible housing units for Housing Choice Voucher holders. In order to comply with federal regulation, the Stratford Housing Authority will do the following:

A. The Stratford Housing Authority will make available through the briefing process both orally and in writing the availability of Stratford Housing Authority owned units (notification will also include other properties owned/managed by the private sector available to Housing Choice Voucher holders).

B. The Stratford Housing Authority will obtain the services of an independent entity to perform the following Stratford Housing Authority functions:

   1. Determine rent reasonableness for the unit. The independent entity will communicate the rent reasonableness determination to the family and the Stratford Housing Authority.

   2. To assist the family in negotiating the rent.

   3. To inspect the unit for compliance with HQS.

C. The Stratford Housing Authority will gain HUD approval for the independent agency/agencies utilized to perform the above functions

D. The Stratford Housing Authority will compensate the independent agency/agencies from ongoing administrative fee income.

E. The Stratford Housing Authority, or the independent agency/agencies will not charge the family any fee or charge for the services provided by the independent agency.

21.0 QUALITY CONTROL OF SECTION 8 PROGRAM

In order to maintain the appropriate quality standards for the Section 8 program, the Stratford Housing Authority will regularly (at least annually) review files and records to determine if the work documented in the files or records conforms to program requirements. This shall be accomplished by a supervisor or another qualified person other than the one originally responsible for the work or someone subordinate to that person. The number of files and/or records checked shall be at least equal to the number specified in the Section 8 Management Assessment Program (SEMAP) for a same or similar size housing authority.

Among the areas that shall have quality control reviews are the following:

A. The proper people were selected from the waiting list and their selection criteria were actually met by the applicants.

B. The determination of rent reasonableness.

C. Participants are paying the appropriate rent and their income and expenses were properly verified both upon admission and re-certification.

D. HQS inspections were properly made.

E. HQS deficiencies were properly followed up on and appropriate repairs were made in a timely manner.

If significant errors are found during a quality control review, then appropriate training shall be immediately conducted for the person or persons who made the errors and that person shall correct all of his or her errors.

22.0 [reserved]

23.0 CONDUCTING BUSINESS IN ACCORDANCE WITH CORE VALUES AND ETHICAL STANDARDS

23.1 PURPOSE

This Code of Conduct establishes standards for employee and Commissioner conduct that will assure the highest level of public service. Recognizing that compliance with any ethical standards rests primarily on personal integrity and specifically in this situation with the integrity of the employees and Commissioners of the Stratford Housing Authority, this Section sets forth those acts or omissions of acts that could be deemed injurious to the general mission of the Authority.

This Code of Conduct is not intended, nor should it be construed, as an attempt to unreasonably intrude upon the individual employee or Commissioner's right to privacy and the right to participate freely in a democratic society and economy.

23.2 CONFLICT OF INTEREST

In accordance with 24 CFR 982.161, neither the Stratford Housing Authority nor any of its contractors or subcontractors may enter into any contract or arrangement in connection with the tenant-based programs in which any of the following classes of persons has any interest, direct or indirect, during his or her tenure with the Stratford Housing Authority or for one year thereafter:

A. Any present or former member or officer of the Housing Authority (except a participant commissioner);

B. Any employee of the Housing Authority or any contractor, subcontractor or agent of the Housing Authority who formulates policy or who influences decisions with respect to the programs;

C. Any public official, member of a governing body, or State or local legislator who exercises functions or responsibilities with respect to the Stratford Housing Authority's programs; or

D. Any member of the Congress of the United States.

Any member of the classes described in A, B, C, or D, must disclose their interest or prospective interest to the Housing Authority and HUD.

The Conflict of Interest prohibition under this section (24.2) may be waived by the HUD Field Office upon the request of the Stratford Housing Authority for good cause.

23.3 PROHIBITION OF SOLICITATION OR ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS

No Commissioner or Authority employee shall solicit any gift or consideration of any kind, nor shall any Authority employee accept or receive a gift having value in excess of $25.00 regardless of the form of the gift, from any person who has an interest in any matter proposed or pending before the Authority.

23.4 HOUSING AUTHORITY ADMINISTRATIVE AND DISCIPLINARY REMEDIES FOR VIOLATION OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY CODE OF CONDUCT

Violations of this Code of Conduct Policy will result in disciplinary action as outlined in the Stratford Housing Authority's Personnel Policy or as determined by action of the Board of Commissioners.

24.0 SUPPORT FOR OUR ARMED FORCES

A major and important component of our armed forces are the part-time military personnel that serve in various Reserve and National Guard units. The Stratford Housing Authority is very supportive of these men and women. An unfortunate fact of service in both the Reserves and National Guard is that from time to time their personnel are activated to full-time status and asked to serve our country in a variety of ways and circumstances. Whenever the Federal Government activates Reserve and/or National Guard personnel, the Stratford Housing Authority wants to support these brave warriors in the following manners:

A. If a family finds it necessary for another adult to temporarily move into a unit solely to serve as a temporary guardian for children residing in the unit, the income received by the temporary guardian will not be counted in determining family income. The presence of the temporary guardian will need to be approved by the landlord.

B. Although typically a criminal background check is required before anyone can participate in the housing choice voucher program, this requirement will be waived for a temporary guardian. Instead, the background check will occur after the person moves into the assisted unit. If the results of the check dictate that the person in ineligible for the program, the family shall be given a reasonable time to find a replacement temporary guardian.

C. Recognizing that activation in the Reserves or National Guard can be very disruptive to a family's income, the Stratford Housing Authority will expeditiously re-evaluate a resident's portion of the rent if requested to do so.

D. A unit cannot be held by a family that is not residing in it as their primary residence for more than 180 consecutive days because of a specific federal regulation. If all members of a military family are temporarily absent from the unit because a member of the family has been called to active duty, the family can retain control of the unit by paying the required rent and returning to the unit within 30 days of the conclusion of the active duty service. If the service extends beyond 180 days,

the Stratford Housing Authority will seek a waiver of the 180 day limit from HUD.

25.0 ANTI-FRAUD POLICY

The Stratford Housing Authority is fully committed to combating fraud in its Section 8 housing program. It defines fraud as a single act or pattern of actions that include false statements, the omission of information, or the concealment of a substantive fact made with the intention of deceiving or misleading the Stratford Housing Authority. It results in the inappropriate expenditure of public funds and/or a violation of Section 8 requirements.

Although there are numerous different types of fraud that may be committed, the two most common are the failure to fully report all sources of income and the failure to accurately report who is residing in the residence. The Stratford Housing Authority shall aggressively attempt to prevent all cases of fraud.

When a fraudulent action is discovered, the Stratford Housing Authority shall take action. It shall do one or more of the following things depending on circumstances and what it determines appropriate:

A. Require the resident to immediately repay the amount in question;

B. Require the resident to enter into a satisfactory repayment agreement;

C. Terminate the resident's rental assistance;

D. Refer the case for criminal prosecution; or

E. Take such other action as the Stratford Housing Authority deems appropriate.

26.0 PROJECT-BASING HOUSING VOUCHERS

The Stratford Housing Authority has determined that project-basing some of its housing vouchers (not to exceed 20% of the inventory) is in the community's interest. This effort is an appropriate option because it will deconcentrate poverty and expand housing and economic opportunity. The specifics of what the Housing Authority is seeking will be contained in an advertisement published in the manner prescribed by HUD that varies depending upon whether the units to be brought into the program are new construction, rehabilitated, or existing units. The actual selection of the units to be project-based shall also be in full accordance with HUD requirements.

26.1 SELECTION OF PROPERTIES TO PROJECT BASE

A. Selection Policy

The policies as set forth herein are adopted by the Stratford Housing Authority for the purpose of administering the Section 8 Project-Based Voucher program.

The Stratford Housing Authority will select Project-Based Voucher proposals by either of the following two methods:

1. Stratford Housing Authority will request Project-Based Voucher Proposals. The Stratford Housing will not limit proposals to a single site or impose restrictions that explicitly or practically preclude other submissions of proposals for Project-Based Voucher housing on different sites.

2. The selection of a proposal for housing assisted under a federal, state, or local government housing assistance, community development, or supportive services program that requires competitive selection of proposals (e.g., HOME, and units for which competitively awarded LIHTCs have been provided) where the proposal has been selected in accordance with such program's competitive selection requirements within three years of the Project-Based Voucher proposal selection date. Also, the earlier competitive selection proposal must not have involved any consideration that the project would receive Project-Based Voucher assistance. In this case, the vouchers can be project-based merely on a vote of the Board of Commissioners.

If the Stratford Housing Authority will be selecting proposals under A(1) of this section, the Stratford Housing Authority will issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) inviting interested owners to participate in the Project-Based Voucher Program. In the Project-Based Voucher Program, assistance is attached to the structure and may be in the form of existing housing, newly constructed housing or rehabilitated housing. The RFP may include all forms of housing or individual forms (e.g., newly constructed housing only).

The Stratford Housing Authority will advertise the RFP in the Connecticut Post, which is the newspaper of general circulation for the jurisdiction, once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks. Applicants shall have thirty (30) days from the last date of publication to respond by submitting their applications. Only applications submitted in response to the advertisement will be considered.

The Stratford Housing Authority will prepare a detailed RFP package outlining;

- Program Requirements to include:

  (1) ineligible housing types and prohibition of assistance for units in subsidized housing; and
  (2) program accessibility requirements of section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and implementing regulations at 24 CFR part 8; and
  (3) housing first occupied after March 13, 1991, must comply with design and construction requirements of the Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988 and implementing regulations at 24 CFR 100.205, as applicable;

- Application Requirements;

- Rating and Ranking of Applications; and

- Selection Process.

This information will be provided at the request of interested parties. The submission deadline date will also be a part of the RFP package. This will allow the Stratford Housing Authority adequate time to examine the proposed site before the selection date. For existing housing, the Stratford Housing Authority will inspect all of the units to determine whether the units substantially comply with the HQS.

After the closing date of the Request for Proposals, the Stratford Housing Authority will review each proposal for completeness, determine if the proposed site meets the site selection standards, determine that the cap on number of Project-Based Voucher units in each building has not been exceeded, and score the proposal.

After the Stratford Housing Authority staff has made its decision, the Executive Director will present the rating and ranking of proposals, along with the recommended selection based on the scores received to the Stratford Housing Authority Board of Commissioners for approval.

If the selection of proposals includes Stratford Housing Authority owned property(s), the Stratford Housing Authority will notify the HUD field office before finalizing the selection for its review of the selection.

A Housing Authority owned unit is defined as a dwelling unit owned by the Housing Authority that administers the voucher program. Housing Authority-owned means that the agency or its officers, employees, or agents hold a direct or indirect interest in the building in which the unit is located, including an interest

as titleholder or lessee, or as a stockholder, member or general or limited partner, or member of a limited liability corporation, or an entity that holds any such direct or indirect interest.

The Stratford Housing Authority will give written notification to the successful proposer(s) within five (5) business days of Board approval. Public notice of the selected proposals will be published in the Connecticut Post, which is the newspaper of general circulation for the jurisdiction. The Stratford Housing Authority will also notify those proposers that weren't selected within five (5) business days from Board approval. The denial letter will contain the procedures for appealing the selection.

The Stratford Housing Authority will make documentation available for public inspection regarding the basis for the Stratford Housing Authority selection of a Project-Based Voucher proposal.

If proposers wish to appeal the selection process, they may do so by presenting their complaint in writing to the Executive Director within ten (10) calendar days from the date contained on the denial letter from the Stratford Housing Authority.

The Stratford Housing Authority will seek to resolve all appeals in as informal a manner as possible. The appeal must contain, at a minimum, the following information:

- Name, address, and telephone number of the proposer appealing;
- Identification of the RFP being appealed;
- A statement of the reason for appealing;
- Supporting exhibits, evidence, or documents to substantiate any arguments; and
- The form of relief requested.

The Stratford Housing Authority shall issue a decision on the appeal as expeditiously as possible after receiving all relevant information requested. The Stratford Housing Authority may decide to suspend the award of project-based vouchers if the facts presented in the appeal warrant such action. This action will only be taken if the evidence is clear and convincing as to the existence of an impropriety and there are no other means of resolving the matter. If the Stratford Housing Authority Executive Director believes that an impropriety exists, then the proposed award of project-based vouchers will be canceled or revised to comply with the decision of the Executive Director.

If the appeal is not granted, the Executive Director will provide a written decision with justification for the denial of the appeal.

B. Requirements for Selection of Project-Based Housing

1. Housing Type

The Stratford Housing Authority may attach Project-Based Voucher assistance for units in existing housing, newly constructed housing or rehabilitated housing. A housing unit is considered an existing unit if at the time of notice of the Stratford Housing Authority selection, the units substantially comply with HQS.

2. Prohibition of Assistance for Ineligible Units

(a) Ineligible Units

The Stratford Housing Authority will not attach or pay Project-Based Voucher assistance for units in the following types of housing:

(i) Shared housing;

(ii) Units on the grounds of a penal, reformatory, medical, mental, or similar public or private institution;

(iii) Nursing homes or facilities providing continuous psychiatric, medical, nursing services, board and care, or intermediate care. Units in an assisted living facility are eligible if they provide home health care services such as nursing and therapy for residents of the housing;

(iv) Units that are owned or controlled by an educational institution or its affiliate and are designated for occupancy by students of the institution;

(v) Manufactured homes;

(vi) Cooperative housing; and

(vii) Transitional housing.

(b) High-rise Elevator Project for Families with Children

The Stratford Housing Authority will not attach or pay Project-Based Voucher assistance to a high-rise elevator project that may

be occupied by families with children unless the Stratford Housing Authority determines there is no practical alternative and HUD approves such finding.

(c) Prohibition Against Assistance for Owner-Occupied Unit

The Stratford Housing Authority will not attach or pay Project-Based Voucher assistance for a unit occupied by an owner of the housing.

(d) Prohibition Against Selecting a Unit Occupied by an Ineligible Family

The Stratford Housing Authority will not select or enter into an Agreement or HAP contract for a unit occupied by a family ineligible for participation in the Project-Based Voucher Program.

3. Prohibition of Assistance for Units in Subsidized Housing

The Stratford Housing Authority will not attach or pay Project-based Voucher assistance to units in any of the following types of subsidized housing:

(a) A public housing dwelling unit;

(b) A unit subsidized with any other form of Section 8 assistance (tenant-based or project-based);

(c) A unit subsidized with any governmental rent subsidy (a subsidy that pays all or any part of the rent);

(d) A unit subsidized with any governmental subsidy that covers all or any part of the operating costs of the housing;

(e) A unit subsidized with Section 236 rental assistance payments (12 U.S.C. 1715z-1). However, the Stratford Housing Authority may attach assistance to a unit subsidized with Section 236 interest reduction payments;

(f) A unit subsidized with rental assistance payments under Section 521 of the Housing Act of 1949, 42 U.S.C. 1490a (a Rural Housing Service Program). However, the Stratford Housing Authority may attach assistance for a unit subsidized with Section 515 interest reduction payments (42 U.S.C. 1485);

(g) A Section 202 project for non-elderly persons with disabilities (assistance under Section 162 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1987, 12 U.S.C. 1701q note);

(h) Section 811 project-based supportive housing for persons with disabilities (42 U.S.C. 8013).

(i) Section 202 supportive housing for the elderly (12 U.S.C. 1701q);

(j) A Section 101 rent supplement project (12 U.S.C. 1701s);

(k) A unit subsidized with any form of tenant-based rental assistance (as defined at 24 CFR 982.1(b)(2)) (e.g., a unit subsidized with tenant-based rental assistance under the HOME program, 42 U.S.C. 12701 et seq.);

(l) A unit with any other duplicative federal, state, or local housing subsidy, as determined by HUD or by the Stratford Housing Authority in accordance with HUD requirements. For this purpose, "housing subsidy" does not include the housing component of a welfare payment; a social security payment; or a federal, state, or local tax concession (such as relief from local real property taxes).

4. Prohibition of Excess Public Assistance

The Stratford Housing Authority will only provide Project-Based Voucher assistance in accordance with HUD subsidy layering regulations and other requirements. The subsidy layering review is intended to prevent excessive public assistance for the housing by combining (layering) housing assistance payment subsidy under the Project-Based Voucher Program with other governmental housing assistance from federal, state, or local agencies, including assistance such as tax concessions or tax credits.

The Stratford Housing Authority will only enter into an Agreement or HAP contract after HUD or an independent entity approved by HUD has conducted any required subsidy layering review and determined that the Project-Based Voucher assistance is in accordance with HUD subsidy layering requirements.

The Stratford Housing Authority will require the owner to certify that the project has not received and will not receive (before or during the term of

the HAP contract) any public assistance for acquisition, development, or operation of the housing other than the assistance disclosed in the subsidy layering review in accordance with HUD requirements.

5. Cap on Number of Project-Based Voucher Units in Each Building

(a) 25 Percent Per Building Cap

The Stratford Housing Authority will not select a proposal to provide Project-Based Voucher assistance for units in a building or enter into an Agreement or HAP contract to provide Project-Based Voucher assistance for units in a building if the total number of dwelling units in the building that will receive Project-Based Voucher Assistance during the term of the Project-Based Voucher HAP is more than 25 percent of the number of the dwelling units in the building.

(b) Exception to 25 Percent Per Building Cap

In the following instances, Project-Based Voucher units are not counted against the 25 percent per building cap:

(i) Units in a single-family building (4 units or less)

(ii) Excepted units in a multi family building.

Note: "Excepted units" means units in a multifamily building that are specifically made available for qualifying families;

"Qualifying families" means:Elderly or disabled families; or families receiving supportive services.

Supportive services mean those appropriate services made available to a family trying to achieve economic independence and self-sufficiency and may include:

(1) Child care - child care of a type that provides sufficient hours of operation and serves an appropriate range of ages;

(2) Transportation - transportation necessary to enable a participating family to receive available services, or to commute to their places of employment;

(3) Education - remedial education; education for completion of secondary or post secondary schooling;

(4) Employment - job training, preparation, and counseling; job development and placement; and follow-up assistance after job placement and completion of the contract of participation;

(5) Personal welfare - substance/alcohol abuse treatment and counseling;

(6) Household skills and management - training in homemaking and parenting skills; household management; and money management;

(7) Other services - any other services and resources, including case management, reasonable accommodations for individuals with disabilities, that the Stratford Housing Authority determines to be appropriate in assisting families to achieve economic independence and self-sufficiency.

6. Site Selection Standards

(a) General Requirements

The Stratford Housing Authority will not select a proposal for existing housing, newly constructed, or rehabilitated Project-Based Voucher housing on a site or enter into an Agreement or HAP contract for units on the site until the Stratford Housing Authority has determined that:

(i) Project-based assistance for housing at the selected site is consistent with the goal of deconcentrating poverty and expanding housing and economic opportunities as outlined in the Stratford Housing Authority Annual and Five-Year Plan and this Administrative Policy. In making this determination, the Stratford Housing Authority will utilize the following factors:

(1) Whether the census tract in which the proposed Project-Based Voucher development will be located

is in a HUD-designated Enterprise Zone, Economic Community, or Renewal Community;

(2) Whether a Project-Based Voucher development will be located in a census tract where the concentration of assisted units will be or has decreased as a result of public housing demolition;

(3) Whether the census tract in which the proposed Project-Based Voucher development will be located is undergoing significant revitalization;

(4) Whether state, local, or federal dollars have been invested in the area that has assisted in the achievement of the statutory requirement;

(5) Whether new market rate units are being developed in the same census tract where the proposed Project-Based Voucher development will be located and the likelihood that such market rate units will positively impact the poverty rate in the area;

(6) If the poverty rate in the area where the proposed Project-Based Voucher development will be located is greater than 20 percent, the PHA should consider whether in the past five years there has been an overall decline in the poverty rate;

(7) Whether there are meaningful opportunities for educational and economic advancement in the census tract where the proposed Project-Based Voucher development will be located.

(ii) The site is suitable from the standpoint of facilitating and furthering full compliance with applicable Civil Rights statutes and regulations, including the requirement that the site meet the Section 504 site selection requirements described in 24 FR 8.4(b)(5).

(iii) The site meets the HQS site requirements at 24 CFR 982.401(1).

(b) Existing and Rehabilitated Housing Site and Neighborhood Standards

The Stratford Housing Authority will determine if a site for existing or rehabilitated housing meets the following site and neighborhood standards. The site must:

(i) Be adequate in size, exposure, and contour to accommodate the number and type of units proposed, and adequate utilities and streets must be available to service the site. (The existence of a private disposal system and private sanitary water supply for the site, approved in accordance with law, may be considered adequate utilities.)

(ii) Promote greater choice of housing opportunities and avoid undue concentration of assisted persons in areas containing a high proportion of low-income persons.

(iii) Be accessible to social, recreational, educational, commercial, and health facilities and services and other municipal facilities and services that are at least equivalent to those typically found in neighborhoods consisting largely of unassisted standard housing of similar market rents.

(iv) Be so located that travel time and cost via public transportation or private automobile from the neighborhood to places of employment providing a range of jobs for lower-income workers is not excessive. While it is important that housing for the elderly not be totally isolated from employment opportunities, this requirement need not be adhered to rigidly for such projects.

(c) New Construction Site and Neighborhood Standards

A site for newly constructed housing must meet the following site and neighborhood standards:

(i) The site must be adequate in size, exposure, and contour to accommodate the number and type of units proposed, and adequate utilities (water, sewer, gas, and electricity) and streets must be available to service the site.

(ii) The site must not be located in an area of minority concentration, except as permitted under paragraph (iii) below, and must not be located in a racially mixed area if

the project will cause a significant increase in the proportion of minority to non-minority residents in the area.

(iii) A project may be located in an area of minority concentration only if:

(1) Sufficient comparable opportunities exist for housing for minority families in the income range to be served by the proposed project outside area of minority concentration; or

(2) The project is necessary to meet overriding housing needs that cannot be met in that housing market area.

Note: "Sufficient" does not require that in every locality there be an equal number of assisted units within and outside of areas of minority concentration. Rather, application of this standard should produce a reasonable distribution of assisted units each year so that, over a period of several years, it will approach an appropriate balance of housing choices within and outside areas of minority concentration. An appropriate balance will be determined in light of local conditions affecting the range of housing choices available for low-income minority families and in relation to the racial mix of the locality's population.

Units will be considered "comparable opportunities" if they have the same household type (elderly, disabled, family, large family) and tenure type (owner/renter); require approximately the same tenant contribution towards rent, serve the same income group, are located in the same housing market, and are in standard condition.

Application of the "comparable opportunities" standard involves assessing the overall impact of HUD-assisted housing on the availability of housing choices for low-income minority families in and outside areas of minority concentration, and must take into account the extent to which the

following factors are present, along with other factors relevant to housing choice:

(A) A significant number of assisted housing units are available outside areas of minority concentration.

(B) There is significant integration of assisted housing projects constructed or rehabilitated in the past 10 years, relative to the racial mix of the eligible population.

(C) There are racially integrated neighborhoods in the locality.

(D) Programs are operated by the locality to assist minority families that wish to find housing outside areas of minority concentration

(E) Minority families have benefited from local activities (e.g., acquisition and write-down of sites, tax relief programs for homeowners, acquisitions of units for use as assisted housing units) undertaken to expand choice for minority families outside of areas of minority concentration.

(F) A significant proportion of minority households have been successful in finding units in non-minority areas under the tenant-based assistance programs.

(G) Comparable housing opportunities have been made available outside areas of minority concentration through other programs.

Application of the "overriding housing needs" criterion, for example, permits approval of sites that are an integral part of an overall local strategy for the preservation or restoration of the immediate neighborhood and of sites in a neighborhood experiencing significant private investment that is

demonstrably improving the economic character of the area (a "revitalizing area"). An "overriding housing need," however, may not serve as the basis for determining that a site is acceptable, if the only reason the need cannot otherwise be feasibly met is that discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, familial status, or disability renders sites outside areas of minority concentration unavailable or if the use of this standard in recent years has had the effect of circumventing the obligation to provide housing choice.

(iv) The site must promote greater choice of housing opportunities and avoid undue concentration of assisted persons in areas containing a high proportion of low-income persons.

(v) The neighborhood must not be one that is seriously detrimental to family life or in which substandard dwellings or other undesirable conditions predominate, unless there is a concerted program actively in progress to remedy the undesirable conditions.

(vi) The housing must be accessible to social, recreational, educational, commercial, and health facilities and services and other municipal facilities and services that are at least equivalent to those typically found in neighborhoods consisting largely of unassisted standard housing of similar market rents.

(vii) Except for new construction, housing designed for elderly persons, travel time, and cost via public transportation or private automobile from the neighborhood to places of employment providing a range of jobs for lower-income workers must not be excessive.

7. Environmental Review

The Stratford Housing Authority will not enter into an Agreement or HAP contract with an owner nor will the Stratford Housing Authority, the owner or its contractors acquire, dispose of, demolish, or construct real property or commit or expend program or local funds for Project-Based Voucher activities until one of the following occurs:

(a) The responsible entity (a unit of general local government, a county or a state) has competed the environmental review procedures required by 24 CFR part 58, and HUD has approved the environmental certification and request for release of funds;

(b) The responsible entity has determined that the project to be assisted is exempt under 24 CFR 58.34 or is categorically excluded and not subject to compliance with environmental laws under 24 CFR 58.35(b); or

(c) HUD has performed an environmental review under 24 CFR part 50 and has notified the Stratford Housing Authority in writing of environmental approval of the site.

The Stratford Housing Authority will require the owner to carry out mitigating measures required by the responsible entity (or HUD, if applicable) as a result of the environmental review.

8. Stratford Housing Authority Owned Units

(a) Selection of Stratford Housing Authority Owned Units

If the Stratford Housing Authority selects its own proposal, the HUD field office or a HUD approved independent entity will review the selection process to determine that the Stratford Housing Authority units were appropriately selected based on the selection procedures as outlined in this Section 8 Administrative Plan.

(b) Inspection and Determination of Reasonable Rent

The Stratford Housing Authority will have an independent entity approved by HUD perform the following program services:

(i) Determination of rent to owner as outlined in 26.5(A) and (B). The independent entity approved by HUD must establish the initial contract rents based on an appraisal by a licensed state-certified appraiser; and

(ii) Inspections as outlined in Section 26.2(F) of this Administrative Plan.

(c) Nature of Independent Entity

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

(d) Payment to Independent Entity and Appraiser

The Stratford Housing Authority will compensate the independent entity and appraiser from the Stratford Housing Authority's ongoing administrative fee income (including the amounts credited to the administrative fee reserve). The Stratford Housing Authority will not use other program receipts to compensate the independent entity and appraiser for their services.

The Stratford Housing Authority, independent entity, and appraiser will not charge the family any fee for the appraisal or the services provided by the independent entity.

26.2 HOUSING QUALITY STANDARDS

The Stratford Housing Authority will follow the policies as outlined in Section 12.0 Inspection Policies and Housing Quality Standards of this Section 8 Administrative for the Project-Based Voucher Program except when the physical condition standards at 24 CFR 5.703 do not apply to the Project-Based Voucher Program and the lead-based paint requirements at 24 CFR 982.401(j) do not apply to the Project-Based Voucher Program.

A. Inspecting Units

1. Pre-Selection Inspection

(a) Inspection of Site

The Stratford Housing Authority will examine the proposed site to confirm its appropriateness before the proposal selection date.

2. Inspection of Existing Units

The Stratford Housing Authority will inspect all the units before the proposal selection date and will determine whether the units substantially comply with the HQS. To qualify as existing housing, units must substantially comply with the HQS on the proposal selection date. The

Stratford Housing Authority will not execute the HAP contract until the units fully comply with the HQS.

B. Pre-HAP Contract Inspections

The Stratford Housing Authority will inspect each contract unit before execution of the HAP contract. The Stratford Housing Authority will not enter into a HAP contract covering a unit until the unit fully complies with the HQS.

C. Turnover Inspections

The Stratford Housing Authority will inspect the unit before providing assistance to a new family in a contract unit. The Stratford Housing Authority will not provide assistance on behalf of the family until the unit fully complies with the HQS.

D. Annual Inspections

1. At least annually during the term of the HAP contract, the Stratford Housing Authority will inspect a random sample, consisting of at least 20 percent of the contract units in each building, to determine if the contract units and the premises are maintained in accordance with the HQS.

   Note: Turnover inspections pursuant to paragraph C. of this section will not count toward meeting this annual inspection requirement.

2. If more than 20 percent of the annual sample of inspected contract units in a building fail the initial inspection, the Stratford Housing Authority will re-inspect 100 percent of the contract units in the building.

E. Other Inspections

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

2. The Stratford Housing Authority will conduct follow-up inspections needed to determine if the owner (or the family if responsible) has corrected an HQS violation. Additionally, the Stratford Housing

Authority will conduct inspections to determine the basis for exercise of contractual and other remedies for owner or family violation of the HQS.

3. The Stratford Housing Authority will include a representative sample of both tenant-based and project-based units in conducting its supervisory quality control HQS inspections.

F. Inspecting Stratford Housing Authority Owned Units

1. For Stratford Housing Authority owned units, the inspections required under this section will be performed by an independent entity approved by HUD. The independent entity that performs these inspections may be the unit of general local government for the Stratford Housing Authority jurisdiction (unless the Stratford Housing Authority is itself the unit of general local government or an agency of such government) or another HUD-approved public or private independent entity.

2. The independent entity shall provide a copy of each inspection report to the Stratford Housing Authority and to the HUD field office where the project is located.

3. The Stratford Housing Authority will take all necessary actions in response to inspection reports from the independent entity, including exercise of contractual remedies for violation of the HAP contract by the owner (Stratford Housing Authority).

26.3 REQUIREMENTS FOR REHABILITATED AND NEWLY CONSTRUCTED UNITS

This section <u>only</u> applies to newly constructed or rehabilitated housing and does not apply to existing housing. Newly constructed or rehabilitated housing cannot be selected as existing housing at a later date.

A. Purpose and Content of the Agreement to Enter into HAP Contract

1. Requirement

The Stratford Housing Authority will enter into an Agreement with the owner. The Agreement will be in the form required by HUD.

2. Purpose of the Agreement

In the Agreement, the owner agrees to develop the contract units to comply with the HQS and the Stratford Housing Authority agrees that, upon timely completion of such development in accordance with the terms

of the Agreement, the Stratford Housing Authority will enter into a HAP contract with the owner for the contract units.

3. Description of Housing

(a) At a minimum, the Agreement will describe the following features of the housing to be developed (newly constructed or rehabilitated) and assisted under the Project-Based Voucher Program:

(i) Site;

(ii) Location of contract units on site;

(iii) Number of contract units by area (size) and number of bedrooms and bathrooms;

(iv) Services, maintenance, or equipment to be supplied by the owner without charges in addition to the rent to owner;

(v) Utilities available to the contract units, including a specification of utility services to be paid by owner (without charges in addition to rent), and utility services to be paid by the tenant;

(vi) Indication of whether or not the design and construction requirements of the Fair Housing Act and implementing regulations at 24 CFR 100.205 and the accessibility requirements of section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and implementing regulations at 24 CFR 8.22 and 8.23 apply to units under the Agreement. If these requirements are applicable, any required work item resulting from these requirements will be included in the description of work to be performed under the Agreement;

(vii) Estimated initial rents to owner for the contract units;

(viii) Description of the work to be performed under the Agreement. If the Agreement is for rehabilitation of units, the work description will include the rehabilitation work write up and, where determined necessary by the Stratford Housing Authority, specifications and plans. If the Agreement is for new construction, the work description will include the working drawings and specifications.

(b) At a minimum, the housing must comply with the HQS.

The Housing Authority may elect to establish additional requirements for quality, architecture, or design of Project-Based Voucher housing over and above the HQS, and any such additional requirement must be specified in the Agreement.

B. Execution of the Agreement

1. Prohibition of Excess Subsidy

The Stratford Housing Authority will not enter the Agreement with the owner until the subsidy layering review is completed.

2. Environmental Approval

The Stratford Housing Authority will not enter the Agreement with the owner until the environmental review is completed and the Stratford Housing Authority has received the environmental approval.

3. Prompt Execution of Agreement

The Agreement will be executed promptly after the Stratford Housing Authority notice of proposal selection to the selected owner.

C. Conduct of Development Work

1. Development Requirements

The owner must carry out development work in accordance with the Agreement and the requirements of this section.

2. Labor Standards

(a) In the case of an Agreement of <u>nine or more</u> contract units (whether or not completed in stages), the owner and the owner's contractors and subcontractors must pay Davis-Bacon wages to laborers and mechanics employed in development of the housing.

(b) The HUD prescribed form of Agreement shall include the labor standards clauses required by HUD, such as those involving Davis-Bacon wage rates.

(c) The owner and the owner's contractors and subcontractors must comply with the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act, Department of Labor regulations in 29 CFR part 5, and other applicable federal labor relations laws and regulations. The Stratford Housing Authority will monitor compliance with labor standards.

3. Equal Opportunity

(a) The owner must comply with Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 and the implementing regulations at 24 CFR part 135.

(b) The owner must comply with federal equal employment opportunity requirements of Executive Orders 11246 as amended, 11625, 12432 and 12138.

4. Eligibility to Participate in Federal Programs and Activities

The Agreement and HAP contract will include a certification by the owner that the owner and other project principals (including officers and principal members, shareholders, investors, and other parties having a substantial interest in the project) are not on the U.S. General Services Administration list of parties excluded from federal procurement and non-procurement programs.

5. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest

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

D. Completion of Housing

1. Completion Deadline

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

2. Required Evidence of Completion

(a) Minimum Submission

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

(i) Owner certification that the work has been completed in accordance with the HQS and all requirements of the Agreement; and

(ii) Owner certification that the owner has complied with labor standards and equal opportunity requirements in development of the housing.

(b) Additional Documentation

At the discretion of the Stratford Housing Authority, the Agreement may specify additional documentation that must be submitted by the owner as evidence of housing completion. For example, such documentation may include:

(i) A certificate of occupancy or other evidence that the units comply with local requirements (such as code and zoning requirements); and

(ii) An architect's certification that the housing complies with:

(A) HUD housing quality standards;

(B) State, local, or other building codes;

(C) Zoning;

(D) The rehabilitation work write-up (for rehabilitated housing) or the work description (for newly constructed housing); or

(E) Any additional design or quality requirements pursuant to the Agreement.

E. Stratford Housing Authority Acceptance of Completed Units

1. Stratford Housing Authority Determination of Completion

When the Stratford Housing Authority has received owner notice the housing is completed:

(a) The Stratford Housing Authority will inspect to determine if the housing has been completed in accordance with the Agreement, including compliance with the HQS and any additional requirement(s) imposed by the Stratford Housing Authority under the Agreement.

(b) The Stratford Housing Authority will determine if the owner has submitted all required evidence of completion.

(c) If the work has not been completed in accordance with the Agreement, the Stratford Housing Authority will not enter into the HAP contract.

2. Execution of HAP Contract

If the Stratford Housing Authority determines that the housing has been completed in accordance with the Agreement and that the owner has submitted all required evidence of completion, the Stratford Housing Authority will submit the HAP contract for execution by the owner and will then execute the HAP contract.

26.4 HOUSING ASSISTANCE PAYMENT CONTRACT

This section applies to all Project-Based Voucher assistance including assistance for existing, newly constructed, or rehabilitated housing.

A. Purpose of the HAP Contract

1. Requirement

The Stratford Housing Authority will enter into a HAP contract with the owner. The HAP contract must be in the form required by HUD.

2. Purpose of HAP Contract

(a) The purpose of the HAP contract is to provide housing assistance payments for eligible families.

(b) The Stratford Housing Authority makes housing assistance payments to the owner in accordance with the HAP contract. Housing assistance is paid for contract units leased and occupied by eligible families during he HAP contract term.

B. HAP Contract Information

The HAP contract must specify:

1. The total number of contract units by number of bedrooms;

2. Information needed to identify the site and the building or buildings where the contract units are located. The information must include the project's name, street address, city or county, state and zip code, block and lot number (if known), and any other information necessary to clearly identify the site and the building;

3. Information needed to identify the specific contract units in each building. The information must include the number of contract units in the building, the location of each contract unit, the area of each contract unit, and the number of bedrooms and bathrooms in each contract unit;

4. Services, maintenance, and equipment to be supplied by the owner without charges in addition to the rent to owner;

5. Utilities available to the contract units, including a specification of utility services to be paid by the owner (without charges in addition to rent) and utility services to be paid by the tenant;

6. Features provided to comply with program accessibility requirements of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and implementing regulations at 24 CFR part 8;

7. The HAP contract term;

8. The number of units in any building that will exceed the 25 percent per building cap, which will be set-aside for occupancy by qualifying families (elderly or disabled families and families receiving supportive services); and

9. The initial rent to owner (for the first 12 months of the HAP contract term).

C. When HAP Contract is Executed

1. PHA Inspection of Housing

(a) Before execution of the HAP contract, the Stratford Housing Authority will inspect each contract unit in accordance with Section 26.2 B.

(b) The Stratford Housing Authority will not enter into a HAP contract for any contract unit until the Stratford Housing Authority has determined that the unit complies with the HQS.

2. Existing Housing

The Stratford Housing Authority will promptly execute the HAP contract after the Stratford Housing Authority selection of the owner proposal and Stratford Housing Authority inspection of the housing.

3. Newly Constructed or Rehabilitated Housing

The Stratford Housing Authority will execute the HAP contract after the Stratford Housing Authority has inspected the completed units and has determined that the units have been completed in accordance with the Agreement and the owner has furnished all required evidence of completion.

When executing the HAP contract, the owner must certify that the units have been completed in accordance with the Agreement.

D. Term of the HAP Contract

1. Initial Term and Any Extensions

The Stratford Housing Authority may enter into a HAP contract with an owner for an initial term of up to ten years for each contract unit. The length of the term of the HAP contract for any contract unit may not be less than one year, nor more than ten years.

Within one year before expiration, the Stratford Housing Authority may agree to extend the term of the HAP contract for an additional term of up to five years if the Stratford Housing Authority determines an extension is appropriate to continue providing affordable housing for low-income families. Subsequent extensions are subject to the same limitations. Any extension of the term must be on the form and subject to the conditions prescribed by HUD at the time of the extension.

The term and potential extensions the Stratford Housing Authority is willing to enter into will be discussed in the project selection process.

2. Termination by the Stratford Housing Authority – Insufficient Funding

The HAP contract will provide that the term of the Stratford Housing Authority's contractual commitment is subject to the availability of sufficient appropriated funding (budget authority) as determined by HUD or by the Stratford Housing Authority in accordance with HUD instructions.

Note: "Sufficient funding" means the availability of appropriations, and of funding under the ACC from such appropriations, to make full payment of housing assistance payments payable to the owner for any contract year in accordance with the terms of the HAP.

If it is determined that there may not be sufficient funding to continue housing assistance payments for all contract units and for the full term of the HAP contract, the Stratford Housing Authority may terminate the HAP contract by notice to the owner for all or any of the contract units. Such action by the Stratford Housing Authority will be implemented in accordance with HUD instructions.

3. Termination by Owner – Reduction Below Initial Rent

The owner may terminate the HAP contract, upon notice to the Stratford Housing Authority, if the amount of rent to the owner is reduced below the initial approved rent. In this case, the assisted families residing in the contract units will be offered tenant-based voucher assistance.

F. HAP Contract Amendments (to add or substitute contract units)

1. Amendment to Substitute Contract Units

At the discretion of the Stratford Housing Authority, and subject to all Project-Based Voucher requirements, the HAP contract may be amended to substitute a different unit with the same number of bedrooms in the same building for a previously covered contract unit. Prior to such substitution, the Stratford Housing Authority will inspect the proposed substitute unit and will determine the reasonable rent for such unit and the fact that it passes HQS.

2. Amendment to Add Contract Units

At the discretion of the Stratford Housing Authority, and provided that the total number of units in a building that will receive Project-Based Voucher

assistance or other project-based assistance will not exceed 25 percent of the number of dwelling units (assisted or unassisted) in the building or the 20 percent of authorized budget authority of the Stratford Housing Authority, a HAP contract may be amended during the three-year period immediately following the execution date of the HAP contract to add additional Project-Based Voucher contract units in the same building. An Amendment to the HAP contract is subject to all Project-Based Voucher requirements (e.g., rents are reasonable), except that a new Project-Based Voucher request for proposals is not required. The anniversary and expiration dates of the HAP contract for the additional units must be the same as for the anniversary and expiration dates of the HAP contract term for the Project-Based Voucher units originally placed under HAP contract.

3. Staged Completion of Contract Units

Even if contract units are placed under the HAP contract in stages commencing on different dates, there is a single annual anniversary for all contract units under the HAP contract. The annual anniversary for all contract units is the annual anniversary date for the first contract units placed under the HAP contract. The expiration of the HAP contract for all the contract units completed in stages must be concurrent with the end of the HAP contract term for the units originally placed under HAP contract.

4. Condition of Contract Units

(a) Owner Maintenance and Operation

The owner must maintain and operate the contract units and premises in accordance with the HQS, including performance of ordinary and extraordinary maintenance.

The owner must provide all the services, maintenance, equipment, and utilities specified in the HAP contract with the Stratford Housing Authority and in the lease with each assisted family.

At the discretion of the Stratford Housing Authority, the HAP contract may also require continuing owner compliance during the HAP term with additional housing quality requirements specified by the Stratford Housing Authority (in addition to, but not in place of, compliance with the HUD-prescribed HQS). Such additional requirements will be designed to assure continued compliance with any design, architecture, or quality requirement specified in the Agreement.

5. Remedies for HQS Violation

The Stratford Housing Authority will vigorously enforce the owner's obligation to maintain contract units in accordance with the HQS. The Stratford Housing Authority will not make any HAP payment to the owner for a contract unit covering any period during which the contract unit does not comply with the HQS.

If the Stratford Housing Authority determines that a contract unit is not in accordance with the housing quality standards (or other HAP contract requirement), the Stratford Housing Authority may exercise any of its remedies under the HAP contract for all or any contract units. Such remedies include termination of housing assistance payments, abatement or reduction of housing assistance payments, reduction of contract units, and termination of the HAP contract.

6. Maintenance and Replacement – Owner's Standard Practice

Maintenance and replacement (including redecoration) must be in accordance with the standard practice for the building concerned as established by the owner.

7. Owner Responsibility

The owner is responsible for performing all of the owner responsibilities under the Agreement and the HAP contract. 24 CFR part 982.452 applies as follows:

(a) Performing all management and rental functions for the assisted unit, including selecting a voucher-holder to lease the unit, and deciding if the family is suitable for tenancy of the unit.

(b) Maintaining the unit in accordance with HQS, including performance of ordinary and extraordinary maintenance.

(c) Complying with equal opportunity requirements.

(d) Preparing and furnishing to the Stratford Housing Authority information required under the HAP contract.

(e) Collecting from the family:

(i) Any security deposit.

(ii) The tenant contribution (the part of rent to owner not covered by the housing payment).

(iii) Any charges for unit damage by the family.

(iv) Enforcing tenant obligations under the lease.

(v) Paying for utilities and services (unless paid by the family under the lease).

(vi) Provisions on modifications to a dwelling unit occupied or to be occupied by a disabled person see the following note:

Note: Reasonable Modification of Existing Premises

(A) It shall be unlawful for any person to refuse to permit, at the expense of a handicapped person, reasonable modifications of existing premises, occupied or to be occupied by a handicapped person, if the proposed modifications may be necessary to afford the handicapped person full enjoyment of the premises of a dwelling. In the case of a rental, the landlord may, where it is reasonable to do so, condition permission for a modification on the renter agreeing to restore the interior of the premises to the condition that existed before the modification, reasonable wear and tear expected. The landlord may not increase for handicapped persons any customarily required security deposit.

(B) However, where it is necessary in order to ensure with reasonable certainty that funds will be available to pay for the restorations at the end of the tenancy, the landlord may negotiate as part of such a restoration agreement a provision requiring that the tenant pay into an interest bearing escrow account, over a reasonable period, a reasonable amount of money not to exceed the cost of the restorations. The interest in any such account shall accrue to the benefit of the tenant.

A landlord may condition permission for a modification on the renter providing a reasonable description of the proposed modifications as well as

reasonable assurances that the work will be done in a workmanlike manner and that any required building permits will be obtained.

8. Owner Certification

By execution of the HAP contract, the owner certifies that at such execution and at all times during the term of the HAP contract:

(a) All contract units are in good and tenantable condition. The owner is maintaining the premises and all contract units in accordance with the HQS.

(b) The owner is providing all the services, maintenance, equipment, and utilities as agreed to under the HAP contract and the leases with assisted families.

(c) Each contract unit for which the owner is receiving housing assistance payments is leased to an eligible family referred by the Stratford Housing Authority, and the lease is in accordance with the HAP contract and HUD requirements.

(c) To the best of the owner's knowledge, the members of the family reside in each contract unit for which the owner is receiving housing assistance payments, and the unit is the family's only residence.

(d) The owner (including a principal or other interested party) is not the spouse, parent, child, grandparent, grandchild, sister, or brother of any member of a family residing in a contract unit.

(e) The amount of the housing assistance payment is the correct amount due under the HAP contract.

(f) The rent to owner for each contract unit does not exceed rents charged by the owner for other comparable unassisted units.

(g) Except for the housing assistance payment and the tenant rent as provided under the HAP contract, the owner has not received and will not receive any payment or other consideration (from the family, the Stratford Housing Authority, HUD, or any other public or private source) for rental of the contract unit.

(h) The participating family does not own or have any interest in the contract unit.

26.5 OPERATION OF PROJECT-BASED PROPERTIES

A. Project-Based Waiting List

The Stratford Housing Authority shall use a separate waiting list for admission to the Project-Based Section 8 Assistance Program. All applicants will be maintained by bedroom size, then preference and date and time of application. If an applicant rejects an offer of assistance of the Project-Based Assistance Program, the rejection will not alter the applicant's position on the Section 8 Voucher Tenant Based Assistance Program.

The waiting list for the Project-Based Section 8 Assistance Program will be maintained in accordance with the following guidelines:

1. The application will be a permanent file.

2. All applications will be maintained by bedroom size, preference and then in order of date and time of application.

3. Substantive contacts between the Stratford Housing Authority and the applicant will be documented in the applicant file.

B. Admission Preferences

The preferences utilized shall be the same as is used for the Tenant Based Housing Choice Voucher Program, except for the Venture Preference which will not apply to the Projected-based Voucher Program.

C. Selection from the Waiting List

If an applicant is removed from the Project-Based Assistance Program waiting list because of the rejection of an offer of a unit, the rejection will not alter the applicants' position on the Section 8 Tenant Based Assistance Program waiting list. Likewise, if the owner rejects the available applicant, the rejection will not be counted against the one unit offer and the family will maintain their position on the Project-Based Section 8 Assistance Program. The owner must promptly notify the Stratford Housing Authority in writing if an applicant is rejected and the grounds for the rejection.

- Under this plan, the first qualified applicant in sequence on the Section 8 Project-Based Assistance Program waiting list will be made an offer of

project-based assistance based on the unit size available. If the available unit being offered is a unit with special accessibility features for persons with disabilities, the Stratford Housing Authority will skip over families not requiring the accessible unit to reach a family who does require such accommodation.

Non-mobility impaired families will be offered these units if no family on the waiting list requires these features. The applicant family will only have one chance to accept a unit offer. If the applicant family rejects the offer, his or her name will be removed from the waiting list and he or she will have to re-apply. The applicant family will be notified in writing of the reason they are being removed from the waiting list and their right to an informal review as described in Section 4.10.

If more than one unit of the appropriate type and size is available, the first unit to be offered will be the first unit that is ready for occupancy.

The Stratford Housing Authority will maintain a record of units offered, including location, date and circumstances of each offer and each acceptance or rejection, including the reason for the rejection.

All Section 8 Tenant Based Assistance waiting list families who want project-based units will be permitted to place their names on the Section 8 Project-Based Assistance Program waiting list.

Not withstanding the above, if necessary to meet the statutory requirement that 75% of newly admitted families in any fiscal year be families who are extremely low-income (unless a different target is agreed to by HUD), the Stratford Housing Authority retains the right to skip higher income families on the waiting list to reach extremely low-income families. This measure will only be taken if it appears the goal will not otherwise be met. To ensure this goal is met, the Housing Authority will monitor incomes of newly admitted families and the income of the families on the waiting list.

D. Project-Based Briefing

When the Stratford Housing Authority selects a family from the waiting list, the family will be invited to attend a briefing explaining how the project-based program works. In order to be eligible for a vacant unit, all adult family members are required to attend the briefing. If they cannot attend the originally scheduled briefing, they may attend a later session. If the family fails to attend two briefings without good cause, they will be denied admission.

If an applicant with a disability requires auxiliary aids to gain full benefit from the briefing, the Stratford Housing Authority will furnish such aids where doing so would not result in a fundamental alteration of the nature of the program or an undue financial or administrative burden. In determining the most suitable auxiliary aid, the Stratford Housing Authority will give primary consideration to the requests of the applicant. Families unable to attend a briefing due to a disability may request a reasonable accommodation such as having the briefing presented at an alternate location.

The briefing will cover at least the following subjects:

1. A description of how the program works;

2. Family and owner responsibilities;

4. The fact that the subsidy is tied to the unit. After the initial 12-month period, the family has the right to move with continued tenant-based rental assistance, in the form of either assistance under the voucher program or other comparable tenant-based rental assistance; and

5. A description of the Stratford Housing Authority's policy on providing information to owners.

E. Project-Based Briefing Packet

During the briefing, the Housing Authority will give the family a packet covering at least the following subjects:

1. How the Housing Authority determines the housing assistance payment and total tenant payment for the family (including a copy of the utility allowances);

2. A statement of the Housing Authority's policy on providing information to prospective owners. This policy requires applicants to sign disclosure statements allowing the Housing Authority to provide prospective owners with the family's current and prior addresses and the names and addresses of the landlords for those addresses;

3. The HUD-required lead-based paint brochure;

4. Information on Federal, State, and local equal opportunity laws; the brochure "Fair Housing: It's Your Right;" and a copy of the housing discrimination complaint form;

5. The family and owner responsibilities under the lease and HAP contract;

6. The grounds upon which the Housing Authority may terminate assistance because of the family's action or inaction; and

7. Stratford Housing Authority informal hearing procedures, including when the Housing Authority is required to provide the opportunity for an informal hearing, and information on how to request a hearing.

F. Leasing of Contract Units

1. Owner Selection of Tenants

During the term of the HAP contract, the owner must lease contract units only to eligible families selected and referred by the Stratford Housing Authority from the Stratford Housing Authority waiting list.

The owner is responsible for adopting written tenant selection procedures that are consistent with the purpose of improving housing opportunities for very-low income families and reasonably related to program eligibility and an applicant's ability to perform the lease obligations.

An owner must promptly notify in writing any rejected applicant of the grounds for any rejection.

2. Size of Unit

The contract unit leased to each family must be appropriate for the size of the family under the Stratford Housing Authority's subsidy standards.

3. Stratford Housing Authority Requirements for the Leasing of an Excepted Unit for Supportive Services

At the time of initial lease execution between the family and the owner, the Stratford Housing Authority will require the family to sign a statement of family responsibility. The statement of family responsibility will contain all the family obligations, including the family's participation in a service program.

The Stratford Housing Authority will monitor on a quarterly basis that "excepted families" are receiving supportive services. Additionally, the Stratford Housing Authority will be monitoring the family to insure that the family is fulfilling their service obligation. This monitoring will

consist of a meeting with the family and third party verification from the party responsible for delivery of the supportive services.

The Stratford Housing Authority will terminate assistance to any family that fails to fulfill its service obligation without good cause.

G. Vacancies

1. Filling Vacant Units

The owner must promptly notify the Stratford Housing Authority of any vacancy (or expected vacancy) in a contract unit. After receiving the owner notice, the Stratford Housing Authority will make every reasonable effort to promptly refer a sufficient number of families to the owner to fill such vacancies.

The owner must lease vacant contract units only to eligible families on the Stratford Housing Authority waiting list referred by the Stratford Housing Authority.

It is expected that the Stratford Housing Authority and the owner will make reasonable good faith efforts to minimize the likelihood and length of any vacancy.

2. Reducing Number of Contract Units

If any contract units have been vacant for a period of 120 days or more since the owner notice of vacancy (and notwithstanding the reasonable good faith efforts of the Stratford Housing Authority to fill such vacancies), the Stratford Housing Authority may give notice to the owner amending the HAP contract to reduce the number of contract units by subtracting the number of contract units (by number of bedrooms) that have been vacant for such period.

H. Tenant Screening

The Stratford Housing Authority has no responsibility or liability to the owner or any other person for the family's behavior or suitability for tenancy. However, it will screen applicants under Section 3.0 of the regular Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program to determine eligibility for participation in the Project-based Voucher Program.

Owner Responsibility

(a) The owner is responsible for screening and selection of families to occupy the owner's units.

(b) The owner is responsible for screening of families on the basis of their tenancy histories. An owner may consider a family's background with respect to such factors as:

(i) Payment of rent and utility bills:

(ii) Caring for a unit and premises:

(iii) Respecting the rights of other residents to the peaceful enjoyment of their housing;

(iv) Drug-related criminal activity or other criminal activity that is a threat to the health, safety, or property of others; and

(v) Compliance with other essential conditions of tenancy.

I. Lease

1. Tenant's Legal Capacity

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

2. Form of Lease

The tenant and the owner must enter a written lease for the unit. Both the owner and the tenant must execute the lease.

If the owner uses a standard lease form for rental to unassisted tenants in the locality or for the premises, the lease must be in an acceptable form. If the owner does not use a standard lease form for rental to unassisted tenants, the owner may use another form of lease, such as a Stratford Housing Authority model lease.

In all cases, the lease must include a HUD-required tenancy addendum. The tenancy addendum must include, word-for-word, all provisions required by HUD.

3. Required Information

The lease must specify all of the following:

(a) The names of the owner and the tenant;

(b) The unit rented (address, apartment number, if any, and any other information needed to identify the leased contract unit);

(c) The term of the lease (initial term and any provision for renewal);

(d) The amount of tenant rent to owner. The tenant rent to owner is subject to change during the term of the lease in accordance with HUD requirements;

(e) A specification of what services, maintenance, equipment, and utilities are to be provided by the owner; and

(f) The amount of any charges for food, furniture, or supportive services.

4. Initial Term of the Lease

The initial lease term must be for at least one year.

5. Tenancy Addendum

The tenancy addendum in the lease shall state:

(a) The program tenancy requirements; and

(b) The composition of the household as approved by the Stratford Housing Authority (names of family members and any Stratford Housing Authority live-in aide).

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

6. Changes in Lease

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

The owner must notify the Stratford Housing Authority in advance of any proposed change in lease requirements governing the allocation of tenant and owner responsibilities for utilities. Such changes may be made only if approved by the Stratford Housing Authority and in accordance with the terms of the lease relating to its amendment. The Stratford Housing Authority will re-determine reasonable rent in accordance with Section 26.5 (C), based on any change in allocation of responsibility for utilities between the owner and the tenant, and the re-determined reasonable rent shall be used in calculation of rent to owner from the effective date of the change.

7. Lease Provisions Governing Tenant Absence From the Unit

The owner's lease may specify a maximum period of tenant absence from the unit that may be shorter than the maximum period permitted by the Stratford Housing Authority in Section 2.3(H) of this Administrative Plan.

J. Security Deposit

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

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

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

If the security deposit is not sufficient to cover amounts the tenant owes under the lease, the owner may seek to collect the balance from the tenant. The Stratford Housing Authority has no liability or responsibility for payment of any amount owed by the family to the owner.

K. Owner Termination of Tenancy and Eviction

1. In general, Section 17.0, Termination of the Lease and Contract, of this Administrative Plan applies with the exception that 17(a)(ix) (3) & (4) do not apply to the Project-based Voucher Program. In the Project-based Voucher Program "good cause" does not include a business or economic

reason or desire to use the unit for an individual, family, or non-residential rental purpose. Eviction for drug and alcohol abuse applies to the Project-based Voucher Program.

2. Upon lease expiration, an owner may:

   (a) Renew the lease;

   (b) Refuse to renew the lease for good cause;

   (c) Refuse to renew the lease without good cause, which case the Stratford Housing Authority will provide the family with a tenant based voucher and the unit will be removed from the Project-based Voucher HAP contract.

3. If a family resides in a project-based unit excepted from the 25 percent per building cap on project-basing because of participation in an FSS or other supportive services program, and the family fails without good cause to complete its FSS contract of participation or supportive services requirement, such failure is grounds for lease termination by the owner.

L. Overcrowded, Under-Occupied, and Accessible Units

1. Family Occupancy of Wrong-size or Accessible Unit

   The Stratford Housing Authority's subsidy standards determine the appropriate unit size for the family size and composition. If the Stratford Housing Authority determines that a family is occupying a:

   (a) Wrong-size unit, or

   (b) Unit with accessibility features that the family does not require, and the unit is needed by a family that requires the accessibility features;

   The Stratford Housing Authority must promptly notify the family and the owner of this determination, and of the Stratford Housing Authority's offer of continued assistance in another unit pursuant to paragraph (2) of this section.

2. Stratford Housing Authority Offer of Continued Assistance

   If a family is occupying a wrong size unit, or a unit with accessibility features that the family does not require, and the unit is needed by a family

that requires the accessibility features, the Stratford Housing Authority will offer the family the opportunity to receive continued housing assistance in another unit.

The Stratford Housing Authority will offer the following housing options as continued assistance.

(a) Project-based voucher assistance in an appropriate-size unit (in the same building or in another building);

(b) Other project-based housing assistance (e.g., by occupancy of a public housing unit);

(c) Tenant-based rental assistance under the voucher program; or

(d) Other comparable public or private tenant-based assistance (e.g., under the HOME program).

3. Stratford Housing Authority Termination of Housing Assistance Payments

If the Stratford Housing Authority offers the family the opportunity to receive tenant-based rental assistance under the voucher program, the Stratford Housing Authority will terminate the housing assistance payments for a wrong-sized or accessible unit at expiration of the term of the family's voucher (including any extension granted by the Stratford Housing Authority).

If the Stratford Housing Authority offers the family the opportunity for another form of continued housing assistance in accordance with (2) above, and the family does not accept the offer, does not move out of the project-based voucher unit within a reasonable time as determined by the Stratford Housing Authority, or both, the Stratford Housing Authority will terminate the housing assistance payments for the wrong-sized or accessible unit, at the expiration of a reasonable period as determined by the Stratford Housing Authority.

M. When Occupancy May Exceed 25 Percent Cap on the Number of Project-Based Voucher Units in Each Building

1. Except as provided in Section 26.1 (B)(5), the Stratford Housing Authority will not pay housing assistance under the HAP contract for contract units in excess of the 25 percent cap.

2. If referring families to the owner for admission to excepted units, the Stratford Housing Authority will give preference to elderly or disabled families, or to families receiving supportive services.

3. If a family at the time of initial move-in is receiving supportive services and residing in an "excepted unit" and subsequently fulfills their commitments and continues to reside in the unit, the unit remains an "excepted unit" for as long as the family resides in the unit.

4. A family (or the remaining members of the family) residing in an excepted unit that no longer meets the criteria for a "qualifying family" in connection with the 25 percent per building cap exception (e.g., a family that does not successfully complete its FSS contract of participation or the supportive services requirement as defined in this Administrative Plan or the remaining members of a family that no longer qualifies for elderly or disabled family status) will be required to vacate the unit within a reasonable period of time (60 days) established by the Stratford Housing Authority, and the Stratford Housing Authority will cease paying housing assistance payments on behalf of the non-qualifying family. If the family fails to vacate the unit within the established time, the unit will be removed from the HAP contract unless the project is partially assisted and it is possible for the HAP contract to be amended to substitute a different unit in the building in accordance with Section 26.4 (F) or the owner terminates the lease and evicts the family. The housing assistance payments for a family residing in an excepted unit that is not in compliance with its family obligations (e.g., a family fails, without good cause, to successfully complete its FSS contract of participation or supportive services requirement) will be terminated by the Stratford Housing Authority.

N. Family Right to Move

A family may terminate the assisted lease at any time after the first year of occupancy. The family must give the owner advance written notice of the intent to vacate, with a copy to the Stratford Housing Authority in accordance with the lease.

If the family has elected to terminate the lease after the first year in compliance with the lease, the Stratford Housing Authority will offer the family the opportunity for continued tenant-based rental assistance in the form of either assistance under the voucher program or other comparable tenant-based rental assistance.

Note: Before providing notice to terminate the lease, the family must contact the Stratford Housing Authority to request comparable tenant-based rental assistance if the family wishes to move with continued assistance. If voucher or other comparable tenant-based rental assistance is not immediately available upon termination of the family's lease of a project-based voucher unit, the Stratford Housing Authority will give the family priority to receive the next available opportunity for continued tenant-based rental assistance.

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

26.6 RENT TO OWNER

A. Determining the Rent to Owner

1. Initial and Redetermined Rents

(a) The amount of the initial rent to owner is established at the beginning of the HAP contract term. For rehabilitated or newly constructed housing, the Agreement states the estimated amount of the initial rent to owner, but the actual amount of the initial rent to owner is established at the beginning of the HAP contract term.

(b) The rent to owner is redetermined at the owner's request for a rent increase in accordance with this Section 26.5 (A) and Section 26.5 (B) . The rent to owner is also redetermined at such time when there is a five percent or greater <u>decrease</u> in the published FMR.

2. Amount of Rent to Owner

Except for certain tax credit units as provided in Section 26.5 (C), the rent to owner must not exceed the lowest of:

(a) An amount determined by the Stratford Housing Authority, not to exceed 110 percent of the applicable fair market rent (or any exception payment standard approved by HUD) for the unit bedroom size minus any utility allowance;

(b) The reasonable rent; or

(c) The rent requested by the owner.

3. Rent to Owner for Certain Tax Credit Units

(a) This section applies if:

(i) A contract unit receives a low-income housing tax credit under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (see 26 U.S.C. 42);

(ii) The contract unit is not located in a qualified census tract;

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

(iii) In the same building, there are comparable tax credit units of the same unit bedroom size as the contract unit and the comparable tax credit units do not have any form of rental assistance other than the tax credit; and

(iv) The tax credit rent exceeds the applicable fair market rental (or any exception payment standard) as determined in accordance with Section 26.5 (B).

(b) The rent to owner must not exceed the lowest of:

(i) The tax credit rent minus any utility allowance;

(ii) The reasonable rent; or

(iii) The rent requested by the owner.

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

4. Rent to Owner for Other Tax Credit Units

Except in the case of a tax credit unit described in the Section immediately above, the rent to owner for all other tax credit units is determined pursuant to Section 2 above.

5. Reasonable Rent

The Stratford Housing Authority will determine reasonable rent in accordance with Section 26.5 (C). The rent to owner for each contract unit may at no time exceed the reasonable rent.

6. Use of FMRs and Utility Allowance Schedule in Determining the Amount of Rent to Owner

(a) Amounts used:

(i) Determination of Initial Rent (at the beginning of the HAP contract term)

When determining the initial rent to owner, the Stratford Housing Authority will use the most recently published FMR in effect and the utility allowance schedule in effect at execution of the HAP contract. At its discretion, the Stratford Housing Authority may use the amounts in effect at any time during the 30-day period immediately before the beginning date of the HAP contract.

(ii) Redetermination of Rent to Owner

When redetermining the rent to owner, the Stratford Housing Authority will use the most recently published FMR and the Stratford Housing Authority utility allowance schedule in effect at the time of redetermination. At its discretion, the Stratford Housing Authority may use the amounts in effect at any time during the 30-day period immediately before the beginning date of the HAP contract.

(b) Exception Payment Standard and Stratford Housing Authority Utility Allowance Schedule

(i) Any HUD approved exception standard amount applies to both the tenant-based and project-based voucher programs. HUD will not approve a different exception payment standard amount for use in the project-based voucher program.

(ii) The Stratford Housing Authority may not establish or apply different utility allowance amounts for the project-based

voucher program. The same Stratford Housing Authority utility allowance schedule applies to both the tenant-based and project-based voucher programs.

7. Stratford Housing Authority Owned Units

For Stratford Housing Authority owned units, the initial rent to owner and the annual re-determination of rent at the annual anniversary of the HAP contract are determined by the independent entity approved by HUD in accordance with Section 26.5 (C)(6). The Stratford Housing Authority must use the rent to owner established by the independent entity.

B. Re-determination of Rent to Owner

1. The Stratford Housing Authority will re-determine the rent to owner:

(a) Upon the owner's request; or

(b) When there is a five percent or greater decrease in the published FMR.

2. Rent Increase

(a) The Stratford Housing Authority will not make any rent increase other than an increase in the rent to owner as outlined in 26.5(A) above.

(b) The owner must request an increase in the rent to owner at the annual anniversary of the HAP contract by written notice to the Stratford Housing Authority. The Stratford Housing Authority must receive the written notice 60 days before the annual anniversary date. The request must be submitted in the form and manner required by the Stratford Housing Authority.

(c) The Stratford Housing Authority will not approve and the owner will not receive any increase of rent to owner until and unless the owner has complied with all requirements of the HAP contract, including compliance with the HQS. The Stratford Housing Authority will not grant any retroactive increase of rent for any period of noncompliance.

3. Rent Decrease

If there is a decrease in the rent to owner, the rent to owner must be decreased, regardless of whether the owner requested a rent adjustment.

4. Notice of Rent Determination

The Stratford Housing Authority will give written notice of any redetermined rent. The Stratford Housing Authority notice of the rent adjustment constitutes an amendment of the rent to owner specified in the HAP contract.

5. Contract Year and Annual Anniversary of the HAP Contract

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

(b) The annual anniversary of the HAP contract is the first day of the first calendar month after the end of the preceding contract year. The adjusted rent to owner amount applies for the period of 12 calendar months from the annual anniversary of the HAP contract.

(c) If contract units are placed under the HAP contract in stages commencing on different dates, there is a single annual anniversary for all contract units under the HAP contract. The annual anniversary for all contract units is the annual anniversary date for the first contract units placed under the HAP contract. The expiration of the HAP contract for all the contract units completed in stages must be concurrent with the end of the HAP contract term for the units originally placed under HAP contract.

C. Reasonable Rent

1. Comparability Requirement

At all times during the term of the HAP contract, the rent to owner may not exceed the reasonable rent as determined by the Stratford Housing Authority.

2. Redetermination

The Stratford Housing Authority will redetermine the reasonable rent under the following circumstances:

(a) Whenever there is a five percent or greater decrease in the published FMR in effect sixty (60) days before the contract anniversary (for the unit sizes specified in the HAP contract) as compared with the FMR in effect one year before the contract anniversary;

(b) Whenever the Stratford Housing Authority approves a change in the allocation of responsibility for utilities between the owner and the tenant;

(c) Whenever the HAP contract is amended to substitute a different contract unit in the same building; and

(d) Whenever there is any other change that may substantially affect the reasonable rent.

3. How to Determine Reasonable Rent

The reasonable rent of a contract unit must be determined by comparison to rent for other comparable unassisted units. In determining the reasonable rent, the Stratford Housing Authority will consider factors that affect market rent, such as:

(a) The location, quality, size, unit type, and age of the contract unit; and

(b) Amenities, housing services, maintenance, and utilities to be provided by the owner.

4. Comparability Analysis

(a) For each unit, the Stratford Housing Authority comparability analysis will use at least three comparable units in the private unassisted market, which may include comparable unassisted units in the premises or project.

(b) The Stratford Housing Authority will retain a comparability analysis that shows how the reasonable rent was determined, including major differences between the unassisted units.

(c) The comparability analysis may be performed by the Stratford Housing Authority staff or by another qualified person or entity. A person or entity that conducts the comparability analysis and any Stratford Housing Authority staff or contractor engaged in

determining the housing assistance payment based on the comparability analysis may not have any direct or indirect interest in the property.

5. Owner Certification of Comparability

By accepting each monthly housing assistance payment from the Stratford Housing Authority, the owner certifies that the rent to owner is not more than rent charged by the owner for comparable unassisted units in the premises. The owner must give the Stratford Housing Authority information requested by the Stratford Housing Authority on rents charged by the owner for other units in the premises or elsewhere.

6. Determining Reasonable Rent for Stratford Housing Authority Units

For Stratford Housing Authority units, the amount of the reasonable rent must be determined by an independent agency approved by HUD in accordance with Section 26.1(J), rather than by Stratford Housing Authority staff. Reasonable rent must be determined in accordance with this Section.

The independent entity must furnish a copy of the independent entity determination of reasonable rent for Stratford Housing Authority owned units to the Stratford Housing Authority and to the HUD field office where the project is located.

7. Other Subsidy; Effect on Rent to Owner

In addition to the rent limits established in accordance with 26.5(A)&(B), the following restrictions apply to certain units:

(a) HOME – for units assisted under the HOME program, rents may not exceed rent limits as required by the HOME program.

(b) Subsidized Projects

This paragraph applies to any contract units in any of the following types of federally subsidized project:

(i) An insured or non-insured Section 236 project;

(ii) A formerly insured or non-insured Section 236 project that continues to receive Interest Reduction Payment following a decoupling action;

(iii) A Section 221(d)(3) below market interest rate (BMIR) project;

(iv) A Section 515 project of the Rural Housing Service;

(v) A project receiving low-income housing tax credits;

(vi) Any other type of federally subsidized project specified by HUD.

The rent to owner may not exceed the subsidized rent (basic rent) or tax credit rent as determined in accordance with requirements for the applicable federal program.

(a) Combining Subsidy

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

(b) Other Subsidy: Stratford Housing Authority Discretion to Reduce Rent

The Stratford Housing Authority, at its discretion, may reduce the initial rent to owner because of other governmental subsidies, including tax credit or tax exemption, grants, or other subsidized financing.

(c) Prohibition of Other Subsidy

The Stratford Housing Authority will not attach or pay Project-based Voucher assistance to units in any of the following types of subsidized housing:

(i) A public housing dwelling unit;

(ii) A unit subsidized with any other form of Section 8 assistance (tenant-based or project-based);

(iii) A unit subsidized with any governmental rent subsidy (a subsidy that pays all or any part of the rent);

(iv) A unit subsidized with any governmental subsidy that covers all or any part of the operating costs of the housing;

(v) A unit subsidized with Section 236 rental assistance payments (12 U.S.C. 1715z-1). However, the Stratford Housing Authority may attach assistance to a unit subsidized with Section 236 interest reduction payments;

(vi) A unit subsidized with rental assistance payments under Section 521 of the Housing Act of 1949, 42 U.S.C. 1490a (a Rural Housing Service Program). However, the Stratford Housing Authority may attach assistance for a unit subsidized with Section 515 interest reduction payments (42 U.S.C. 1485);

(vii) A Section 202 project for non-elderly persons with disabilities (assistance under Section 162 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1987, 12 U.S.C. 1701q note);

(viii) Section 811 project based supportive housing for persons with disabilities (42 U.S.C. 8013);

(ix) Section 202 supportive housing for the elderly (12 U.S.C. 1701q);

(x) A Section 101 rent supplement project (12 U.S.C. 1701s);

(xi) A unit subsidized with any form of tenant-based rental assistance (as defined at 24 CFR 982.1(b)(2)) (e.g., a unit subsidized with tenant-based rental assistance under the HOME program, 42 U.S.C. 12701 et seq.);

(xii) A unit with any other duplicative federal, state, or local housing subsidy, as determined by HUD or by the Stratford Housing Authority in accordance with HUD requirements. For this purpose, "housing subsidy" does not include the housing component of a welfare payment; a social security payment; or a federal, state, or local tax concession (such as relief from local real property taxes).

8. Rent to Owner: Effect of Rent Control and Other Rent Limits

In addition to all the above limitations on the rent paid to the owner, if a state or local rent control requirement exists, it will apply to the property.

26.7 PAYMENT TO OWNER

A. Stratford Housing Authority Payment to Owner for Occupied Unit

1. When Payments Are Made

The Stratford Housing Authority will make housing assistance payments to the owner in accordance with the terms of the HAP contract.

Except for discretionary vacancy payments in accordance with 26.6(B) below, the Stratford Housing Authority will not make any housing assistance payment to the owner for any month after the month when the family moves out of the unit (even if household goods or property are left in the unit).

2. Monthly Payment

Monthly, the Stratford Housing Authority will make a housing assistance payment to the owner for each contract unit that is in compliance with HQS and is leased to and occupied by an eligible family in accordance with the HAP contract.

3. Calculating Amount of Payment

The monthly housing assistance payment by the Stratford Housing Authority to the owner for a contract unit leased to a family is the rent to owner minus the tenant rent (total tenant payment minus the utility allowance).

4. Prompt Payment

The Stratford Housing Authority will make the housing assistance payment to the owner under the HAP contract on or about the first day of the month for which payment is due, unless the owner and the Stratford Housing Authority agree on a later date. If such an agreement has been made, it must be in writing.

5. Owner Compliance with Contract

In order to receive housing assistance payments in accordance with the HAP contact, the owner must be in compliance with all the provisions of the HAP contract. Unless the owner complies with all the provision of the HAP contract, the owner does not have a right to receive housing assistance payments.

B. Vacancy Payment

If an assisted family moves out of the unit, the owner may keep the housing assistance payment payable for the calendar month when the family moves out ("move-out month"). If the Stratford Housing Authority determines that the vacancy is the owner's fault, the owner may not keep the payment.

C. Tenant Rent; Payment to Owner

1. Stratford Housing Authority Determination

The Stratford Housing Authority will determine the tenant rent and effective dates of changes in rent in accordance with this Section 8 Administrative Plan. The tenant rent is the portion of the rent to owner paid by the family.

2. Tenant Payment to Owner

The family is responsible for paying the tenant rent (total tenant payment minus the utility allowance). The tenant rent is determined by the Stratford Housing Authority and is the maximum amount the owner can charge the family for rent of a contract unit.

The tenant rent is payment for all housing services, maintenance, equipment, and utilities to be provided by the owner without additional charge to the tenant, in accordance with the HAP contract and lease.

The owner cannot demand or accept any rent payment from the tenant in excess of the tenant rent. The owner is required to immediately return any excess payment to the tenant.

3. Limit of Stratford Housing Authority Responsibility

The Stratford Housing Authority is responsible only for making housing assistance payments to the owner on behalf of a family in accordance with the HAP contract. The Stratford Housing Authority is not responsible for paying the tenant rent, or for paying any other claim by the owner.

4. Utility Reimbursement

If the amount of the utility allowance exceeds the total tenant payment, the Stratford Housing Authority will pay the amount of such excess as a

reimbursement for tenant-paid utilities and the tenant rent to the owner shall be zero.

D. Other Fees and Charges

1. Meals and Supportive Services

In assisted living developments receiving project-based assistance, owners may charge tenants, family members, or both for meals or supportive services. These charges will not be included in the rent to owner, nor will the value of meals and supportive services be included in the calculation of reasonable rent. Non-payment of such charges is grounds for termination of the lease by the owner in an assisted living development.

For any other type of project-based assistance (other than assisted living) the owner may not require the tenant or family members to pay charges for meals or supportive services. Non-payment of such charges is not grounds for termination of tenancy.

2. Other Charges by Owner

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

27.0 HOUSING CONVERSION ACTIONS (ENHANCED AND REGULAR HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHERS)

This section covers Housing Conversion Actions. Housing conversion actions are:

A. owner decisions to opt-out of or not renew Section 8 project-based contracts (opt-outs);

B. owner prepayments of the mortgage or the voluntary termination of the mortgage insurance of a preservation eligible property (preservation prepayments);

C. HUD enforcement actions against owners (including the termination or non-renewal of a Section 8 project-based housing assistance payments (HAP) contract); and

D. HUD property disposition activities.

Depending on the type of Housing Conversion Action, eligible families receive either regular voucher assistance or enhanced voucher assistance. Enhanced voucher assistance under Section 8(t) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 differs from regular housing choice voucher assistance in two major respects if the participant remains in affected property. First, it will establish a new "minimum rent" equal to the rent the family was paying at the time of the eligibility event, and second it may establish an enhanced payment standard that exceeds the Stratford Housing Authority's normal payment standard.

Specifically, the following actions constitute "housing conversion actions":

A. Preservation Prepayments

When the owner prepays the mortgage or voluntarily terminates the mortgage insurance of preservation eligible properties (generally Section 236 and Section 221 (d) (3) properties) certain residents are eligible for enhanced voucher assistance.

B. Project-based Opt-outs

When an owner chooses to end participation in certain programs by either opting-out of or not renewing certain expiring Section 8 contracts, eligible low-income residents assisted under the expiring Section 8 project-based contract are eligible for enhanced voucher assistance. The opt-out category includes cases where Section 8 contracts in restructured properties are converted to tenant-based assistance in accordance with section 515(c) of the Multifamily Assisted Housing Reform and Affordability Act of 1997. In the case of a 515(c) opt-out only, all families assisted under the expiring contract are income-eligible for enhanced voucher assistance.

Eligible low-income residents assisted under a rent supplement contract under Section 101 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1965 that ends at expiration of a Section 8 HAP contract for units in the property are also eligible for enhanced voucher assistance. In a case where a rent supplement contract ends and there is not an expiring Section 8 project-based contract at the property, regular vouchers are provided to the eligible low-income families covered by the rent supplement contract, subject to availability of appropriations.

C. HUD Enforcement Actions

When there is a HUD-originated termination action, HUD is either terminating the Section 8 project-based HAP contract or not offering the owner the option to renew an expiring Section 8 project-based HAP contract due to an owner's failure

to comply with the terms of the HAP contract. It includes suspensions and debarments.

HUD enforcement actions may also result from material adverse financial or managerial actions or omissions that lead to either owner default under a FHA-insured mortgage (monetary or technical) or a documented material violation of one or more of the obligations under the property's Regulatory Agreement.

Eligible families are usually assisted with regular vouchers in these circumstances because families must move to receive housing choice voucher assistance.

D. HUD Property Disposition

A property disposition occurs when HUD is selling the property at a foreclosure sale, or is the mortgagee-in-possession or owner of the multifamily property due to an owner default on an FHA-insured mortgage and is closing down the property or selling the property to a new owner. Regular vouchers are provided to assist eligible low-income families in these cases.

27.1 TENANT-BASED ISSUES FOR HOUSING CONVERISON ACTIONS

In general, housing choice voucher program rules, regulations, and requirements apply to special admission vouchers made available for families as the result of "housing conversion actions". Some actions will lead to the issuance of enhanced vouchers, which will be discussed in detail in this Section.

The following program guidance is applicable to all housing conversion actions, both regular and enhanced voucher assistance.

A. Tenant-based Nature of the Assistance

Housing choice vouchers (including enhanced vouchers) provided by HUD as the result of a housing conversion action are always tenant-based assistance. Families issued vouchers may elect to use the assistance in the same property and in all cases may choose to move from the property. Families may choose to exercise portability and move outside of the jurisdiction of the Stratford Housing Authority. There is no guarantee to the owner than any housing choice voucher assistance will be utilized at the property for any period of time. The Stratford Housing Authority will emphasize the tenant-based aspect of the assistance when briefing families, who may be unfamiliar with the concept of tenant-based assistance and the freedom of choice associated with a tenant-based subsidy.

B. Stratford Housing Authority Screening of Families

The Stratford Housing Authority will utilize its normal screening procedures as part of the eligibility requirements.

The Stratford Housing Authority will provide any family denied assistance with an opportunity for an informal review. The decision to deny assistance rests with the Stratford Housing Authority,

C. Use of Owner Certifications for Determining Tenant Income

In order to reduce processing time, the Stratford Housing Authority may exercise it's right to use the owner's most recent family income examination if:

1. the owner's current certification for the family is no more than six (6) months old; and

2. the Stratford Housing Authority determines that the owner certifications are acceptable after reviewing a small sample for accuracy.

If the Stratford Housing Authority chooses to use the owner's income certification, the Stratford Housing Authority will compete the subsequent family reexamination within one year of the date of the owner certification, not the date the Stratford Housing Authority accepted the owner certification in lieu of conducting its own determination.

D. Stratford Housing Authority Subsidy Standards

The Stratford Housing Authority will issue the housing choice voucher in accordance with the its normal subsidy standards, not the actual size of the unit the family is currently occupying. There is a special rule for enhanced vouchers concerning families who reside in over-sized units and wish to remain at the property. This exception only applies to enhanced voucher assistance.

The Stratford Housing Authority will utilize the subsidy standard to calculate the maximum rent subsidy for the family. The payment standard for the family shall be the lower of:

1. the payment standard for the family unit size as determined by the Stratford Housing Authority subsidy standards; or

2. the payment standard for the actual size of the unit rented by the family.

E. Search Time

Since these vouchers are targeted to specific families adversely affected by HUD or owner actions in HUD multifamily properties, the Stratford Housing Authority will provide families with maximum search time that is reasonably required to locate housing.

F. Rent Reasonableness and Approval of Tenancy

All regular program requirements regarding the reasonableness of rent apply, regardless of whether the vouchers are enhanced vouchers or regular vouchers.

Reasonable rent is defined as a rent to owner that is not more than rent charged:

1. for comparable units in the private unassisted market; and

2. for comparable unassisted units in the premises.

The Stratford Housing Authority will not approve a lease until the Stratford Housing Authority determines that the initial rent to owner is a reasonable rent, regardless of whether the family chooses to remain in the family's current unit or move to a different unit.

If the Stratford Housing Authority determines the proposed rent is not reasonable, the owner must lower the rent or the family will have to find another unit in order to benefit from the voucher subsidy.

The initial lease term must be for at least one year unless the Stratford Housing Authority determines that a shorter term would improve housing opportunities for the participant <u>and</u> such shorter term is the prevailing local market practice.

G. Housing Quality Standards Inspections

The Stratford Housing Authority will inspect the unit to ensure that the unit meets the normal housing quality standards even if the family is residing in a unit that was previously assisted under a Section 8 project-based contract. Under no circumstances will the Stratford Housing Authority make housing assistance payments for any period of time prior to the date that the Stratford Housing Authority physically inspects the unit and determines that the unit meets the housing quality standards.

H. Timing Issues Involving HAP Contract Execution and Effective Dates

The funding process for vouchers that the Stratford Housing Authority receives from HUD is intended to result in issuance of the voucher to the family at least 60 days prior to the target date of the housing conversion action. The target date is

the date that the family would be impacted by a rent increase or possible displacement as a result of the housing conversion action.

For opt-out or HUD enforcement actions, the target date is the date that the project-based HAP contract expires or is terminated. For a preservation property, the target date is the earliest date the owner may increase the rent (no earlier than 60 days following the effective date of the prepayment).

Before the Stratford Housing Authority approves a family to lease a dwelling unit with voucher assistance, the Stratford Housing Authority shall determine that the following conditions are met:

1. the unit is eligible;

2. The unit has been inspected and passes the housing quality standards;

3. the lease includes the tenancy addendum;

4. the rent to owner is reasonable; and

5. at the time a family initially receives tenant-based regular voucher assistance for occupancy of a dwelling unit and where the gross rent of the unit exceeds the applicable payment standard for the family, the family share (gross rent minus subsidy) must not exceed 40 percent of the family's adjusted monthly income. (The 40 percent restriction is not applicable in the case of a family assisted with enhanced voucher assistance.)

Once these conditions are met, the Stratford Housing Authority will approve the unit for leasing.

In establishing the effective date of tenant-based HAP contracts, it is very important to make a distinction between families who choose to stay in the property and families who choose to move. The Stratford Housing Authority will not approve a tenancy (and execute a housing choice voucher HAP contract) on behalf of a stayer (family that stays in the property) for a lease term that is effective prior to the target date of the housing conversion action. For a family that is moving, the Stratford Housing Authority may approve a tenancy that begins before the target date, since in strong rental markets potential landlords will not hold a unit vacant.

I. Initial and Subsequent Use of Vouchers

All housing choice vouchers (enhanced or non-enhanced) provided in connection with housing conversion actions are special admission vouchers. Special admission vouchers differ from regular vouchers in that HUD provides the assistance with a specific family in mind. The Stratford Housing Authority will first use the allocation to assist the families targeted for assistance. The Stratford Housing Authority will not consider whether the family is on the housing choice voucher waiting list or the family's position on the housing choice voucher waiting list.

If a voucher issued to a family as the result of a housing conversion action turns over for any reason, the Stratford Housing Authority will retain the voucher for use as part of its housing choice voucher program. In cases where an enhanced voucher turns over following initial issuance, the voucher loses its special enhanced characteristics and is subject to all normal housing choice voucher program rules.

J. Inapplicability of the Stratford Housing Authority Targeting Requirement

Families admitted to the Stratford Housing Authority's tenant-based voucher program as a result of a housing conversion action are not subject to the income targeting requirements of the tenant-based program, and their admission will not be counted in determining whether the Stratford Housing Authority complied with the income targeting requirement.

27.2 PRESERVATION PREPAYMENTS

When the owner prepays the mortgage or voluntarily terminates the mortgage insurance of preservation eligible properties (generally Section 236 and Section 221(d)(3) properties) certain residents are eligible for enhanced voucher assistance.

A. Owner Prepays the Mortgage or Voluntarily Terminates the Mortgage Insurance (Preservation Prepayments)

Tenant-based assistance is offered to eligible residents of properties covered by the Emergency Low-Income Housing Preservation Act of 1987 (ELIHPA) and the Low-Income Housing Preservation and Resident Homeownership Act of 1990 (LIHPRHA). (HUD's Office of Housing is responsible for identifying property eligibility under these provisions)

1. Covered Prepayments

To be considered an eligible property, the property must have reached its 20th year from final endorsement and meet one of the following criteria:

i. Section 221(d)(3)-market rate, limited distribution properties receiving Section 8 payments converted from Rent Supplement whose project number series is 35001-36599;

ii. All Section 221(d)(3) below market interest rate properties whose project number series are 55001-55999 and 57501-57999, unless a Rent Supplement Contract remains in effect between HUD and the mortgagor;

iii. All Section 236 properties whose project number series are 44001-44799; 44801-44899; 45001-45999; and 58501-58999, unless a Rent Supplement Contract remains in effect between HUD and the mortgagor;

iv. A purchase money mortgage formerly insured under Section 221(d)(3) or 236;

v. A mortgage held by a state agency as a result of a sale by HUD without insurance, which immediately before the sale would have been eligible low-income housing under LIHPRHA; which mortgage (1) for LIHPRHA properties is, or is within 2 years of being, eligible for prepayment by contract or regulation in effect before February 5, 1988 without HUD's prior approval; or (2) for ELIHPA properties is, or is within 1 year of being, eligible for prepayment under regulation or contract in effect before February 5, 1988; or

vi. All State-assisted properties that are eligible for preservation assistance under LIHPRHA or ELIHPA.

2. Flexible Subsidy Properties

Section 536 of the Preserving Affordable Housing for Senior Citizens and Families into the 21st Century Act provides that any property that receives or has received assistance under Section 201 of the Housing and Community Development Amendments of 1978 (the flexible subsidy program, 12 U.S.C. 1715z-1a) which is the subject of a transaction under which the property is preserved as affordable Housing (as determined by HUD) shall be considered eligible low-income housing under Section 229 of LIHPRHA for purposes of eligibility of residents for enhanced tenant-based assistance. (The Office of Housing is responsible for determining on a case-by case basis if a flexible subsidy property meets the requirements of Section 536 concerning the applicability of enhanced vouchers)

B. Family Eligibility for Enhanced Voucher Assistance in Preservation Eligible Properties.

The resident family must be residing in the preservation eligible property on the effective date of prepayment or voluntary termination of mortgage insurance (or the effective date of the transaction in the case of covered flexible subsidy properties), and must be income-eligible on that effective date.

1. Income Eligibility

In order to be eligible for enhanced voucher assistance, the resident must be:

i. a low-income family (including a very low-income or extremely low income family);

ii. a moderate-income elderly or disabled family; or

iii. a moderate-income family residing in a low vacancy area (3 percent or less vacancy rate). (The HUD local office economist is responsible for determining whether the property where the owner is prepaying or voluntarily terminating the mortgage insurance is located in a low vacancy area).

A resident family who does not fall into one of those categories on the effective date of the prepayment or voluntary termination is not eligible for a voucher, regardless of whether the family's situation subsequently changes after the effective date of the prepayment.

A <u>low-income</u> family is a family whose annual income does not exceed 80 percent of the median income for the area as determined by HUD.

A <u>moderate-income</u> family is a family whose annual income is above 80 percent but does not exceed 95 percent of the area median income as determined by HUD.

2. Unassisted and Assisted Families

Both previously unassisted and currently assisted residents may be eligible for enhanced voucher assistance as the result of a preservation prepayment.

A voucher participant who is residing in the property at the time of the eligibility event shall receive enhanced voucher assistance if the family meets all of the following conditions:

i. the family must meet the income requirements on the date of the eligibility event;

ii. any rent increase under the voucher program must be in accordance with the lease agreement and program regulations;

iii. the new gross rent must be reasonable; and

iv. the family must decide to stay in the unit instead of moving.

Under the voucher program, an owner may increase the rent as permitted by the terms of the existing lease and local and state law, so long as the new rent is reasonable. The owner is not required by the program regulations to terminate the existing lease and HAP contract for current voucher participants to receive the special enhanced subsidy.

If the above conditions are met, the payment standard utilized by the Stratford Housing Authority to calculate the housing assistance payment is the new gross rent of the family's unit. The enhanced voucher minimum rent requirement now applies to the family (See Enhanced Voucher Minimum Rent Requirement for Stayers below).

Any family receiving Section 8 project-based assistance on the effective date of the prepayment will continue to receive the project-based assistance until the project-based contract expires or terminates. Such families will receive enhanced voucher assistance at the time of the expiration and non-renewal of the Section 8 project-based contract.

3. Eligibility Event and Existing Leases

Note that the eligibility event (e.g., the prepayment of the mortgage or the voluntary termination of a mortgage insurance contract for a preservation eligible property and the approval of the flexible subsidy transaction for flexible subsidy properties) does not in itself necessarily terminate or modify the existing leases between the owner and the current residents of the property. An owner may only legally increase the rent or terminate the lease as provided under the terms of the lease in accordance with state and local law. In addition, an owner may not increase the rent for at least 60 days from the eligibility event in the case of a preservation prepayment or voluntary termination of the mortgage.

If an eligible family chooses to stay at the property, the Stratford Housing Authority will not enter into a HAP contract that commences prior to the effective date of the rent increase.

In addition, a family that receives an enhanced voucher has the right to remain in the property as long as the units are used for rental housing and are otherwise eligible for housing choice voucher assistance. The owner may not terminate the tenancy of a family that exercises its right to remain except for a serious or repeated lease violation or other good cause. If an owner refuses to honor the family's right to remain, the family may exercise any judicial remedy that is available under state and/or local law.

4. Family Eligibility for Enhanced Voucher Assistance in Cases Where There Would be no Initial Housing Assistance Payment and the Family Wishes to Stay in the Property

If the Stratford Housing Authority determines that the family is income-eligible for an enhanced voucher but that there is no HAP payment because the family's total tenant payment equals or is greater than the gross rent, the Stratford Housing Authority will maintain a record of eligibility determination for that family. The Stratford Housing Authority shall inform the family that should the family's income decrease or the family's rent increase within three years of the eligibility event, the family may contact the Stratford Housing Authority. Should the Stratford Housing Authority then determine that the change in income would result in a housing assistance payment, the Stratford Housing Authority will execute a housing assistance payment contract on behalf of the family at such time (assuming the unit is approved for leasing in accordance with the housing choice voucher program requirements). It is the family's responsibility to contact the Stratford Housing Authority when there is a decrease in family income or an increase in the family rent.

C. Voluntary Termination of Mortgage Insurance or Prepayment of Mortgage on Section 236 Property's Where Section 236 Rent Rules Remain Applicable (decoupling actions)

Where an owner voluntarily terminates the mortgage insurance or prepays the Section 236 mortgage in a preservation eligible Section 236 property <u>and</u> the rent setting requirements of the Section 236 program are still applicable to the property, the enhanced voucher rent would be no greater than the Basic Rent established in accordance with HUD Notice H 2000-8. Since families must pay at least 30 percent of their monthly adjusted income under the voucher subsidy

formula, only those low-income families required to pay the basic rent will receive any voucher subsidy in such instance, unless the family chooses to move.

Regardless of the rents established under the rent formula for these properties, the rent reasonableness requirements of the housing choice voucher program must be met for the family to receive tenant-based assistance at the property. (The HUD Field Office is responsible for informing the Stratford Housing Authority in cases where the rent setting requirements of the Section 236 program remain in effect).

D. Enhanced Voucher Family Right to Remain

The FY 2001 Military Construction and FY 2000 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations laws amended Section 8(t) of the United States Housing Act. A family that receives an enhanced voucher has the right to remain in the property as long as the units are used for rental housing and are otherwise eligible for housing choice voucher assistance (e.g., the rent is reasonable, unit meets HQS, etc.) The owner may not terminate the tenancy of a family that exercises its right to remain except for a serious or repeated lease violation or other good cause. If an owner refuses to honor the family's right to remain, the family may exercise any judicial remedy that is available under State and/or local law.

E. Characteristics of Enhanced Voucher Assistance

1. Payment Standard Where the Family Chooses to Stay in the Same Property

For a family that stays in the property, the payment standard used to calculate the voucher housing assistance payment is the gross rent (rent to owner, plus the applicable Stratford Housing Authority utility allowance for any tenant-supplied utilities) of the family's unit (provided the proposed gross rent is reasonable), regardless of whether the gross rent exceeds the Stratford Housing Authority payment standard.

2. Rent Reasonableness Documentation and Lease Requirements

All regular housing choice voucher program requirements concerning the reasonableness of the rent and the provisions of the HUD prescribed lease addendum apply to enhanced vouchers. The Stratford Housing Authority will determine whether the proposed rent for the family's unit is reasonable.

The Stratford Housing Authority makes this determination by comparing the unit to other comparable unassisted units based on the current condition of the unit. If the Stratford Housing Authority determines the

owner's proposed new rent is not reasonable, the owner must either lower the rent, or the family will have to find another unit in order to benefit from the voucher.

The special payment standard for enhanced tenant-based assistance for a family that stays in the unit sometimes results in the Stratford Housing Authority approving a tenancy for a unit that otherwise would be ineligible or unaffordable to a family with regular tenant-based assistance. If the rent is reasonable in comparison to the rents of comparable unassisted units, there is nothing improper or incorrect in approving the owner's new rent even if the rent would not normally be affordable for a family with a regular housing choice voucher. The Stratford Housing Authority will document the rent reasonableness of the owner's rent in the family's file by including the rents and addresses of the comparable units used to make the determination.

3. Effect of Family Unit Size Limitation - Initial Issuance

The Stratford Housing Authority will issue the family an enhanced voucher based on its Subsidy Standards, not on the actual size of the unit the family is currently occupying. However, if the family wishes to stay in the property, but is living in an oversized unit, the enhanced voucher family must move to an appropriate size unit in the property if one is available. To the extent there are more over-housed families than appropriate size units available at any time, the Stratford Housing Authority will determine based on family circumstances (age, frailty, etc.) which families will be required to move.

If an over-housed enhanced voucher family refuses to move to the appropriate size unit, the Stratford Housing Authority will calculate the family’s housing assistance payment for the oversized unit based on the normally applicable voucher subsidy formula using the applicable payment standard established by the agency for its voucher program. The family will be responsible for any amount of the gross rent not covered by the housing assistance payment.

If there is no appropriate size unit currently available for the family in the project, the Stratford Housing Authority will execute a voucher HAP contract on behalf of the family for the oversized unit, provided the rent is reasonable and the unit complies with all other voucher program requirements such as the housing quality standards. The enhanced voucher housing subsidy calculation will be based on the gross rent for the oversized unit. The subsidy calculation will continue to be based on the

gross rent (including subsequent rent increases) for the oversized unit[2] until an appropriate size unit in the project becomes available for occupancy by the family.

The owner must immediately inform the PHA and the family when an appropriate size unit will become available in the project. When an appropriate size unit becomes available, the enhanced voucher family residing in the oversized unit must move to the appropriate size unit in a reasonable time (as determined by the Stratford Housing Authority) to continue to receive enhanced voucher assistance. The family and owner will enter into a new lease and the housing authority will execute a new voucher HAP contract with the owner for the appropriate size unit. The enhanced voucher subsidy calculation is based on the gross rent for the appropriate size unit.

If an over-housed enhanced voucher family refuses to move to the appropriate size unit, the Stratford Housing Authority will recalculate the family's housing assistance payment for the oversized unit based on the normally applicable voucher subsidy formula using the applicable payment standard established by the Stratford Housing Authority for its voucher program. The family will be responsible for any amount of the gross rent not covered by the housing assistance payment.
The effective date of the housing assistance payment contract for the oversized unit will not be earlier than the expiration date of the term of the family voucher. The family will be responsible for the full rent of the unit prior to the effective date of the housing assistance payment contract.

The payment standard is the gross rent of the oversized unit.

If the Stratford Housing Authority determines that the unit of an enhanced voucher family is no longer decent, safe, and sanitary under the HQS requirements because an increase or decrease in family size causes the unit to be overcrowded or over-housed, the family must move to an appropriate size unit in the property when it is or becomes available. The Stratford Housing Authority is required to assist the family in locating other standard housing in the Stratford Housing Authority jurisdiction. The family and the Stratford Housing Authority will try to find an acceptable unit as soon as possible. If the family rejects, without good cause, the offer of a unit that the Stratford Housing Authority judges to be acceptable, the Stratford Housing Authority will terminate the HAP contract.

[2] This is assuming the unit remains under the voucher HAP contract and all program requirements (such as rent reasonableness) continue to be met.

If the family moves to an appropriate size unit in the property, the enhanced voucher subsidy rules would continue to apply to the family's voucher assistance. In the case of a family move from the property, the regular housing choice voucher program rules apply.

4. Family Move: Normal Payment Standard is Applicable

The Stratford Housing Authority's normal payment standard is utilized to determine the family's maximum voucher subsidy when the family moves from the property. This includes cases where the proposed new rent for the family's current unit if it is not reasonable or the unit fails HQS, requiring the family to move in order to continue receiving tenant-based assistance.

5. Enhanced Voucher Minimum Rent Requirement for Stayers

Families assisted with enhanced housing choice voucher assistance have a special statutory minimum rent requirement. The law requires that a family receiving enhanced voucher assistance must pay for rent no less than the rent the family was paying on the date of the eligibility event (the effective date of the prepayment of the mortgage or voluntary termination of the mortgage insurance) regardless of what happens to the family's income.

The enhanced voucher minimum rent <u>only</u> applies if the family remains in the property. The enhanced voucher minimum rent does not apply if the family moves from the property.

The method for calculating the minimum rent changes if the family's income subsequently decreases to a significant extent (15% or more) from the family's gross income on the effective date of the prepayment. Guidance on recalculating the minimum rent in cases when a family's income significantly decreases is discussed in detail in number 6. below

i. Previously Unassisted Residents Rent Requirement

Previously unassisted residents must pay at least the dollar amount of the <u>gross rent</u> (enhanced voucher minimum rent) the family was paying on the date of prepayment or voluntary termination. The Stratford Housing Authority's utility allowance is used to calculate the gross rent at prepayment if all utilities were not included in the rent the family paid to the owner.

A family who stays in the unit and receives enhanced voucher assistance must pay the enhanced voucher minimum rent. If the enhanced voucher minimum rent exceeds 40 percent of the family's monthly-adjusted income, a family must still pay at least

the enhanced voucher minimum rent, and the restriction on the normal initial family contribution is not applicable.

ii. Previously assisted Section 8 Tenant-based Families Rent Requirement

Residents assisted with Section 8 tenant-based vouchers at the time of the prepayment or voluntary termination the family will pay at least the family share (enhanced voucher minimum rent) that they were paying on eligibility event. The enhanced minimum rent provision only applies if the family chooses to remain in its present unit and receive the "enhanced" subsidy.

A family who stays in the unit and receives enhanced voucher assistance must pay the enhanced voucher minimum rent. If the enhanced voucher minimum rent exceeds 40 percent of the family's monthly-adjusted income, a family must still pay at least the enhanced voucher minimum rent, and the restriction on the normal initial family contribution is not applicable.

6. Significant Decline in Family Income - Effect on Enhanced Voucher Minimum Rent

If an enhanced voucher family suffers a significant decline in family income, the minimum family share required of the family shall be reduced below the enhanced minimum rent provision so that the percentage of income for rent does not exceed the greater of 30 percent or the percentage of monthly adjusted income actually paid by the family for rent (the rent to owner, plus tenant-paid utilities) on the effective date of the prepayment. A significant decline is defined as gross family income of at least 15 percent from the gross family income on the date of the eligibility event.

If the family suffers a significant decline in family income, the Stratford Housing Authority will change the enhanced voucher minimum rent from an actual dollar amount to a specific percentage of income.

i. Previously Unassisted Families

For eligible families who were previously unassisted on the eligibility event, the family's new enhanced voucher minimum rent is the greater of:

a. the percentage of the monthly adjusted income the family paid for gross rent on the effective date of the eligibility event; or

b. 30 percent of the family's current adjusted monthly income.

ii. Previously assisted Section 8 Tenant-based Families

For families who were previously assisted under a project-based or tenant-based contract on the day the eligibility event, the family's new enhanced voucher minimum rent is the greater of:

a. the percentage of the monthly adjusted income the family paid for gross rent;

b. the Total Tenant Payment;

c. the family share represented on the effective date of the eligibility event; or

d. 30 percent of the family's current adjusted monthly income.

The new enhanced voucher minimum rent for these families is a percentage of income as opposed to a specific dollar amount. Once this change in the enhanced voucher minimum rent becomes effective for a family, the enhanced voucher minimum rent for the family remains that specific percentage of income and will not revert to a specific dollar amount, even if the family income subsequently increases or decreases.

When a family reports a significant decrease in family income, the Stratford Housing Authority will conduct an interim reexamination and verify the changes in income.

The minimum rent represents the lowest amount the family may pay as their family share for as long as the family remains in the property. A family may pay no less than the enhanced voucher minimum rent. Depending on the circumstances, the family may have to pay more than the enhanced voucher minimum rent at the time of eligibility event.

7. Calculating the HAP for Enhanced Voucher Assistance

Regardless of whether the owner's new gross rent after the eligibility event exceeds or is less than the Stratford Housing Authority's payment standard, the housing assistance payment for a family that stays in their present unit (or moves from an oversized unit to an appropriate size unit within the property) is the following:

The gross rent for the unit minus the greatest of:

i. 30 percent of the adjusted family income;

ii. 10 percent of the family monthly income (gross monthly income);

iii. the welfare rent in as-paid states;

iv. the enhanced voucher minimum rent; or

v. the Stratford Housing Authority's minimum rent.

8. Movers from the Property

If a resident decides to move from the property with the voucher assistance, the payment standard is not enhanced and the voucher minimum rent does not apply. This applies both to families who decide to move when the eligibility event takes place and to families whom have resided at the property after the eligibility event and want to move with continued assistance. In either circumstance, the housing assistance payment and the family share at the new unit are calculated in accordance with the regular rules of the housing choice voucher program.

G. Administering Enhanced Voucher Assistance

The special conditions of enhanced voucher assistance (enhanced voucher minimum rent and the special payment standard rules) are applicable for as long as the family receives voucher assistance in the property.

If an owner subsequently raises the rent for an enhanced voucher family in accordance with the lease, State and local law, and voucher program regulations (including rent reasonableness), the Stratford Housing Authority will utilize the new gross rent to calculate the voucher HAP payment for the family.

The Stratford Housing Authority shall identify an eligible family as an enhanced voucher family even if the gross rent of the family's unit does not currently exceed the normally applicable Stratford Housing Authority payment standard. Since the enhanced payment standard rule also covers any subsequent rent increases, it is possible that the special payment standard may come into play later in the family's tenancy. An enhanced voucher family is also required by law to pay no less than the enhanced voucher minimum rent, regardless of whether the gross rent exceeds the normally applicable Stratford Housing Authority payment standards.

1. Enhanced Voucher Minimum Rent

   The enhanced voucher minimum rent requirement remains in effect for all families who receive enhanced voucher assistance and remain at the property for as long as they remain in the property.

2. The payment standard used to calculate the family subsidy will continue to be enhanced to match the gross rent for the unit if the gross rent exceeds the normally applicable payment standard and the Stratford Housing Authority determines the rent is reasonable for as long as the enhanced voucher family continues to reside in the same property.

   If the owner raises the rent for a family assisted with an enhanced voucher in accordance with the lease, State and local law, and voucher program regulations, the Stratford Housing Authority will increase the enhanced payment standard to equal the new gross rent (rent to owner and the applicable Stratford Housing Authority utility allowance for any tenant-supplied utilities) for the unit provided the Stratford Housing Authority determines the rent is reasonable. The additional cost of the subsidy will be covered through the regular renewal process for the Stratford Housing Authority's voucher program.

   If a change in the Stratford Housing Authority's utility allowance (either an increase or decrease) affects the gross rent for a family assisted with an enhanced voucher, the Stratford Housing Authority will adjust the enhanced payment standard accordingly. The enhanced payment standard may never exceed the gross rent for the assisted family's unit.

27.3 OWNER OPT-OUTS

If an owner opts-out or elects not to renew an expiring contract for project-based assistance, HUD will make enhanced voucher authority available to the Stratford Housing Authority for eligible families covered by the expiring contract.

A. Covered Opt-outs

The property must be covered in whole or in part by a contract for project-based assistance, and consist of more than four dwelling units under one of the following programs:

1. the new construction or substantial rehabilitation program under Section 8(b)(2) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (as in effect before October 1, 1983);

2. the property disposition program under Section 8(b) of the United States Housing Act of 1937;

3. the loan management assistance program under Section 8(b) of the United States Housing Act of 1937;

4. the rent supplement program under Section 101 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1965, provided that at the same time there is also a Section 8 project-based contract at the same property that is expiring or terminating and will not be renewed;

5. Section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937, following conversion from assistance under Section 101 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1965; or

6. the moderate rehabilitation program under Section 8(e)(2) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (as in effect before October 1, 1991).

Note that an owner may not choose to opt-out of a rent supplement contract. Instead, the rent supplement assistance ends either at the end of the term of the contract (generally 40 years after the first rent supplement payment was made) or when the mortgage terminates, depending on which even occurs first.

In addition, although families affected by Section 8 moderate rehabilitation opt-outs are eligible for enhanced vouchers that are subject to enhanced vouchers rules, these opt-outs are not considered a housing conversion action because the expiring contract is between the owner and the Stratford Housing Authority. The Housing Authority is not eligible to receive the special fee for extraordinary administrative costs and the specific funding process instructions do not apply to an owner decision to not renew an expiring Section 8 moderate rehabilitation contract.

B. Family Eligibility for Enhanced Vouchers as a Result of an Owner Opt-out

In order to be eligible for enhanced voucher assistance, the resident must be:

1. a low-income family (including a very low or extremely low income family); and

2. residing in a unit covered by the expiring Section 8 project-based contract on the date of expiration.

In the case of the expiration of a covered Section 8 contract under 515(c) of MAHRA only (mark-to-market restructuring where the Section 8 project-based assistance contract is converted to tenant-based assistance), all families assisted under the expiring contract are considered income-eligible for enhanced voucher assistance.

C. Special Income Eligibility Rules for Opt-out Families in Properties Where a Preservation Prepayment Preceded the Owner Opt-out

If the owner opt-out of the Section 8 project-based contract occurs after the owner has prepaid the mortgage or voluntarily terminated the mortgage insurance of a preservation eligible property, families who do not meet the definition of a low-income family may still be eligible to receive an enhanced voucher. In order to be eligible, the family must:

1. reside in a unit covered by the expiring contract on the date of expiration;

2. have also resided in the property on the effective date of the prepayment; and

3. meet the income requirements for enhanced voucher eligibility for residents affected by a preservation prepayment described below.

To determine family eligibility in this circumstance, the Stratford Housing Authority will first determine income eligibility of the family based on the normal eligibility rules for opt-outs. For a family that is found <u>not</u> to be low-income, the Stratford Housing Authority will then make a determination of whether the family lived in the property on the date of the prepayment. If the family resided in the property on the date of prepayment, the Stratford Housing Authority will then determine if the family is income-eligible under the preservation prepayment rules.

1. Income Requirements for Enhanced Voucher Eligibility for Residents Affected by a Preservation Prepayment

In order to be eligible for enhanced voucher assistance, the resident must be either:

i. a low-income family (including a very low or extremely low income family);

ii. a moderate-income elderly or disabled family; or

iii. a moderate-income family residing in a low vacancy area (3 percent or less vacancy rate). (The HUD local office economist is responsible for determining whether the property where the owner is prepaying or voluntarily terminating the mortgage insurance is located in a low vacancy area).

A low-income family is a family whose annual income does not exceed 80 percent of the median income for the area as determined by HUD.

A moderate-income family is a family whose annual income is above 80 percent but does not exceed 95 percent of the area median income as determined by HUD.

If the family meets the preservation income requirement, the Stratford Housing Authority will issue the family an enhanced voucher by virtue of the preservation prepayment out of the opt-out voucher allocation received from HUD.

A resident family who does not fall into one of those categories on the effective date of the prepayment or voluntary termination is not eligible for an enhanced voucher, regardless of whether the family's situation subsequently changes after the effective date of the prepayment.

D. Family Eligibility for Enhanced Voucher Assistance in Cases Where There Would be no Initial Housing Assistance Payment and the Family Wishes to Stay in the Property

If the Stratford Housing Authority determines that the family is income-eligible for an enhanced voucher but that there is no HAP payment because the family's total tenant payment equals or is greater than the gross rent, the Stratford Housing Authority will maintain a record of eligibility determination for that family. The Stratford Housing Authority will inform the family that should the family's income decrease or the family's rent increase within three years of the eligibility event, the family may contact the Stratford Housing Authority. Should the Stratford Housing Authority then determine that the change in income would result in a housing assistance payment, the Stratford Housing Authority will

execute a housing assistance payment contract on behalf of the family at such time (assuming the unit is approved for leasing in accordance with the housing choice voucher program requirements). It is the family's responsibility to contact the Stratford Housing Authority when there is a decrease in family income or an increase in the family rent.

E. Enhanced Voucher Family Right to Remain

The FY 2001 Military Construction and FY 2000 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations laws amended Section 8(t) of the United States Housing Act. A family that receives an enhanced voucher has the right to remain in the property as long as the units are used for rental housing and are otherwise eligible for housing choice voucher assistance (e.g., the rent is reasonable, unit meet HQS, etc.) The owner may not terminate the tenancy of a family that exercises its right to remain except for a serious or repeated lease violation or other good cause. If an owner refuses to honor the family's right to remain, the family may exercise any judicial remedy that is available under State and/or local law.

F. Characteristics of Enhanced Voucher Assistance

1. Payment Standard Where the Family Chooses to Stay in the Same Property

For a family that stays in the property, the payment standard used to calculate the voucher housing assistance payment is the gross rent (rent to owner, plus the applicable Stratford Housing Authority utility allowance for any tenant-supplied utilities) of the family's unit (provided the proposed gross rent is reasonable), regardless of whether the gross rent exceeds the Stratford Housing Authority normal payment standard.

2. Rent Reasonableness Documentation and Lease Requirements

All regular housing choice voucher program requirements concerning the reasonableness of the rent and the provisions of the HUD prescribed lease addendum apply to enhanced vouchers. The Stratford Housing Authority will determine whether the proposed rent for the family's unit is reasonable.

The Stratford Housing Authority makes this determination by comparing the unit to other comparable unassisted units based on the current condition of the unit. If the Stratford Housing Authority determines the owner's proposed new rent is not reasonable, the owner must either lower the rent, or the family will have to find another unit in order to benefit from the voucher.

The special payment standard for enhanced tenant-based assistance for a family that stays in the unit sometimes results in the Stratford Housing Authority approving a tenancy for a unit that otherwise would be ineligible or unaffordable to a family with regular tenant-based assistance. If the rent is reasonable in comparison to the rents of comparable unassisted units, there is nothing improper or incorrect in approving the owner's new rent even if the rent would not normally be affordable for a family with a regular housing choice voucher. The Stratford Housing Authority will document the rent reasonableness of the owner's rent in the family's file by including the rents and addresses of the comparable units used to make the determination.

3. Effect of Family Unit Size Limitation - Initial Issuance

The Stratford Housing Authority will issue the family an enhanced voucher based on its Subsidy Standards, not on the actual size of the unit the family is currently occupying. However, if the family wishes to stay in the property, but is living in an oversized unit, the enhanced voucher family must move to an appropriate size unit in the property if one is available. To the extent there are more over-housed families than appropriate size units available at any time, the Stratford Housing Authority will determine based on family circumstances (age, frailty, etc.) which families will be required to move.

If there is no appropriate size unit currently available in the property, a family must make a good faith attempt to find a unit outside the property. In order to determine if the family has made a good faith effort, the Stratford Housing Authority will require the family to submit a list of potential units by address, the landlords name and telephone number.

If the family has not located an eligible unit at the end of the term of the voucher (including any extension granted by the Stratford Housing Authority) despite making a good faith effort, the Stratford Housing Authority will execute a housing assistance payment contract for the family's current unit, provided the unit complies with housing quality standards and the proposed rent is determined to be reasonable.

The effective date of the housing assistance payment contract for the oversized unit will not be earlier than the expiration date of the term of the family voucher. The family will be responsible for the full rent of the unit prior to the effective date of the housing assistance payment contract.

The payment standard is the gross rent of the oversized unit. The Stratford Housing Authority will advise the family in writing that the enhanced subsidy based on the oversized unit's rent will only be paid for one year. During that year, the family may move to an appropriate size unit in the property if one becomes available and the owner agrees to mutually terminate the lease agreement for the oversized unit. The family would receive the special payment standard for the appropriate size unit if the family moves to the appropriate size unit under this circumstance.

After the initial year of assistance in the oversized unit, the Stratford Housing Authority will apply the normal payment standard in determining the family's housing assistance payment. If the family wishes to remain in the unit and do so under regular housing choice voucher program rules, the family will have to pay the additional cost for the oversized unit out-of-pocket.

If the Stratford Housing Authority determines that the unit of an enhanced voucher family is no longer decent, safe, and sanitary under the HQS requirements because of an increase in family size that causes the unit to be overcrowded, the family must move to an appropriate size unit in the property or move to another unit not located at the property to continue to receive housing choice voucher assistance. The Stratford Housing Authority is required to assist the family in locating other standard housing in the Stratford Housing Authority jurisdiction. The family and the Stratford Housing Authority will try to find an acceptable unit as soon as possible. If the family rejects, without good cause, the offer of a unit that the Stratford Housing Authority judges to be acceptable, the Stratford Housing Authority will terminate the HAP contract.

If the family moves to an appropriate size unit in the property, the enhanced voucher subsidy rules would continue to apply to the family's voucher assistance. In the case of a family move from the property, the regular housing choice voucher program rules apply.

4. Family Move: Normal Payment Standard is Applicable

The Stratford Housing Authority's normal payment standard is utilized to determine the family's maximum voucher subsidy when the family moves from the property. This includes cases where the proposed new rent for the family's current unit is not reasonable or the unit fails HQS, requiring the family to move in order to continue receiving tenant-based assistance.

5. Enhanced Voucher Minimum Rent Requirement for Stayers

Families assisted with enhanced housing choice voucher assistance have a special statutory minimum rent requirement. The law requires that a family receiving enhanced voucher assistance must pay for rent no less than the rent the family was paying on the date of the eligibility event (the effective date of the prepayment of the mortgage or voluntary termination of the mortgage insurance).

The enhanced voucher minimum rent only applies if the family remains in the property. The enhanced voucher minimum rent does not apply if the family moves from the property.

A family who stays in the unit and receives enhanced voucher assistance must pay the enhanced voucher minimum rent. If the enhanced voucher minimum rent exceeds 40 percent of the family's monthly-adjusted income, a family must still pay at least the enhanced voucher minimum rent, and the restriction on the initial family contribution is not applicable.

i. Previously Unassisted Residents Rent Requirement

Previously unassisted residents must pay at least the dollar amount of the gross rent (enhanced voucher minimum rent) the family was paying on the date of prepayment or voluntary termination. The Stratford Housing Authority's utility allowance is used to calculate the gross rent at prepayment if all utilities were not included in the rent the family paid to the owner.

A family who stays in the unit and receives enhanced voucher assistance must pay the enhanced voucher minimum rent. If the enhanced voucher minimum rent exceeds 40 percent of the family's monthly-adjusted income, a family must still pay at least the enhanced voucher minimum rent, and the restriction on the initial family contribution is not applicable.

ii. Previously assisted Section 8 Tenant-based Families Rent Requirement

Residents assisted with Section 8 tenant-based vouchers at the time of the prepayment or voluntary termination the family will pay at least the family share (enhanced voucher minimum rent) that they were paying on eligibility event. The enhanced minimum rent provision only applies if the family chooses to remain in its present unit and receive the "enhanced" subsidy.

A family who stays in the unit and receives enhanced voucher assistance must pay the enhanced voucher minimum rent. If the enhanced voucher minimum rent exceeds 40 percent of the family's monthly-adjusted income, a family must still pay at least the enhanced voucher minimum rent, and the restriction on the initial family contribution is not applicable.

6. Significant Decline in Family Income - Effect on Enhance Voucher Minimum Rent

If an enhanced voucher family suffers a significant decline in family income, the minimum family share required of the family shall be reduced so that the percentage of income for rent does not exceed the greater of 30 percent or the percentage of monthly adjusted income actually paid by the family for rent (the rent to owner, plus tenant-paid utilities) on the effective date of the prepayment. A significant decline is defined as gross family income of at least 15 percent from the gross family income on the date of the eligibility event.

If the family suffers a significant decline in family income, the Stratford Housing Authority will change the enhanced voucher minimum rent from an actual dollar amount to a specific percentage of income.

i. Previously Unassisted Families

For families who were previously unassisted on the eligibility event, the family's new enhanced voucher minimum rent is the greater of:

a. the percentage of the monthly adjusted income the family paid for gross rent on the effective date of the eligibility event; or

b. 30 percent of the family's current adjusted monthly income.

ii. Previously assisted Section 8 Tenant-based Families

For families who were previously assisted under the Section 8 tenant-based voucher program on the eligibility event, the family's new enhanced voucher minimum rent is the greater of:

a. the percentage of the monthly adjusted income the family paid for gross rent;

b. the Total Tenant Payment;

c. the family share represented on the effective date of the eligibility event; or

d. 30 percent of the family's current adjusted monthly income.

The new enhanced voucher minimum rent for these families is a percentage of income as opposed to a specific dollar amount. Once this change in the enhanced voucher minimum rent becomes effective for a family, the enhanced voucher minimum rent for the family remains that specific percentage of income and will not revert to a specific dollar amount, even if the family income subsequently increases or decreases.

When a family reports a significant decrease in family income, the Stratford Housing Authority will conduct an interim reexamination and verify the changes in income.

The minimum rent represents the lowest amount the family may pay as their family share for as long as the family remains in the property. A family may pay no less than the enhanced voucher minimum rent. Depending on the circumstances, the family may have to pay more than the enhanced voucher minimum rent at the time of eligibility event.

7. Calculating HAP for Enhanced Voucher Assistance

Regardless of whether the owner's new gross rent after the eligibility event exceeds or is less than the Stratford Housing Authority's payment standard, the housing assistance payment for a family that stays in their present unit (or moves from an oversized unit to an appropriate size unit within the property) is the following:

The gross rent for the unit minus the greatest of:

i. 30 percent of the adjusted family income;

ii. 10 percent of the family monthly income (gross monthly income);

iii. the welfare rent in as-paid states;

iv. the enhanced voucher minimum rent; or

v. the Stratford Housing Authority's minimum rent.

8. Movers from the Property

If a resident decides to move from the property with the voucher assistance, the payment standard is not enhanced and the voucher minimum rent does not apply. This pertains to families who decide to move when the eligibility event takes place, and to families whom have resided at the property after the eligibility event and want to move with continued assistance. In either circumstance, the housing assistance payment and the family share at the new unit are calculated in accordance with the regular rules of the housing choice voucher program.

G. Administering Enhanced Voucher Assistance

The special conditions of enhanced voucher assistance (enhanced voucher minimum rent and the special payment standard rules) are applicable for as long as the family receives voucher assistance in the property.

If an owner subsequently raises the rent for an enhanced voucher family in accordance with the lease, State and local law, and voucher program regulations (including rent reasonableness), the Stratford Housing Authority will utilize the new gross rent to calculate the voucher HAP payment for the family.

The Stratford Housing Authority will identify an eligible family as an enhanced voucher family even if the gross rent of the family's unit does not currently exceed the normally applicable Stratford Housing Authority payment standard. Since the enhanced payment standard rule also covers any subsequent rent increases, it is possible that the special payment standard may come into play later in the family's tenancy. An enhanced voucher family is also required by law to pay no less than the enhanced voucher minimum rent, regardless of whether the gross rent exceeds the normally applicable Stratford Housing Authority payment standards.

1. Enhanced Voucher Minimum Rent

The enhanced voucher minimum rent requirement remains in effect for all families who receive enhanced voucher assistance and remain at the property.

2. The payment standard used to calculate the family subsidy will continue to be enhanced to match the gross rent for the unit if the gross rent exceeds the normally applicable payment standard and the Stratford Housing Authority determines the rent is reasonable for as long as the enhanced voucher family continues to reside in the same property.

   If the owner raises the rent for a family assisted with an enhanced voucher in accordance with the lease, State and local law, and voucher program regulations, the Stratford Housing Authority will increase the enhanced payment standard to equal the new gross rent (rent to owner and the applicable Stratford Housing Authority utility allowance for any tenant-supplied utilities) for the unit provided the Stratford Housing Authority determines the rent is reasonable. The additional cost of the subsidy will be covered through the regular renewal process for the Stratford Housing Authority's voucher program.

   If a change in the Stratford Housing Authority's utility allowance (either an increase or decrease) affects the gross rent for a family assisted with an enhanced voucher, the Stratford Housing Authority will adjust the enhanced payment standard accordingly. The enhanced payment standard may never exceed the gross rent for the assisted family's unit.

27.4 HUD ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

HUD Enforcement actions can take the form of either terminating a Section 8 project-based HAP contract or not offering the owner the option to renew an expiring Section 8 project-based HAP contract due to an owner's failure to comply with the terms of the HAP contract. It includes suspensions and debarments.

Additionally, HUD enforcement actions may also result from material adverse financial or managerial actions or omissions that lead to either an owner default under a FHA-insured mortgage (monetary or technical) or a documented material violation of one or more of the obligations under the property's Regulatory Agreement.

Eligible families are usually assisted with regular vouchers that HUD issues to the Stratford Housing Authority in the above circumstances because families must move to receive housing choice voucher assistance.

The Stratford Housing Authority will not approve an assisted tenancy at the property if the Stratford Housing Authority has been informed by HUD that the owner is debarred, suspended, or subject to a limited denial of participation.

Furthermore, the Stratford Housing Authority may disapprove owner participation in the housing choice voucher program for a number of other grounds described in the housing

choice voucher program regulations and previously set forth in this Administrative Plan. HUD encourages the Stratford Housing Authority to disapprove a tenancy for any of these grounds in a case where vouchers are provided because HUD is taking an enforcement action against an owner.

In a few situations, families assisted under a Section 8 project-based HAP contract that is being terminated may be able to remain at the property. For instance, if the property is in good physical condition and the owner decides to turn the property over to new ownership, it may be possible for the eligible families assisted under the terminating contract to receive housing choice voucher assistance at the property. In such a case, the project-based families would qualify for enhanced vouchers. (HUD will make the determination whether enhanced or regular voucher assistance is appropriate).

27.5 HUD PROPERTY DISPOSITION

When HUD is selling the property at a foreclosure sale, or is the mortgagee-in-possession or owner of the multifamily property due to an owner default of an FHA-insured mortgage and closing down the property or selling property to a new owner it will supply regular housing choice vouchers to assist eligible low-income families.

28.0 COST SAVING POSSIBILITES

Unfortunately, in recent years the management of the Housing Choice Voucher Program has become more difficult for the Stratford Housing Authority and all other housing authorities managing the program. As Congress and HUD change the way they fund the program, more and more challenges face the Stratford Housing Authority.

There are no simple solutions to the challenges the Stratford Housing Authority faces and the actions we must take will vary depending on circumstances that are often beyond our control. Therefore, the Stratford Housing Authority hereby establishes in its Administrative Plan the following options that will be considered by the Board of Commissioners depending on the particular circumstances of the time. They are not listed in any particular order.

None of these options will be implemented without Board of Commissioner approval and the opportunity for affected participants to address the Board of Commissioners. Any actions taken under this section of the Administrative Plan will sunset if and when the procuring reason for the action is no longer in effect. Rescissions will also require Board of Commissioner approval.

There shall be one basic principle that will guide the Stratford Housing Authority in implementing any or all of these options – what must the Stratford Housing Authority do to assist the maximum number of eligible people in a quality Housing Choice Voucher

Program while maintaining the fiscal integrity of the program. The Stratford Housing Authority shall endeavor to protect elderly and disabled families from significant impact (defined as loss of one's Housing Choice Voucher) but recognizes that what is feasible is dependent on the amount of funding provided to the program.

The options are as follows:

A. The Housing Choice Voucher Payment Standards may be reviewed in light of the funding situation. If payment standards are reduced, the lower payment standard shall go into effect immediately for new admissions, participants moving from one unit to another, and people staying in place who require a new HAP contract because they are signing a new lease. In extraordinary circumstances, the Stratford Housing Authority may be forced to ask HUD for a waiver so that even those participants staying in place without a new lease shall have their payment standard decreased immediately instead of the normal second regular reexamination after the lowering of the payment standard.

B. Housing Choice Voucher Payment Standards must be established according to HUD regulation so that no more than 40% of the participants are paying more than 30% of their monthly adjusted income for rent. If circumstances dictate it, the Stratford Housing Authority may be forced to ask for a waiver of this prohibition in order to sufficiently lower its payment standard.

C. The utility allowance schedule may be reviewed to determine if the utility allowances are too high. If they are too high that means that the participants are being subsidized in an excess manner. The new utility allowance schedule may be placed into effect after a thirty day notice or at a participant's next reexamination depending on the financial circumstances the Stratford Housing Authority finds itself in.

D. As stated in Section 11.6, utility allowances are supposed to be adjusted annually or sooner if there is a utility rate increase of 10% or more. If circumstances warrant, the Stratford Housing Authority reserves the right to seek a HUD waiver of this regulatory requirement.

E. If financial circumstances dictate, the Stratford Housing Authority may deny portability moves to a higher cost area for its Housing Choice Voucher participants and/or shoppers if the Stratford Housing Authority has insufficient funds to pay the higher subsidy amounts and the receiving housing authority declines to absorb the family. While the Board of Commissioners must establish this policy after an examination of the fiscal affairs of the organization, individual denials of portability shall only occur after the Stratford Housing Authority has determined that the receiving housing authority will not absorb the family. The denial of absorption shall be documented in that person's file.

F. If financial circumstances dictate, the Stratford Housing Authority may deny the right of a participant to move within the jurisdiction of the Stratford Housing Authority to a portion of the jurisdiction that has a higher payment standard than the portion of the jurisdiction the participant currently lives in if the Stratford Housing Authority has insufficient funds to pay the higher subsidy amounts.

G. In order to ensure that rent reasonableness requirements are being complied with, the Stratford Housing Authority may engage in special rent reasonableness reexaminations. This may be performed on all of the units in the program, a sample of the units in the program, or specifically targeted units that the Stratford Housing Authority believes may not be meeting the required rent reasonableness test. If a unit fails the rent reasonable test, the owner must reduce the rent to the reasonable amount after receiving appropriate notice or the HAP contract must be terminated. If the HAP contract is terminated for this reason, the family will be issued a new voucher to find a new abode.

H. Housing Choice Vouchers issued to families on the waiting list that have not resulted in HAP contracts may be cancelled.

I. The Stratford Housing Authority may be forced to not reissue vouchers surrendered by current participants immediately upon their return to the Housing Authority. Instead, the vouchers may be held in the Authority's inventory in order to avoid dire financial consequences. The amount of time they will be held shall be determined based upon the financial situation of the Housing Authority.

J. The subsidy standards set forth in Section 6.0 may be reexamined. The size of the unit the Housing Choice Voucher is issued for may need to be reduced.

K. A program wide study may be conducted to ensure that families are utilizing the proper size Housing Choice Voucher for their current family size.

L. If the minimum rent is increased under Section 11.5 (B), it can be made the first of the month following the month families are notified of the increase (provided there has been at least a 30-day notice) instead of at the next reexamination.

M. The requirement of when families have to report changes of income as set forth in Section 14.2 may be modified due to the financial pressure facing the Stratford Housing Authority. Also, the new rent payment may become effective at the start of the next month provided there has been a thirty day notice.

N. Owners participating in the Housing Choice Voucher Program may be asked to voluntarily reduce the rents they are charging participants in order to assist in the financial solvency of the program. This must be a truly voluntary program.

O. The absolute last step the Stratford Housing Authority will take to resolve its Housing Choice Voucher financial problems will be to terminate the vouchers of families already receiving assistance. If this becomes necessary, the following sequence shall be used to determine which individual Housing Choice Vouchers are terminated first.

1. A lottery for families.

2. A lottery for elderly or disabled households.

If it becomes necessary for the Stratford Housing Authority to terminate Housing Choice Vouchers, the families terminated shall be reinstated onto the program as soon as fiscally and practically feasible. The following readmission sequence shall be utilized.

1. The first participants off the program will be the first participants brought back on the program.

GLOSSARY

1937 Housing Act: The United States Housing Act of 1937 [42 U.S.C. 1437 et seq.]

Absorption: In portability, the point at which a receiving housing authority stops billing the initial housing authority for assistance on behalf of a portable family. [24 CFR 982.4]

Adjusted Annual Income: The amount of household income, after deductions for specified allowances, on which a participant's rent is based.

Administrative fee: Fee paid by HUD to the housing authority for the administration of the program.

Administrative Plan: The plan that describes housing authority policies for the administration of the tenant-based programs.

Admission: The point when the family becomes a participant in the program. In a tenant-based program, the date used for this purpose is the effective date of the first HAP Contract for a family (first day of initial lease term).

Adult: A household member who is 18 years or older or who is the head of the household, or spouse, or co-head. An emancipated minor is also considered an adult. An adult must have the legal capacity to enter a lease under State and local law. In the anti-drug portions of this policy, it also refers to a minor who has been convicted of a crime as an adult under any Federal, State or tribal law.

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

Amortization Payment: In a manufactured home space rental: The monthly debt service payment by the family to amortize the purchase price of the manufactured home. If furniture was included in the purchase price, the debt service must be reduced by 15% to exclude the cost of the furniture. The amortization cost is the initial financing, not refinancing. Set-up charges may be included in the monthly amortization payment.

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

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

a. Go to (or on behalf of) the family head or spouse (even if temporarily absent) or to any other family member, or

b. Are anticipated to be received from a source outside the family during the 12-month period following admission or annual reexamination effective date; and

c. Are not specifically excluded from Annual Income.

d. Annual Income also includes amounts derived (during the 12-month period) from assets to which any member of the family has access.

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

Assets:see net family assets.

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

Assisted lease (lease): A written agreement between an owner and a family for the leasing of a dwelling unit to the family. The lease establishes the conditions for occupancy of the dwelling unit by a family with housing assistance payments under a HAP contract between the owner and the housing authority.

Business Days: Days the housing authority is open for business.

Certificate: A document formerly issued by a housing authority to a family selected for admission to the Certificate Program. The certificate describes the program and the procedures for housing authority approval of a unit selected by the family. The certificate also states the obligations of the family under the program.

Certification: The examination of a household's income, expenses, and family composition to determine the household's eligibility for program participation and to calculate the household's rent for the following 12 months.

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

Child care expenses: Amounts anticipated to be paid by the family for the care of children under 13 years of age during the period for which annual income is computed, but only where such care is necessary to enable a family member to actively seek employment, be gainfully employed, or to further his or her education and only to the extent such amounts are not

reimbursed. The amount deducted shall reflect reasonable charges for child care. In the case of childcare necessary to permit employment, the amount deducted shall not exceed the amount of employment income that is included in annual income.

Citizen: A citizen or national of the United States.

Common space: In shared housing: Space available for use by the assisted family and other occupants of the unit.

Congregate housing: Housing for elderly or persons with disabilities that meets the HQS for congregate housing.

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

Contiguous MSA: In portability, an MSA that shares a common boundary with the MSA in which the jurisdiction of the initial housing authority is located.

Continuously assisted: An applicant is continuously assisted under the 1937 Housing Act if the family is already receiving assistance under any 1937 Housing Act program when the family is admitted to the Housing Choice Voucher Program or is temporarily residing in a shelter for a legitimate reason.

Cooperative: Housing owned by a corporation or association, and where a member of the corporation or association has the right to reside in a particular unit, and to participate in management of the housing.

Cooperative member: A family of which one or more members owns membership shares in a cooperative.

Covered Families: Families who receive welfare assistance or other public assistance benefits ("welfare benefits") from a State or other public agency ("welfare agency") under a program for which Federal, State, or local law requires that a member of the family must participate in an economic self-sufficiency program as a condition for such assistance.

Covered Person: For purposes of the anti-drug provisions of this policy, a covered person is a resident, any member of the resident's household, a guest or another person under the resident's control.

Currently engaging in: With respect to behavior such as illegal use of a drug, other drug-related criminal activity, or other criminal activity, currently engaging in means that the individual has engaged in the behavior recently enough to justify a reasonable belief that the individual's behavior is current.

Dating Violence: Violence committed by a person: (A) who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim; and (B) where the existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on a consideration of the following factors: (i) the length of the relationship; (ii) the type of relationship; and (iii) the frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.

Domestic Violence: Includes felony or misdemeanor crimes of violence committed by a current or former spouse of the victim, by a person with whom the victim share a child in common, by a person who is cohabitated with or has cohabited with the victim as a spouse, by a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction receiving grant monies, or by any other person against an adult or youth victim who is protected from that persons acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction.

Domicile: The legal residence of the household head or spouse as determined in accordance with State and local law.

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

Department: The Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Dependent: A member of the family (except foster children and foster adults) other than the family head or spouse, who is under 18 years of age, or is a person with a disability, or is a full-time student.

Disability assistance expenses: Reasonable expenses that are anticipated, during the period for which annual income is computed, for attendant care and auxiliary apparatus for a disabled family member and that are necessary to enable a family member (including the disabled member) to be employed, provided that the expenses are neither paid to a member of the family nor reimbursed by an outside source.

Disabled family: A family whose head, spouse, or sole member is a person with disabilities; or two or more persons with disabilities living together; or one or more persons with disabilities living with one or more live-in aides.

Disabled person: See "person with disabilities."

Displaced family: A family in which each member, or whose sole member, is a person displaced by governmental action (such as urban renewal), or a person whose dwelling has been

extensively damaged or destroyed as a result of a disaster declared or otherwise formally recognized pursuant to Federal disaster relief laws.

Displaced person: A person displaced by governmental action (such as urban renewal), or a person whose dwelling has been extensively damaged or destroyed as a result of a disaster declared or otherwise formally recognized pursuant to Federal disaster relief laws.

Drug: means a controlled substance as defined in section 102 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 802).

Drug-related criminal activity: The illegal manufacture, sale, distribution, or use of a drug, or the possession of a drug with intent to manufacture, sell, distribute or use the drug.

Drug trafficking: The illegal manufacture, sale, or distribution of, or the possession with intent to manufacture, sell, or distribute a controlled substance.

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

Elderly family: A family whose head, spouse, or sole member is a person who is at least 62 years of age; or two or more persons who are at least 62 years of age living together; or one or more persons who are at least 62 years of age living with one or more live-in aides.

Elderly person: A person who is at least 62 years of age.

Evidence of citizenship or eligible status: The documents that must be submitted to evidence citizenship or eligible immigration status.

Exception rent: An amount that exceeds the published fair market rent.

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

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

Fair market rent (FMR): The rent, including the cost of utilities (except telephone), as established by HUD for units of varying sizes (by number of bedrooms), that must be paid in the housing market area to rent privately-owned existing, decent, safe and sanitary rental housing of modest (non-luxury) nature with suitable amenities. FMRs are published periodically in the Federal Register.

Family includes but is not limited to**:**

a. A family with or without children (the temporary absence of a child from the home due to placement in foster care shall not be considered in determining family composition and family size);
b. An elderly family;
c. A near-elderly family;
d. A disabled family;
e. A displaced family;
f. The remaining member of a resident family; and
g. A single person who is not an elderly or displaced person, or a person with disabilities, or the remaining member of a resident family.

Family members: include all household members except live-in aides, foster children and foster adults. All family members permanently reside in the unit, though they may be temporarily absent. All family members are listed on the HUD-50058 form.

Family Rent to Owner: In the housing choice voucher program, the portion of rent to owner paid by the family.

Family self-sufficiency program (FSS program): The program established by a housing authority to promote self-sufficiency of assisted families, including the coordination of supportive services (42 U.S.C. 1437u).

Family share: The portion of rent and utilities paid by the family or the gross rent minus the amount of the housing assistance payment.

Family unit size: The appropriate number of bedrooms for a family as determined by the housing authority under the housing authority's subsidy standards.

First time homeowner: In the homeownership option, a family of which no member owned any present ownership interest in a residence of any family member during the three years before commencement of homeownership assistance for the family. The term ``first-time homeowner'' includes a single parent or displaced homemaker (as those terms are defined in 12 U.S.C. 12713) who, while married, owned a home with his or her spouse, or resided in a home owned by his or her spouse.

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

FMR/exception rent limit: The Section 8 existing housing fair market rent published by HUD headquarters, or any exception rent. For a tenancy in the Housing Choice Voucher Program, the housing authority may adopt a payment standard up to the FMR/exception rent limit.

Full-time employment: Employment that averages at least 30 hours per week. This can include self-employment as long as the employee earns at least the average of the federal minimum wage over a 30 hour period.

Full-time student: A person who is attending school or vocational training on a full-time basis as defined by the institution.

Gross rent: The sum of the rent to the owner plus any utilities.

Group Home: A dwelling unit that is licensed by a State as a group home for the exclusive residential use of two to twelve persons who are elderly or persons with disabilities (including any live-in aide).

Guest: Means a person temporarily staying in the unit with the consent of a resident or other member of the household who has express or implied authority to so consent on behalf of the resident.

Head of household: The adult member of the family who is the head of the household for purposes of determining income eligibility and rent.

Home: In the homeownership option: A dwelling unit for which the Stratford Housing Authority pays homeownership assistance.

Homeowner: In the homeownership option, a family of which one or more members owns title to the home.

Homeownership assistance: In the homeownership option, monthly homeownership assistance payments by the Stratford Housing Authority. Homeownership assistance payment may be paid to the family, or to a mortgage lender on behalf of the family.

Homeownership expenses: In the homeownership option, a family's allowable monthly expenses for the home, as determined by the Stratford Housing Authority in accordance with HUD requirements.

Homeownership option: Assistance for a homeowner or cooperative member under Sec. 982.625 to Sec. 982.641. A special housing type.

Household members: include all individuals who reside or will reside in the unit and who are listed on the lease, including live-in aides, foster children and foster adults.

Housing Assistance Payment (HAP): The monthly assistance by a housing authority, which includes (1) a payment to the owner for rent to the owner under the family's lease, and (2) an additional payment to the family if the total assistance payment exceeds the rent to owner.

Housing quality standards (HQS): The HUD minimum quality standards for housing assisted under the Section 8 program.

Housing voucher: A document issued by a housing authority to a family selected for admission to the Housing Choice Voucher Program. This document describes the program and the procedures for housing authority approval of a unit selected by the family. The housing choice voucher also states the obligations of the family under the program.

Housing choice voucher holder: A family that has an unexpired housing choice voucher.

Immediate Family Member: a spouse, parent, brother or sister, or child of the person, or an individual to whom that person stands in loco parentis (in place of a parent); or any other person living in the household of that person and related to that person by blood or marriage.

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

Imputed welfare income: The amount of annual income not actually received by a family, as a result of a welfare benefit reduction for welfare fraud or the failure to comply with economic self-sufficiency requirements, that is nonetheless included in the family's annual income for purposes of determining rent.

Income category: Designates a family's income range. There are three categories: low income, very low income and extremely low-income.

Incremental income: The increased portion of income between the total amount of welfare and earnings of a family member prior to enrollment in a training program and welfare and earnings of the family member after enrollment in the training program. All other amounts, increases and decreases, are treated in the usual manner in determining annual income.

Initial Housing Authority: In portability, both: (1) a housing authority that originally selected a family that later decides to move out of the jurisdiction of the selecting housing authority; and (2) a housing authority that absorbed a family that later decides to move out of the jurisdiction of the absorbing housing authority.

Initial payment standard: The payment standard at the beginning of the HAP contract term.

Initial rent to owner: The rent to owner at the beginning of the initial lease term.

Interest in the home: In the homeownership option:

a. In the case of assistance for a homeowner, "interest in the home" includes title to the home, any lease or other right to occupy the home, or any other present interest in the home.
b. In the case of assistance for a cooperative member, "interest in the home" includes ownership of membership shares in the cooperative, any lease or other right to occupy the home, or any other present interest in the home.

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

Jurisdiction: The area in which the housing authority has authority under State and local law to administer the program.

Law enforcement agency: The National Crime Information Center (NCIC), police departments and other law enforcement agencies that hold criminal conviction records.

Lease: A written agreement between an owner and participant for the leasing of a dwelling unit to the resident. The lease establishes the conditions for occupancy of the dwelling unit by a family with housing assistance payments under a HAP Contract between the owner and the housing authority.

Legal capacity: The participant is bound by the terms of the lease and may enforce the terms of the lease against the owner.

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

a. Is determined to be essential to the care and well-being of the persons;
b. Is not obligated for the support of the persons; and
c. Would not be living in the unit except to provide the necessary supportive services.

A live-in aide is not a party to the lease.

Low-income families: Those families whose incomes do not exceed 80% of the median income for the area, as determined by HUD with adjustments for smaller and larger families, except that HUD may establish income ceilings higher or lower than 80% of the median for the area on the

basis of HUD's findings that such variations are necessary because of unusually high or low family incomes.

Manufactured home: A manufactured structure that is built on a permanent chassis, is designed for use as a principal place of residence, and meets the HQS.

Manufacture home space: In manufactured home space rental: A space leased by an owner to a family. A manufactured home owned and occupied by the family is located on the space.

Medical expenses: Medical expenses, including medical insurance premiums, that are anticipated during the period for which annual income is computed, and that are not covered by insurance.

Membership shares: In the homeownership option, shares in a cooperative. By owning such cooperative shares, the share-owner has the right to reside in a particular unit in the cooperative, and the right to participate in management of the housing.

Mixed family: A family whose members include those with citizenship or eligible immigration status, and those without citizenship or eligible immigration status.

Moderate rehabilitation: Rehabilitation involving a minimum expenditure of $1000 for a unit, including its prorated share of work to be accomplished on common areas or systems, to:

a. upgrade to decent, safe and sanitary condition to comply with the Housing Quality Standards or other standards approved by HUD, from a condition below these standards (improvements being of a modest nature and other than routine maintenance); or
b. repair or replace major building systems or components in danger of failure.

Monthly adjusted income: One twelfth of adjusted income.

Monthly income: One twelfth of annual income.

Mutual housing is included in the definition of "cooperative".

National: A person who owes permanent allegiance to the United States, for example, as a result of birth in a United States territory or possession.

Near-elderly family: A family whose head, spouse, or sole member is a person who is at least 50 years of age but below the age of 62; or two or more persons who are at least 50 years of age but below the age of 62 living together; or one or more persons who are at least 50 years of age but below the age of 62 living with one or more live-in aides.

Net family assets:

a. Net cash value after deducting reasonable costs that would be incurred in disposal of real property, savings, stocks, bonds, and other forms of capital investment, excluding interests in Indian trust land and excluding equity accounts in HUD homeownership programs. The value of necessary items of personal property such as furniture and automobiles shall be excluded.
b. In cases where a trust fund has been established and the trust is not revocable by, or under the control of, any member of the family or household, the value of the trust fund will not be considered an asset so long as the fund continues to be held in trust. Any income distributed from the trust fund shall be counted when determining annual income.
c. In determining net family assets, housing authorities or owners, as applicable, shall include the value of any business or family assets disposed of by an applicant or resident for less than fair market value (including a disposition in trust, but not in a foreclosure or bankruptcy sale) during the two years preceding the date of application for the program or reexamination, as applicable, in excess of the consideration received therefor. In the case of a disposition as part of a separation or divorce settlement, the disposition will not be considered to be for less than fair market value if the applicant or tenant receives important consideration not measurable in dollar terms.
d. For purposes of determining annual income under Section 8 Homeownership, the term "net family assets"' does not include the value of a home currently being purchased with assistance under the Section 8 Homeownership Program. This exclusion is limited to the first 10 years after the purchase date of the home.

Noncitizen: A person who is neither a citizen nor national of the United States.

Notice Of Funding Availability (NOFA): For budget authority that HUD distributes by competitive process, the Federal Register document that invites applications for funding. This document explains how to apply for assistance and the criteria for awarding the funding.

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

Other person under the tenant's control: For the purposes of the definition of covered person it means the person, although not staying as a guest (as defined in this section) in the unit, is, or was at the time of the activity in question, on the premises (as premises is defined in this section) because of an invitation from the tenant or other member of the household who has express or implied authority to so consent on behalf of the tenant. Absent evidence to the contrary, a person temporarily and infrequently on the premises solely for legitimate commercial purposes is not under the tenant's control.

Owner: Any person or entity, including a cooperative, having the legal right to lease or sublease existing housing. In the anti-drug related Areas of this policy, it means the owner of federally assisted housing.

Participant (participant family): A family that has been admitted to the housing authority's program and is currently assisted in the program. The family becomes a participant on the effective date of the first HAP contract executed by the housing authority for the family (first day of initial lease).

Payment standard: In a housing choice voucher tenancy, the maximum monthly assistance payment for a family (before deducting the total tenant payment by family contribution). For a housing choice voucher tenancy, the housing authority sets a payment standard in the range from 90% to 110% of the current FMR.

Permanently absent: A person or persons not actually residing in the unit who once lived there and does not intend to return. One becomes permanently absent when one vacates the unit.

Person with disabilities: A person who:

A. Has a disability as defined in 42 U.S.C. 423

B. Is determined, pursuant to HUD regulations, to have a physical, mental, or emotional impairment that:

1. Is expected to be of long-continued and indefinite duration;

2. Substantially impedes his or her ability to live independently; and

3. Is of such a nature that the ability to live independently could be improved by more suitable housing conditions; or

C. Has a developmental disability as defined in 42 U.S.C. 6001

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

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

Portability: Renting a dwelling unit with Section 8 tenant-based assistance outside the jurisdiction of the initial housing authority.

Premises: The building or complex in which the dwelling unit is located, including common areas and grounds. For purposes of the anti-drug provisions of this policy it means the building or complex or development in which the public or assisted housing dwelling unit is located, including common areas and grounds.

Present ownership interest: In the homeownership option, “Present ownership interest” in a residence includes title, in whole or in part, to a residence, or ownership, in whole or in part, of membership shares in a cooperative. “Present ownership interest” in a residence does not include the right to purchase title to the residence under a lease-purchase agreement.

Preservation: This program encourages owners of eligible multifamily housing projects to preserve low-income housing affordability and availability while reducing the long-term cost of providing rental assistance. The program offers several approaches to restructuring the debt of properties developed with project-based Section 8 assistance whose HAP contracts are about to expire.

Private space: In shared housing: The portion of a contract unit that is for the exclusive use of an assisted family.

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

Project-Based Assistance Program: A Section 8 program administered by an Housing Authority pursuant to 24 CFR part 983, as amended by HUD in the Federal Register, Vol. 66, No. 10 on January 16, 2001 *Revisions to PHA Project-Based Assistance Program; Initial Guidance.*

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

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

Public Housing Agency: A State, county, municipality or other governmental entity or public body (or agency or instrumentality thereof) authorized to engage in or assist in the development or operation of low-income housing.

Reasonable rent: A rent to owner that is not more than charged: (a) for comparable units in the private unassisted market; and (b) for a comparable unassisted unit in the premises.

Receiving Housing Authority: In portability, a housing authority that receives a family selected for participation in the tenant-based program of another housing authority. The receiving housing authority issues a housing choice voucher, and provides program assistance to the family.

Re-certification: A reexamination of a household's income, expenses, and family composition to determine the household's rent for the following 12 months.

Remaining member of a tenant family: A member of the family listed on the lease who continues to live in an assisted household after all other family members have left.

Rent to owner: The monthly rent payable to the owner under the lease. Rent to owner covers payment for any housing services, maintenance, and utilities that the owner is required to provide and pay for.

Responsible Entity:

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

B. For all other Section 8 programs, responsible entity means the Section 8 project owner.

Risk assessment: In the context of lead-based paint it means an on-site investigation to determine and report the existence, nature, severity, and location of lead-based paint hazards in residential dwellings, including:

A. Information gathering regarding the age and history of the housing and occupancy by children under age 6;

B. Visual inspection;

C. Limited wipe sampling or other environmental sampling techniques;

D. Other activity as may be appropriate; and

E. Provision of a report explaining the results of the investigation.

Set-up charges: In a manufactured home space rental, charges payable by the family for assembly, skirting and anchoring the manufactured home.

Shared housing: A unit occupied by two or more families. The unit consists of both common space for shared use by the occupants of the unit and separate private space for each assisted family.

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

Single person: Someone living alone or intending to live alone who does not qualify as an elderly person, a person with disabilities, a displaced person, or the remaining member of a tenant family.

Single room occupancy housing (SRO): A unit for occupancy by a single eligible individual capable of independent living that contains no sanitary facilities or food preparation facilities, or contains either, but not both, types of facilities.

Special admission: Admission of an applicant that is not on the housing authority waiting list, or admission without considering the applicant's waiting list position.

Special housing types: Special housing types include: SRO housing, congregate housing, group homes, shared housing, cooperatives (including mutual housing), and manufactured homes (including manufactured home space rental).

Specified welfare benefit reduction:

A. A reduction of welfare benefits by the welfare agency, in whole or in part, for a family member, as determined by the welfare agency, because of fraud by a family member in connection with the welfare program; or because of welfare agency sanction against a family member for noncompliance with a welfare agency requirement to participate in an economic self-sufficiency program.

B. "Specified welfare benefit reduction" does not include a reduction or termination of welfare benefits by the welfare agency:

1. at the expiration of a lifetime or other time limit on the payment of welfare benefits;

2. because a family member is not able to obtain employment, even though the family member has complied with welfare agency economic self-sufficiency or work activities requirements; or

3. because a family member has not complied with other welfare agency requirements.

Stalking: to follow, pursue, or repeatedly commit acts with the intent to kill, injure, harass, or intimidate; or to place under surveillance with the intent to kill, injure, harass, or intimidate another person; and in the course of, or as a result of, such following, pursuit, surveillance, or repeatedly committed acts, to place a person in reasonable fear of the death of, or serious bodily injury to, or to cause substantial emotional harm to (i) that person; (ii) a member of the immediate family of that person; or (iii) the spouse or intimate partner of that person.

State Wage Information Collection Agency (SWICA): The State agency receiving quarterly wage reports from employers in the State, or an alternative system that has been determined by the Secretary of Labor to be as effective and timely in providing employment-related income and eligibility information.

Statement of family responsibility: An agreement in the form prescribed by HUD, between the housing authority and a family to be assisted under the Moderate Rehabilitation Program, stating the obligations and responsibilities of the family.

Statement of homeowner obligations: In the homeownership option, the family's agreement to comply with program obligations.

Subsidy standards: Standards established by a housing authority to determine the appropriate number of bedrooms and amount of subsidy for families of different sizes and compositions.

Suspension: Stopping the clock on the term of a family's housing choice voucher, for such period as determined by the housing authority, from the time when the family submits a request for housing authority approval to lease a unit, until the time when the housing authority approves or denies the request. Also referred to as tolling.

Temporarily absent: A person of persons not actually residing in a unit for a period of time while still maintaining control of the unit.

Tenant: The person or persons (other than a live-in aide) who executes the lease as lessee of the dwelling unit.

Third-party (verification): Oral or written confirmation of a household's income, expenses, or household composition provided by a source outside the household, such as an employer, doctor, school official, etc.

Tolling: see suspension.

Total tenant payment (TTP):

(1) Total tenant payment is the amount calculated under Section 3(a)(1) of the 1937 Act which is the higher of :

a. 30% of the family's monthly adjusted income;

b. 10% of the family's monthly income;

c. Minimum rent; or

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

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

Utility allowance: If the cost of utilities (except telephone) and other housing services for an assisted unit is not included in the tenant rent but is the responsibility of the family occupying the unit, an amount equal to the estimate made or approved by a housing authority or HUD of the monthly cost of a reasonable consumption of such utilities and other services for the unit by an energy-conservative household of modest circumstances consistent with the requirements of a safe, sanitary, and healthful living environment.

Utility hook-up charge: In a manufactured home space rental, costs payable by a family for connecting the manufactured home to utilities such as water, gas, electrical and sewer lines.

Utility reimbursement: The portion of the housing assistance payment that exceeds the amount of the rent to owner. It is only paid when the housing assistance payment exceeds the rent to owner. If the cost of utilities (except telephone) and other housing services for an assisted unit is not included in the tenant rent but is the responsibility of the family occupying the unit, an amount equal to the estimate made or approved by a PHA of the monthly cost of a reasonable consumption of such utilities and other services for the unit by an energy-conservative household of modest circumstances consistent with the requirements of a safe, sanitary, and healthful living environment.

Verification:

a. The process of obtaining statements from individuals who can attest to the accuracy of the amounts of income, expenses, or household member status (e.g., employers, public assistance agency staff, doctors).

b. The three types of verification are:

(1) Third-party verification, either written or oral, obtained from employers, public assistance agencies, schools, etc.

(2) Documentation such as a copy of a birth certificate or bank statement

(3) Family certification or declaration (only used when third-party or documentation verification is not available)

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

Violent criminal activity: Means any criminal activity that has as one of its elements the use, attempted use, or threatened use of physical force substantial enough to cause, or be reasonably likely to cause, serious bodily injury or property damage.

Voucher (rental voucher): A document issued by a housing authority to a family selected for admission to the Housing Choice Voucher Program. This document describes the program and the procedures for housing authority approval of a unit selected by the family and states the obligations of the family under the program.

Voucher holder: A family holding a housing choice voucher with unexpired search time.

Waiting list admission: An admission from the housing authority waiting list. [24 CFR 982.4]

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

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

It includes such benefits even when they are:

A. Provided in the form of payments by a TANF agency, or other agency on its behalf, to individual recipients; and

B. Conditioned on participation in work experience or community service (or any other work activity under 45 CFR 261.30).

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

The term “assistance” excludes:

A. Nonrecurrent, short-term benefits that:

1. Are designed to deal with a specific crisis situation or episode of need;

2. Are not intended to meet recurrent or ongoing needs; and

3. Will not extend beyond four months.

B. Work subsidies (i.e., payments to employers or third parties to help cover the costs of employee wages, benefits, supervision, and training);

C. Supportive services such as child care and transportation provided to families who are employed;

D. Refundable earned income tax credits;

E. Contributions to, and distributions from, Individual Development Accounts;

F. Services such as counseling, case management, peer support, childcare information and referral, transitional services, job retention, job advancement, and other employment-related services that do not provide basic income support; and

G. Transportation benefits provided under a Job Access or Reverse Commute project, pursuant to section 404(k) of the Act, to an individual who is not otherwise receiving assistance.

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

Welfare -to-Work (WTW) families: Families assisted with housing choice voucher funding awarded under the HUD welfare-to-work voucher program.

Written notification: All written notifications required in this policy shall be hand delivered with a sign receipt or mailed via first class mail unless specified otherwise.

ACRONYMS

ACC	Annual Contributions Contract
CACC	Consolidated Annual Contributions Contract
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
FMR	Fair Market Rent
FSS	Family Self Sufficiency (program)
HA	Housing Authority
HAP	Housing Assistance Payment
HCDA	Housing and Community Development Act
HQS	Housing Quality Standards
HUD	Department of Housing and Urban Development
INS	(U.S.) Immigration and Naturalization Service
NAHA	(Cranston-Gonzalez) National Affordable Housing Act
NOFA	Notice of Funding Availability
OMB	(U.S.) Office of Management and Budget
PBC	Project-Based Certificate (program)
QHWRA	Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act of 1998
PHA	Public Housing Agency
TTP	Total Tenant Payment

Attachment ct027p01
Definition of Substantial Deviation

Substantial deviations or significant amendments or modifications are defined as discretionary changes in the plans or policies of the housing authority that fundamentally change the mission, goals, objectives, or plans of the agency and which require formal approval of the Board of Commissioners.

Attachment ct027q01
Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher
Payment Standard Range

The Housing Authority of the Town of Stratford will exercise the option of setting the payment standard between 90% and 110% of the HUD published Fair Market Rent. Currently, the Authority's payment standard is set at 100% of FMR. Recent notices from HUD indicate that the Authority will receive reduced budget authority and administrative fees. This could cause the Authority to reduce the number of families it will be able to assist. In the event that the reduced budget authority requires the Authority to terminate assistance to participating families, the Authority will reduce the payment standard in effort to assist the greatest number of families.

If this option is exercised, the Authority will not go through the annual plan amendment process and will adjust the payment standard as necessary to help provide housing assistance to the most families.

Attachment ct027r01

Violence Against Women Act Report

A goal of the Stratford Housing Authority is to fully comply with the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). It is our objective to work with others to prevent offenses covered by VAWA to the degree we can.

The Stratford Housing Authority has provided notices in compliance with HUD guidance to each resident, Section 8 participant and Section 8 landlord. Additionally, the Stratford Housing Authority has attached proper notice to all applications advising applicants of the new law that President Bush signed in January 2006 known as the Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005.

The Stratford Housing Authority provides or offers the following activities, services, or programs, either directly or in partnership with other service providers, to child or adult victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

The Stratford Housing Authority does not offer any activities, services or programs either directly or in partnership with other service agencies. Although, the Stratford Housing Authority will assist any family who reports having domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking by providing the appropriate referrals on a case-by-case basis.

The Stratford Housing Authority provides or offers the following activities, services, or programs that helps child and adult victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, to obtain or maintain housing.

The Stratford Housing Authority does not offer any activities, services or programs either directly or in partnership with other service agencies. Although, the Stratford Housing Authority will assist any family who reports having domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking by providing the appropriate referrals on a case-by-case basis.

The Stratford Housing Authority provides or offers the following activities, services, or programs to prevent domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, or to enhance victim safety in assisted families.

The Stratford Housing Authority does not offer any activities, services or programs either directly or in partnership with other service agencies. Although, the Stratford Housing Authority will assist any family who reports having domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking by providing the appropriate referrals on a case-by-case basis.

Attachment ct027s01
2009 Annual Plan
Flat Rents

Flat Rent Analysis

The flat rents will remain at the Fiscal-Year 2008 level based on a review of rent reasonableness currently used by the Authority in its Section 8 Program and rents that would have been paid by the income based method for those families paying flat rent. The flat rents are as follows:

Efficiency - $658.00
1-Bedroom - $791.00
2-Bedroom - $885.00
3-Bedroom - $968.00
4-Bedroom - $1,211.00

Attachment ct027t01
Use of the Project-Based Voucher Program

Intent to Use Project-Based Assistance

☒ Yes ☐ No: Does the PHA plan to "project-base" any tenant-based Section 8 vouchers in the coming year? If the answer is "no," go to the next component. If yes, answer the following questions.

1. ☒ Yes ☐ No: Are there circumstances indicating that the project basing of the units, rather than tenant-basing of the same amount of assistance is an appropriate option? If yes, check which circumstances apply:

   ☐ low utilization rate for vouchers due to lack of suitable rental units
   ☐ access to neighborhoods outside of high poverty areas
   ☒ other (describe below:)

   Unmet needs in the community for battered women.

Indicate the number of units and general location of units (e.g. eligible census tracts or smaller areas within eligible census tracts): Up to 20% of current allocation. The census tracts are as follows: 801, 802, 803, 804, 806 and 807.

This action was approved in the 2008 Annual Plan. The Stratford Housing Authority is in the process of issuing a RFP for the purpose of project-basing vouchers.