PHA 5-Year and Annual Plan	U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Office of Public and Indian Housing	OMB No. 2577-0226 Expires 4/30/2011

1.0 PHA Information

PHA Name: CEIBA HOUSING AUTHORITY PHA Code: RQ070

PHA Type: ☐ Small ☐ High Performing ☒ Standard ☒ HCV (Section 8)

PHA Fiscal Year Beginning: **07/01/2010**

2.0 Inventory (based on ACC units at time of FY beginning in 1.0 above)

Number of PH units: N/A Number of HCV units: **41**

3.0 Submission Type

☒ 5-Year and Annual Plan ☐ Annual Plan Only ☐ 5-Year Plan Only

4.0 PHA Consortia ☐ PHA Consortia: (Check box if submitting a joint Plan and complete table below.) N/A

Participating PHAs	PHA Code	Program(s) Included in the Consortia	Programs Not in the Consortia	No. of Units in Each Program	
				PH	HCV
PHA 1:					
PHA 2:					
PHA 3:					

5.0 5-Year Plan. Complete items 5.1 and 5.2 only at 5-Year Plan update.

5.1 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 for the next five years:

The PHA mission is promoting adequate and affordable housing, economic opportunity and suitable living environment free from discrimination to all participants and/or applicants for Section 8 Housing Voucher Program.

5.2 Goals and Objectives. Identify the PHA's quantifiable goals and objectives that will enable the PHA to serve the needs of low-income and very low-income, and extremely low-income families for the next five years. Include a report on the progress the PHA has made in meeting the goals and objectives described in the previous 5-Year Plan.

The PHA goal and objectives are the following:

1. Satisfaction enforcing housing quality standards.
2. Improve the quality of assisted housing as a result of voucher management improvement.
3. Increased assisted housing providing voucher mobility counseling and explaining to tenants the portability concept at the initial evaluation meeting.
4. Expand the supply of assisted housing applying for additional rental vouchers when available.
5. Promote self-sufficient and asset development of families and individuals increasing the number and percentage self employed persons in assisted families.
6. Ensure equal opportunity and affirmatively further fair housing by undertake affirmative measures to ensure access to assist housing regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, familial status and disability.
7. Publish notices, when we new vouchers were available, indicating that the housing vouchers are available regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, familial status and disability.
8. The housing needs identify by the PR State Consolidated Plan and the PHA waiting list, reflects housing needs with an economic constrain.

The PHA provides to eligible families temporary clean and safe housing with a quality standard to attend the low income families housing needs within local municipal jurisdiction based on an equal opportunity policy. The PHA upgrades from trouble PHA to Standard PHA and the end of the last five year period. The PHA increase program best practice management. PHA was successfully in lease-up and budget utilization.

6.0

PHA Plan Update

(a) Identify all PHA Plan elements that have been revised by the PHA since its last Annual Plan submission:

PHA revised and update Administrative Plan in terms of selection preferences points system; develop and implement the use of a document for net income disclosure and calculation of the adjusted income, including the verification process; Update written procedures for income verification process in addition to assets and deductions; and Develop written system to abate Housing Assistance Payments and terminate the lease/contract.

(b) Identify the specific location(s) where the public may obtain copies of the 5-Year and Annual PHA Plan. For a complete list of PHA Plan elements, see Section 6.0 of the instructions.

PHA main Administrative Office
Escolástico López St. (downtown), Ceiba, Puerto Rico.

7.0

Hope VI, Mixed Finance Modernization or Development, Demolition and/or Disposition, Conversion of Public Housing, Homeownership Programs, and Project-based Vouchers. *Include statements related to these programs as applicable.*

PHA does not 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. Ceiba PHA does not plan to "project based" any tenant- based Section 8 Vouchers in the coming year.

8.0

Capital Improvements. Please complete Parts 8.1 through 8.3, as applicable**.** **N/A**

8.1

Capital Fund Program Annual Statement/Performance and Evaluation Report. As part of the PHA 5-Year and Annual Plan, annually complete and submit **t**he *Capital Fund Program Annual Statement/Performance and Evaluation Report,* form HUD-50075.1, for each current and open CFP grant and CFFP financing. **N/A**

8.2

Capital Fund Program Five-Year Action Plan. As part of the submission of the Annual Plan, PHAs must complete and submit the *Capital Fund Program Five-Year Action Plan,* form HUD-50075.2, and subsequent annual updates (on a rolling basis, e.g., drop current year, and add latest year for a five year period). Large capital items must be included in the Five-Year Action Plan. **N/A**

8.3

Capital Fund Financing Program (CFFP).

☐ Check if the PHA proposes to use any portion of its Capital Fund Program (CFP)/Replacement Housing Factor (RHF) to repay debt incurred to finance capital improvements. **N/A**

9.0

Housing Needs. Based on information provided by the applicable Consolidated Plan, information provided by HUD, and other generally available data, make a reasonable effort to identify the housing needs of the low-income, very low-income, and extremely low-income families who reside in the jurisdiction served by the PHA, including elderly families, families with disabilities, and households of various races and ethnic groups, and other families who are on the public housing and Section 8 tenant-based assistance waiting lists. The identification of housing needs must address issues of affordability, supply, quality, accessibility, size of units, and location.

Ceiba Public Housing Authority (PHA) administer a tenant based Housing Choice Voucher Program across the city. The PHA maintains a waiting list sufficient to meet lease-up needs on a year basis. The waiting list is closed. 100% of applicants on waiting list are Spanish spoken people. Applicants characteristic are shown on the following table:

	# of families	% of total families
Waiting list total	13	
Extremely low income <=30% AMI	13	100%
Very low income (>30% but <=50% AMI)	Ø	Ø
Low income (>50% but <80% AMI)	Ø	Ø
Families with children	12	92%
Elderly families	-1-	8%
Families with Disabilities	Ø	Ø
Race/ethnicity: *Hispanic*	13	100%

9.1	**Strategy for Addressing Housing 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. **Note: Small, Section 8 only, and High Performing PHAs complete only for Annual Plan submission with the 5-Year Plan.** 1. Maintain or increase Section 8 lease-up rates by establishing payments standards that will enable families to rent throughout the jurisdiction. 2. Undertakes measures to ensure access to affordable housing among families assisted by the PHA regardless of unit size required. The PHA will identify housing units available for lease based on family size. 3. Maintain or increase Section 8 lease-up rates by marketing the program owners particularly those outside of areas of minority and poverty concentration PHA will circulates fliers with program information. 4. Maintain or increase Section 8 lease-up rates by effectively screening Section 8 applicants to increase owner acceptance of program. 5. Participate in the Consolidated Plan Development process to ensure coordination with broader community strategies. 6. Apply for additional Section 8 units should they become available. 7. Exceeds HUD federal targeting requirements for families at or below 30% of AMI in public housing. 8. Exceed HUD federal targeting requirements for families at or below 30% of AMI in tenant-based Section 8 assistance. 9. Employ admissions preference aimed at families who are working. 10. Apply for special-purpose vouchers targeted to families with disabilities, should they become available.
10.0	**Additional Information**. Describe the following, as well as any additional information HUD has requested. (a) Progress in Meeting Mission and Goals. Provide a brief statement of the PHA's progress in meeting the mission and goals described in the 5- Year Plan. PHA achieves its mission of providing rental subsidies to extremely low- income families and allows them to afford safe, decent and sanitary housing. During last Five Year Plan, PHA was successful in utilizing of its HUD- allocated assistance funding. The goal of improving the quality of assisted housing, increasing assisted housing choices, and ensuring equal opportunity in housing are achieved through ongoing policy, and HQS requirements enforcement. The goal of promoting self-sufficiency as asset development of assisted household was achieve by the increase in number of employed persons in assisted families. (b) Significant Amendment and Substantial Deviation/Modification. Provide the PHA's definition of "significant amendment" and "substantial deviation/modification" The PHA defined significant amendment or modification as any expansion of programs and/or service provide beyond those stated in the current Five- Year and/or Annual Plan. Substantial Deviation/Modification will be defining as any significant shift in mission and/or objectives beyond those stated in current Five Year and/or Annual Plan.

11.0	**Required Submission for HUD Field Office Review**. In addition to the PHA Plan template (HUD-50075), PHAs must submit the following documents. Items (a) through (g) may be submitted with signature by mail or electronically with scanned sign mission and/or natures, but electronic submission is encouraged. Items (h) through (i) must be attached electronically with the PHA Plan. **Note:** Faxed copies of these documents will not be accepted by the Field Office. (a) Form HUD-50077, *PHA Certifications of Compliance with the PHA Plans and Related Regulations* (which includes all certifications relating to Civil Rights) (b) Form HUD-50070, *Certification for a Drug-Free Workplace* (PHAs receiving CFP grants only) ……..**N/A** (c) Form HUD-50071, *Certification of Payments to Influence Federal Transactions* (PHAs receiving CFP grants only)**……N/A** (d) Form SF-LLL, *Disclosure of Lobbying Activities* (PHAs receiving CFP grants only)**……..N/A** (e) Form SF-LLL-A, *Disclosure of Lobbying Activities Continuation Sheet* (PHAs receiving CFP grants only)**……..N/A** (f) Resident Advisory Board (RAB) comments. Comments received from the RAB must be submitted by the PHA as an attachment to the PHA Plan. PHAs must also include a narrative describing their analysis of the recommendations and the decisions made on these recommendations. (g) Challenged Elements (h) Form HUD-50075.1, *Capital Fund Program Annual Statement/Performance and Evaluation Report* (PHAs receiving CFP grants only)**…N/A** (i) Form HUD-50075.2, *Capital Fund Program Five-Year Action Plan* (PHAs receiving CFP grants only)**……..N/A**

PHA Certifications of Compliance with PHA Plans and Related Regulations	U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Office of Public and Indian Housing **Expires 4/30/2011**

PHA Certifications of Compliance with the PHA Plans and Related Regulations: Board Resolution to Accompany the PHA 5-*Year and Annual* PHA Plan

Acting on behalf of the Board of Commissioners of the Public Housing Agency (PHA) listed below, as its Chairman or other authorized PHA official if there is no Board of Commissioners, I approve the submission of the X *5-Year and/or* X *Annual PHA Plan for the PHA fiscal year beginning* 07/01/2010*, hereinafter referred to as" the Plan", of which this document is a part and make the following certifications and agreements with the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in connection with the submission of the Plan and implementation thereof:*

1. The Plan is consistent with the applicable comprehensive housing affordability strategy (or any plan incorporating such strategy) for the jurisdiction in which the PHA is located.
2. The Plan contains a certification by the appropriate State or local officials that the Plan is consistent with the applicable Consolidated Plan, which includes a certification that requires the preparation of an Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice, for the PHA's jurisdiction and a description of the manner in which the PHA Plan is consistent with the applicable Consolidated Plan.
3. The PHA certifies that there has been no change, significant or otherwise, to the Capital Fund Program (and Capital Fund Program/Replacement Housing Factor) Annual Statement(s), since submission of its last approved Annual Plan. The Capital Fund Program Annual Statement/Annual Statement/Performance and Evaluation Report must be submitted annually even if there is no change.
4. The PHA has established a Resident Advisory Board or Boards, the membership of which represents the residents assisted by the PHA, consulted with this Board or Boards in developing the Plan, and considered the recommendations of the Board or Boards (24 CFR 903.13). The PHA has included in the Plan submission a copy of the recommendations made by the Resident Advisory Board or Boards and a description of the manner in which the Plan addresses these recommendations.
5. The PHA made the proposed Plan and all information relevant to the public hearing available for public inspection at least 45 days before the hearing, published a notice that a hearing would be held and conducted a hearing to discuss the Plan and invited public comment.
6. The PHA certifies that it will carry out the Plan in conformity with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Fair Housing Act, section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.
7. The PHA will affirmatively further fair housing by examining their programs or proposed programs, identify any impediments to fair housing choice within those programs, address those impediments in a reasonable fashion in view of the resources available and work with local jurisdictions to implement any of the jurisdiction's initiatives to affirmatively further fair housing that require the PHA's involvement and maintain records reflecting these analyses and actions.
8. For PHA Plan that includes a policy for site based waiting lists:
   - The PHA regularly submits required data to HUD's 50058 PIC/IMS Module in an accurate, complete and timely manner (as specified in PIH Notice 2006-24);
   - The system of site-based waiting lists provides for full disclosure to each applicant in the selection of the development in which to reside, including basic information about available sites; and an estimate of the period of time the applicant would likely have to wait to be admitted to units of different sizes and types at each site;
   - Adoption of site-based waiting list would not violate any court order or settlement agreement or be inconsistent with a pending complaint brought by HUD;
   - The PHA shall take reasonable measures to assure that such waiting list is consistent with affirmatively furthering fair housing;
   - The PHA provides for review of its site-based waiting list policy to determine if it is consistent with civil rights laws and certifications, as specified in 24 CFR part 903.7(c)(1).
9. The PHA will comply with the prohibitions against discrimination on the basis of age pursuant to the Age Discrimination Act of 1975.
10. The PHA will comply with the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 and 24 CFR Part 41, Policies and Procedures for the Enforcement of Standards and Requirements for Accessibility by the Physically Handicapped.
11. The PHA will comply with the requirements of section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968, Employment Opportunities for Low-or Very-Low Income Persons, and with its implementing regulation at 24 CFR Part 135.

12. The PHA will comply with acquisition and relocation requirements of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 and implementing regulations at 49 CFR Part 24 as applicable.
13. The PHA will take appropriate affirmative action to award contracts to minority and women's business enterprises under 24 CFR 5.105(a).
14. The PHA will provide the responsible entity or HUD any documentation that the responsible entity or HUD needs to carry out its review under the National Environmental Policy Act and other related authorities in accordance with 24 CFR Part 58 or Part 50, respectively.
15. With respect to public housing the PHA will comply with Davis-Bacon or HUD determined wage rate requirements under Section 12 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 and the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act.
16. The PHA will keep records in accordance with 24 CFR 85.20 and facilitate an effective audit to determine compliance with program requirements.
17. The PHA will comply with the Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act, the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992, and 24 CFR Part 35.
18. The PHA will comply with the policies, guidelines, and requirements of OMB Circular No. A-87 (Cost Principles for State, Local and Indian Tribal Governments), 2 CFR Part 225, and 24 CFR Part 85 (Administrative Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements to State, Local and Federally Recognized Indian Tribal Governments).
19. The PHA will undertake only activities and programs covered by the Plan in a manner consistent with its Plan and will utilize covered grant funds only for activities that are approvable under the regulations and included in its Plan.
20. All attachments to the Plan have been and will continue to be available at all times and all locations that the PHA Plan is available for public inspection. All required supporting documents have been made available for public inspection along with the Plan and additional requirements at the primary business office of the PHA and at all other times and locations identified by the PHA in its PHA Plan and will continue to be made available at least at the primary business office of the PHA.
21. The PHA provides assurance as part of this certification that:
    (i) The Resident Advisory Board had an opportunity to review and comment on the changes to the policies and programs before implementation by the PHA;
    (ii) The changes were duly approved by the PHA Board of Directors (or similar governing body); and
    (iii) The revised policies and programs are available for review and inspection, at the principal office of the PHA during normal business hours.
22. The PHA certifies that it is in compliance with all applicable Federal statutory and regulatory requirements.

Municipality of Ceiba	RQ070
PHA Name	PHA Number/HA Code

x 5-Year PHA Plan for Fiscal Years 2010 - 2014

X Annual PHA Plan for Fiscal Years 2010 - 2011

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

Name of Authorized Official	Title
Hon Pedro Colón Osorio	Mayor
Signature	Date
	March 17, 2010

Civil Rights Certification	**U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development** Office of Public and Indian Housing **Expires 4/30/2011**

Civil Rights Certification

Annual Certification and Board Resolution

Acting on behalf of the Board of Commissioners of the Public Housing Agency (PHA) listed below, as its Chairman or other authorized PHA official if there is no Board of Commissioner, I approve the submission of the Plan for the PHA of which this document is a part and make the following certification and agreement with the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in connection with the submission of the Plan and implementation thereof:

The PHA certifies that it will carry out the public housing program of the agency in conformity with title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Fair Housing Act, section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and will affirmatively further fair housing.

Municipality of Ceiba	RQ070
PHA Name	PHA Number/HA Code

I hereby certify that all the information stated herein, as well as any information provided in the accompaniment herewith, is true and accurate. Warning: HUD will prosecute false claims and statements. Conviction may result in criminal and/or civil penalties. (18 U.S.C. 1001, 1010, 1012; 31 U.S.C. 3729, 3802)	
Name of Authorized Official Hon Pedro Colón Osorio	Title Mayor
Signature	Date 04/05/2010

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A. PURPOSE

These policies and procedures are adopted by the **Municipality of Ceiba Section 8 Tenant Based Housing Choice Voucher Rental Assistance Program Housing Agency** to set forth the essential elements to implement Title 24 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), as established in 24 CFR Part 5 Subpart F (Definition of Income and General Factors of Eligibility), as amended; the Housing Voucher Program as established in 24 CFR Part 982.

B. DEFINITIONS

Unless otherwise clear from the context as used herein, the following terms for the purpose of this rule shall mean:

1937 Act: Section 8 of the U.S. Housing Act of 1937 as amended

Adjusted Income: Annual income less certain allowances as outlined in 24 CFR 5 Subpart F, as amended.

Admission: The effective date of the first HAP contract for a family in a tenant-based program. This is the point when the family becomes a participant in the program.

Housing Agency: Municipality of Ceiba Housing Agency.

Annual Contributions Contract (ACC): A written agreement between HUD and the Housing Agency to provide annual contributions to cover housing assistance payments and other related expenses. This is now a consolidated agreement for the Section 8 Rental Voucher Programs.

Annual Income: The anticipated total income of a family for a 12-month period as outlined in 24 CFR 5, as amended.

Assets: Net cash value as outlined in 24 CFR 5 Subpart F, as amended

Child Care Expenses: Amounts anticipated to be paid by the family for the care of children under 13 years of age as outlined in 24 CFR 5, as amended

Citizen: A family member who is a U.S. Citizen by birth, a naturalized citizen or a national of the United States of America.

City: Ceiba, Puerto Rico

Contract of Participation *(FSS Contract)*: A contract, as described in 24 CFR 984.103, that sets forth the terms and conditions governing the FSS family's participation in the FSS program.

Continuously Assisted Family. Families who have received any form of federal housing Assistance under the U.S. Housing Act of 1937, as amended, within the 120 day period preceding the date of the eligibility interview shall be considered "income eligible", if otherwise eligible under the remaining program rules.

Dependent: A member of the eligible family household other than family head or spouse, who is under 18 years of age or **is age 18 and older and** is a disabled person or handicapped person or is a full-time student.

Disabled Person: A person with a disability as defined in 24 CFR 5, as amended.

Displaced Person: A person as defined in 24 CFR 5, as amended, or a person displaced pursuant to a HUD directive, or a person whose dwelling has been extensively damaged by fire or natural disaster.

Domicile: The legal residence of the household head or spouse as determined in accordance with State and local laws.

Drug-related criminal activity: Drug-trafficking; or 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).

Drug trafficking: The illegal manufacture, sale or distribution, or the possession with intent to manufacture, sell or distribute a controlled substance.

Elderly Family: A family as defined in 24 CFR 5, as amended.

Elderly Person: A person who is at least 60 years of age.

Family: A family consisting of two or more persons sharing residency who are either related by blood, marriage, or operation of law or have evidenced a stable family relationship and as defined in 24 CFR 5, as amended.

Fair Market Rent: The maximum rent, including utilities, as annually established by HUD for dwelling units of varying sizes (number of bedrooms) for the purpose of establishing local payment standards.

Family Income (Annual Income): Income as defined in 24 CFR 5, as amended.

Family Self Sufficiency Program or FSS Program: The program established by the Municipality of Ceiba Housing Agency to promote self-sufficiency among participating families, including the provision of supportive services to these families.

FSS Family or Participating Family: A family that receives assistance under the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program, and that elects to participate in the FSS program, and whose designated head of the family has signed the contract of

participation.

FSS Related Service Program: Any program, publicly or privately sponsored, that offers the kinds of supportive services determined to be appropriate in assisting FSS families achieve economic independence and self-sufficiency.

FSS Slots: The total number of vouchers that comprise the *minimum program size* of the Municipality of Ceiba Section 8 Tenant Based Housing Choice Voucher Rental Assistance Program FSS program.

Family unit size: The appropriate number of bedrooms for a family pursuant to the Housing Agency's duly adopted *subsidy standards* determines family unit size.

Funding Increment: Each commitment of budget Housing Agency by HUD to a Housing Agency under the consolidated annual contributions contract for the Housing Agency program.

Full-time Student: A person who is in full-time attendance (equal to a full-time day student) under the standards and practices of the educational institution he or she is attending.

Gross Rent: The Contract Rent plus any utility allowance for tenant paid utilities and other services.

Handicapped Person: A person having a physical or mental impairment as defined in 24 CFR 5.

Head of Household: The adult member of the family who is the head of the household for purposes of determining income eligibility and rent.

Homeless Family: A person or family as defined in 24 CFR 5 Subpart F, as amended.

Housing Assistance Payment (HAP): The monthly rental assistance payment remitted by the Housing Agency on behalf of a Section 8 participant.

Housing Choice Voucher: New and only form of Section 8 tenant based rental assistance as of October 1, 1999.

INS: The U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service.

HUD Requirements: HUD requirements are issued by HUD headquarters; such as regulations, Federal Register notices, handbook requirements or other binding program directives for the Section 8 housing voucher program.

Housing Assistance Payments Contract ("Contract"): A written contract between the Housing Agency and an owner to make Housing Assistance Payments to the owner on

behalf of an eligible family participating in the Housing Choice Voucher Program.

Housing Choice Voucher: A document (HUD Form 52646) issued by the Housing Agency declaring a family to be eligible for participation in the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program and stating the terms and conditions for the family's participation.

Housing Quality Standards (HQS): The inspection performance requirements and acceptability criteria for housing set forth in 24 CFR 982.401**,** as amended.

HUD: The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Involuntary Displacement: Displacement of a person or family as outlined in 24 CFR 5 Subpart F.

Live-in Aide: A person as defined in 24 CFR 5 Subpart F, as amended.

Lower-Income Family: A family whose income does not exceed 80 percent of the median income for the City as determined by HUD with adjustments for size of family.

Medical Expenses: Those medical expenses which are anticipated to be incurred during the 12-month period for which the Annual Income is computed, and which are not covered by medical insurance (premiums for such medical insurance may be included as medical expenses) or any other source.

Merger Date: The date HUD officially merged the rules governing the Certificate and Voucher Programs into one form of rental assistance (i.e., October1, 1999).

Mixed family: A family whose members include those with citizenship or eligible immigration status, and those without citizenship or eligible immigration status.

Moderate Rehabilitation: Generally defined to mean required dwelling unit repairs required to meet or exceed HQS at a total cost of $1,000.00- 5,000.00 per unit.

Monthly Income: One-twelfth of the Annual Income (also called Monthly Gross Income).

Monthly Income After Allowances: One-twelfth of the Adjusted Income.

Near-Elderly: A person who is at least 50 years of age but below the age of 62.

Non-Citizen: A person who is neither a citizen nor a national of the United States.

Owner: Any person or entity, including a cooperative, having the legal right to lease or sub-lease a unit to participant.

Payment Standard: A schedule of amounts adopted by the city for each bedroom size that is used to determine the housing assistance (subsidy) a family will receive in the Voucher Program.

Portability: Moving with a Section 8 housing choice voucher rental assistance (subsidy) to a dwelling unit outside of the jurisdiction of the issuing or initial Public Housing Agency.

Pre-Merger Certificate: Section 8 Certificate issued to a qualified family before October 1, 1999.

Pre-Merger Voucher: Section 8 Voucher issued to a qualified family before October 1, 1999.

Premises: The building or complex in which the dwelling unit is located, including common areas and grounds.

Public Assistance: Welfare or other payments to families or individuals based on need, which are made under programs funded, separately or jointly, by the Federal and/or State governments.

Public Housing Agency: PHA

Remaining Member. A *remaining member of a tenant family* is a family member of an assisted tenant family who remains in the unit when other members of the family have left the unit. To remain in occupancy with continued rental assistance the remaining tenant family member must be of legal age to enter into a lease pursuant to state law, and must not be a current or recent participant in criminal activity as defined under the 1998 PHRA.

Rental Agreement: A written agreement between an owner and an eligible family to rent a unit.

Rent to Owner: The rent payable to the owner as approved by the PHA pursuant to the owner's request and the rent reasonableness criteria.

Reasonable Rent: A rent to owner that is not more than either the rent charged for comparable units in the private unassisted market; or rent charged by the owner for a comparable assisted or unassisted unit in the building or premises.

Residency Preference: A Housing Agency preference for admission of families that reside anywhere in a specified area, including families with a member who works or has been hired to work in the area ("residency preference area").

Residency Preference Area: The specified area where families must reside to qualify for a *residency preference.*

Section 214: Section 214 of the *Housing and Community Development Act of 1980*, as amended (42 U.S.C. 1436a). Section 214 restricts HUD from making financial assistance available for non-citizens unless they meet one of the categories of eligible immigration status specified in Section 214.

Sex Offender: Anyone convicted of any type of sexual offense that requires a lifetime registration as sexual offender under state law shall not be admitted into the section 8 Program, according to (24 CFR 982.553).

Single Person: A person living alone or intending to live alone.

Special Admission: Admission of an applicant that is not on the PHA's waiting list, or admission without considering the applicant's waiting list position, such as a person who is displaced by HUD action with the promise of Section 8 rental assistance.

Spouse: Spouse refers to the marriage partner, either a husband or wife, who is someone you need to divorce in order to dissolve the relationship.

Subsidy Standards: Standards established by a Housing Agency to determine the appropriate number of bedrooms and amount of subsidy for families of different sizes and compositions. (See definition of Family Unit Size)

Supportive Services: Those appropriate services that the Housing Agency will make available to an FSS family under a contract of participation. These services may include childcare, transportation, education, employment, counseling, and other services determined to be appropriate in assisting FSS families achieve economic independence and self-sufficiency.

Suspension: Stopping the clock on the term of a family's voucher, for such period as determined by the Housing Agency, from the time when the family submits a request for Housing Agency approval to lease a unit, until the time when the Housing Agency approves or denies the request.

Substandard Housing: Housing that is physically deficient as defined in 24 CFR 982.219, as amended.

Tenancy Addendum: The lease language required by HUD to be included in the lease between the tenant and the owner.

Tenant: The person or persons who executes the lease or lessee of the dwelling unit.

Tenant Rent: The amount payable monthly by the family as rent to the owner.

Total Tenant Payment (TTP): The monthly cost of rent and utilities payable by the assisted family consistent with the HUD-required formula.

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development: HUD

Utility Allowance: An amount equal to the estimate established by the Housing Agency of the monthly costs of utilities (except telephone) and other housing services for an assisted unit, which are not included in the tenant rent, but is the responsibility of the family occupying the unit.

U.S. 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, including Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, Canal Zone, etc.

Utility Reimbursement Payment: 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. This amount can be paid directly to the tenant or the Utility Supplier pursuant to the PHA's adopted policy.

Very Low-Income Family: A family whose income does not exceed 50 percent of the median income for the City as determined by HUD, with adjustments for size of family.

Violent Criminal Activity: Any illegal criminal activity that has as one of its elements the use, attempted use, or threatened use of physical force against the person or property of another.

Waiting List Admission: An admission from the Housing Agency's waiting list.

C. GENERAL APPLICABILITY AND SCOPE

The policies and procedures contained herein are applicable to the making of housing assistance payments on behalf of eligible families pursuant to the provisions of Section 8 of the U.S. Housing Act of 1937, as amended To implement the Housing Choice Voucher Program, the Housing Agency, with the approval of HUD, is authorized to make housing assistance payments on behalf of eligible families who rent units which meet or exceed HUD's Housing Quality Standards (HQS) during the period of the ACC.

PC-§1. 00 Scope of the Section 8 Administrative Plan

The Section 8 housing choice voucher program is federally funded and locally administered by the Municipality of Ceiba Section 8 Tenant Based Housing Choice Voucher Rental Assistance Program through its Section 8 housing office (hereinafter referred to as the office or the program).

Local rules, which are made a part of this Section 8 Administrative Plan, are intended to promote local housing objectives consistent with the intent of the federal housing legislation.

Local Programs subject to the provisions of this Section 8 Administrative Plan, as applicable, include:

- Pre-Merger Rental Vouchers
- Housing Choice Vouchers

Required program forms are located in HUD Handbook 7420.10 and on the worldwide web at www.hudclips.org.

PC-§1.01 Statement of Compliance with Applicable Fair Housing Laws

The Municipality of Ceiba Section 8 Tenant Rental Assistance Program Office is an equal opportunity employer and an equal opportunity housing provider.

The Housing Agency will administer its housing programs in a nondiscriminatory manner without regard to race, color, creed, national origin, religion, sex, age, handicap or familial status. The Housing Agency will comply with all federal, state and local fair housing Statutes, Executive Orders and comparable laws, including, but not necessarily limited to:

a. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended
b. Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, as amended
c. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended
d. Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988
e. Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act
f. State/local Fair Housing Laws

The Housing Agency will provide federal/state/local information regarding discrimination and recourse in the event of discrimination.

Prospective and participating landlords will be apprised of applicable Fair Housing Laws and the Housing Agency's policy regarding the full range of actions to be taken against landlords involved in discriminatory leasing practices.

The Housing Agency subscribes to HUD's open-housing policy and will maintain lists of available housing to ensure greater housing choice/opportunities for low-income households served by this Housing Agency.

If an applicant or participating family believes they have been the victims of illegal discrimination the Housing Agency will provide:

- HUD's Fair Housing Brochure (dated 7/90);
- Assistance in completing HUD form 903; and/or
- Referral to the Regional HUD Office of Fair Housing.
- Referral to state or local fair housing organizations

The MCHA may extend the family's term of voucher ("search time"), not to exceed 150 days, where there is sufficient evidence to lead the agency to believe the family's efforts to locate suitable housing has been impeded by discriminatory actions (or inactions) by prospective landlords or realtors.

PC-§1.02 Applicability of the Privacy Act

The Housing Agency will facilitate the full exercise of rights conferred on individuals under the Privacy Act of 1974, [5 U.S.C. 552A] and will ensure the protection of privacy as to individuals about whom the office maintains records under its Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Housing Program, except that information which is part of the applicant or tenant's file with regard to current/prior participation in drug-related or violent criminal activity, history of excessive damage to units created by applicant or tenant-family, or eviction from Section 8 assisted units, will be shared with prospective landlords.

A release form, executed by all adult family members, will accompany any requests for release of information.

D. PUBLIC NOTICE TO LOWER-INCOME AND/OR VERY LOW-INCOME FAMILIES

1. Notice of Availability of Housing Assistance

The Housing Agency shall periodically make known to the public through publication in a local daily newspaper of general circulation, minority print media and other suitable means, the availability and nature of housing assistance for Low-Income families. The notice shall further inform such families where and how they may apply for Section 8 Voucher assistance. The notice shall also state that occupants of housing assisted under the 1937 Act, and applicants on waiting lists for any such housing, must apply if they wish to be considered for a Voucher. In addition, the notice shall state that applicants for a Section 8 Voucher will not lose their place on the waiting list for public housing at the Municipality of Ceiba Section 8 Rental Assistance Program Office.

2. Notice in Accordance with HUD Guidelines

Such notice shall be made in accordance with the Housing Agency's most recently adopted Section 8 Administrative Plan. Upon request, the Housing Agency shall send to the HUD field office a copy of the Section 8 Administrative Plan.

3. Opening and Closing the Waiting List

The Housing Agency will give public notice when the waiting list is opened, including any limitations on who may apply. If the Housing Agency determines that its waiting list contains an adequate pool for use of its available funding, the Housing Agency may stop accepting applications.

4. Policy Governing Cross-Listing and Merging of Waiting Lists

The Municipality of Ceiba Housing Agency will not merge its Section 8 tenant-based assistance waiting lists with its project-based waiting lists for conventional public housing.

The agency will maintain a single, automated waiting list for Section 8 applicants consistent with HUD's instructions under Part 1 of the Section 8 Conforming Rule. If the public-housing waiting list is open at the time a family submits a pre-application for Section 8 assistance the family will be afforded the opportunity to be cross-listed on the Municipality of Ceiba Section 8 Rental Assistance Program Office public housing waiting list with the:

a. Same date/time of application
b. Same preference codes.

5. Notice of Nondiscrimination

All notices of general circulation regarding the availability of the program, and any notices to prospective applicants/participants or owners shall state the Housing Agency promotes nondiscrimination in housing and will assist any family who alleges discrimination by staff and/or owners. Such assistance may include any of the following: (a) assisting the family in completing HUD Form 903; (b) referring the family to the local legal aid society; (c) referring the family to the Puerto Rico Civil Rights Housing Agency; (d) providing the family with the toll free number for HUD's Office of Fair Housing in Washington, DC.

PD-§1.00 Statement of Program Approach and Planned Outreach

The Housing Agency will implement its Section 8 Rental Assistance Program in a manner consistent with the Housing Agency's mission of providing "*decent, safe, sanitary, and affordable*" housing. The Municipality of Ceiba Housing Agency will promote outreach about its programs and services, regarding the availability and nature of the Section 8 housing choice voucher program.

Outreach methods and strategy will be redesigned if it is determined that a particular segment or segments of the community are not being reached.

Efforts to reach those persons where Spanish may not be their first language will include the use of:

a. HUD forms which are printed in different languages; and
b. Public notices in newspapers that serve various non-Spanish speaking populations.

Newspapers to be used to advertise the availability of the program and to recruit owners of rental housing outside areas of low income and high minority concentration may include, but will not necessarily be limited to:

a. El Nuevo Dia

b. El Vocero de Puerto Rico
c. Primera Hora
d. El Horizonte
e. El Oriental

Broadcast news sources may incluye, but will not necessarily be limites to:

a. WYQE 93 Yunque
b. Negotiating rents and security deposits with prospective landlords;
c. Security required security and/or utility deposits;
d. Acquiring furniture.

Such organization may incluye, but are not necessarily limited to:

Churches serving the English-speaking community

The application will ask how the applicant heard about the program as a means of feedback on the effectiveness of the agency's outreach program, and to modify its strategy to reach under-represented population

During periods of time when the Housing Agency is accepting applications, interested persons will be afforded the opportunity to make written pre-application for assistance, even if it appears through discussion with the applicant that they may not qualify for assistance. All determinations of eligibility for the waiting list will be made solely based upon the written or oral representations of the family on the pre-application housing application forms. If a family appears to be eligible they will be placed on the waiting list. A final determination of eligibility will not occur until the Housing Agency actually has a form of assistance available to offer the family. At that time, the Section 8 program staff will conduct the family's final eligibility interview and undertake the required verification procedures.

To facilitate agency compliance with HUD's *income targeting requirements* an assertive effort to identify and assist *extremely low income families* will be accomplished through outreach activities with:

- Department of Family and Children's Services (local TANF agency)
- Department of Labor of Puerto Rico
- Department of Education of Puerto Rico
- Local hospitals, colleges and universities

The CHA will notify organizations representing persons with disabilities and ethnic minority populations of the period of time for which applications for Section 8 rental assistance will be provided. These same organizations will be recruited to assist the populations they serve by:

- Providing transportation to the interview and to search for housing outside of areas of high poverty or minority concentration;
- Assisting the applicant in organizing family data to be brought to the interview;
- Negotiating rents and security deposits with prospective landlords;
- Securing required security and/or utility deposits;

- Acquiring furniture.

Such organizations may include, but are not necessarily limited to:

- Churches serving the English-speaking community

The application will ask how the applicant heard about the program as a means of feedback on the effectiveness of the agency's outreach program, and to modify its strategy to reach under-represented populations.

PD-§1.01 Maintaining the Waiting List

The Municipality of Ceiba Section 8 Rental Assistance Program Office maintains a master waiting list for the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Programs.

The waiting list will provide the following information on apparently eligible households who have an active form of application (pre-application or full application):

a. Name of head of household;
b. Date and time the pre-application was received;
c. Unit size(s) most appropriate to meet the family's needs;
d. Preference status codes; and
e. Race/ethnicity of head of household
d. Annual Income (for income-targeting compliance)

PD-§1.02 Policy and Procedures Governing *Income Targeting* in Section 8 Waiting List Selections

The Municipality of Ceiba Section 8 Rental Assistance Program Office will implement *income targeting* consistent with the provisions of the Public Housing Reform Act of 1998. Family selections from the waiting list will be made in a manner that assures at least seventy five percent (75%) of all new admissions within the PHA's fiscal year have income at or below the *extremely low income* (ELI) limit for this area.

To ensure compliance with this requirement the agency will code its waiting list applicants by *income range* as follows:
Code 1= low *income (*i.e., family income reported at 51-80% of area median income);
Code 2= very *low income* (i.e., family income reported at 31-50% of area median income); and
Code 3= *extremely low income* (i.e., family income reported at zero to 30% of area median income).

The Municipality of Ceiba Section 8 Rental Assistance Program Office may select an applicant from its waiting list based on income range, and without regard to locally adopted preferences in tenant selection, if necessary to assure federal compliance with *annual income targeting requirements* for the Section 8 housing choice voucher program.

Section 8 program management staff will undertake the following procedures to establish and maintain compliance with its *income targeting requirements*:

Step 1: 90 days prior to the start of the new fiscal year, collect the data required to estimate the annual gross incomes of waiting list applicants (see *income codes* on the waiting List);

Step 2: Estimate the number of families expected to be admitted over course of upcoming fiscal year based on historical data (use unit turnover data from current fiscal year);

Step 3: Estimate number of families to be selected from the waiting list to facilitate 100% lease-up in upcoming fiscal year (use *success rate data* on number vouchers issued vs. number of contracts executed in current fiscal year);

Step 4: Based on current distribution of ELI (extremely low income) families on the waiting list determine if the **MCS8RAPO** can accomplish its requirement for 75% ELI admissions utilizing its "regular" tenant selection process, or if agency must intensively monitor waiting list selections to determine need to implement strategy (e.g., suspend regular *preferences* for ELI preference; open the waiting list for new ELI applicants; increase outreach to organizations representing the ELI populations).

PD-§1.03 Updating the Waiting List

The Housing Agency will initiate a periodic update of the applications received. The applicant will:

- Be mailed an update letter of interest regarding continued interest (sent by 1st class mail to the applicant's most recently reported address);
- Be required to complete the update form and return it within thirty (30) calendar days of mailing by the Housing Agency in order to maintain their name on the waiting list.

If the family fails to respond within the specified time period they will be determined ineligible and sent a notice with the reason and their right to request an informal review. For each notice returned marked *"Addressee Unknown"*, staff will close the application, attach the returned notice and envelope, and file and maintain for three (3) years.

For each application for which there has been no response and no returned notice, the MLHA will send a second notice by certified mail providing a final deadline. When the final deadline passes with no response, the family's application will be closed and maintained with the record of certified delivery for a period of three years.

Any changes in the family's circumstances that affect their place on the waiting list, such as a change in local preferences, will be made as of the date of the Application Update with the Housing Agency.

The family will maintain their original date of application no matter how many times there are changes in their circumstances while they are on the waiting list.

PD §1.04 Closing and Reopening the Waiting List

The Housing Agency reserves the right to:

1. Discontinue application taking for all or some targeted applicant families when it has been determined by the Housing Agency's director or designee that there is insufficient funding;

2. Give public notice whenever the waiting list will reopen through a local newspaper of general circulation and selected minority print media;

3. State where and when interested persons may apply and any limitations on who may apply, as well as any reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities who wish to apply.

PD-§1.05 Selections from the Section 8 Waiting List

Families will be selected for program participation as either a waiting list selection or special admission (non-waiting list admission).

"Special admissions" are made without regard to the family's position on the waiting list or even if the family is not on the waiting list. These admissions occur only when HUD gives the Housing Agency a special allocation of Section 8 funding for specific families living in certain targeted units. Special admissions are permitted when HUD provides special funding for general categories of targeted families such as the homeless or families displaced due to natural disaster, or due to the sale of a HUD foreclosure.

E. PUBLIC NOTICE AND INVITATION TO OWNERS

1. Solicitation to Owners

The Housing Agency shall periodically solicit owners through publication in a local newspaper of general circulation and other suitable means to make dwelling units available for rental by eligible families. In so doing, the Housing Agency shall encourage participation by owners of units in areas other than those with concentrations of low-income or minority families.

Solicitation to owners shall be made in accordance with the applicable HUD guidelines. The Housing Agency shall prepare and distribute *owner's fact sheets and owner's briefing packets*, which explain the basic program requirements and owner benefits to participating in the Section 8 rental assistance programs. The Section 8 staff shall also address members of local organizations representing the rental market.

The Section 8 staff shall prepare maps that show various areas, both within and neighboring its

jurisdiction, to assist families in renting housing outside areas of poverty or minority concentration. The maps will be used during briefing sessions, along with information about job opportunities, schools and services in these non-impacted areas to encourage the applicants to consider these areas when seeking a place to live. To further support this effort, to de-concentrate pockets of poverty, the Section 8 staff shall include in the tenant's briefing packet a list of owners who are willing to lease, or properties available for lease under the voucher program, or a list of other organizations that will help families find units. The list shall include properties or organizations that operate outside areas of poverty or minority concentration.

2. Contacts with Organizations

The Housing Agency shall periodically:

a. Request the HUD field office to furnish a list of HUD held properties available for rent in the Municipality of Ceiba Area,
b. Develop working relationships with owners and real estate broker associations,
c. Establish contact with civic, charitable or neighborhood organizations which have an interest in housing for low-income families, and public agencies concerned with obtaining housing for displacements, and
d. Explain the program, including equal opportunity requirements and Section 504 nondiscrimination requirements, to real estate agents, landlords, and other groups that have dealings with low-income families or are interested in housing such families.

F. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

1. Family Qualification for Rental Assistance

All applicants must qualify under the following factors of eligibility. This includes family's ability to meet the Housing Agency's/*HUD's definition of a family; document U.S. Citizen, U.S. national or eligible immigration status**;** have income at or below 50% of median income; not owe the Housing Agency or any other HA monies as a prior Section 8 participant; within the past 3 years no participation in drug-related or violent criminal activity, provide all applicable certifications and documentation.*

When vouchers become available, the Municipality of Ceiba Section 8 Housing Assistance Program will reassess eligibility of applicants on the official Waiting List. The applicants are required to submit the following documents:

- original birth certificate of all members of the family unit,
- photocopies of the Social Security cards of all family members, plus the original cards for visual inspection and number verification,
- photo identification of all members 18 or older
- certification of negative penal record of all members 18 or older.

a) Sex related Criminal Activity (24 CFR 982.553):

Anyone convicted of any type of sexual offense that requires a lifetime registration as a sexual offender under state law shall not be admitted into the Section 8 Program.

b) A tenant has a right to move out of their rented dwelling without prejudice or actions taken against, if after signing lease find out that a neighbor appears in the Department of Justice sexual offenders list

- certification of school attendance for all members under 18 years of age and/or evidence of full time enrollment for those attending college or university.
- evidence of current income
- a photograph of the family unit, and
- additional documents that may be required by the Municipality of Ceiba Section 8 Housing Assistance Program to determine eligibility and/or family income.
- If necessary, evidence of eligible immigrant's status (to be verify by the INS)

Eligible applicants are selected from the waiting list according first to preference (or priority order) and then by date and time of application. Exceptions to this rule can be made when the family structure is at risk due to lack of housing.

Before selection of voucher recipients, we will request a credit report for the head of the household and/or co-head, as well as every family member over 18 years old, using a computerized access to a Credit Report Company to verify income resources reported by the family. Also, after HUD form 50038 has been submitted to MTCS and prior to signing a lease-up contract we request an EIV report for each family that has been, issued a voucher, as part of the income verification process.

In case of family dissolution the assistance will continue to those members remaining in the assisted unit, taking as a priority consideration the interest of minor children and/or the elderly or disabled, in which case the family will be eligible for assistance provided the custodial member is determined as a new head of household. Reasonable efforts will be made on behalf of the remaining family protect them from homelessness.

2. Projected Income Indeterminable or Determinable for a Short Period

If a family is determined to have *unstable income* or reports *zero income* the Housing Agency shall place the family on a more frequent than annual re-examination schedule. Based upon individual circumstances this may result in a 30, 60 or 90-day interim reporting schedule. It is expected that most such families will be subject to a 90-day interim reporting requirement.

3. Family with Outstanding Balance Owing

An applicant with an outstanding balance owed to the Housing Agency in connection with its Section 8, public housing and/or other housing programs under the 1937 Act will be declared ineligible for housing assistance until the outstanding balance is paid in full. If an applicant family is determined to owe the Housing Agency or another Housing Agency money as a prior participant in the Section 8 or public housing programs it is the policy of this Housing Agency to offer the family the opportunity to enter into a repayment agreement while on the waiting list.

When the family reaches the top of the waiting list all prior monies owed must be paid in full as a factor of initial eligibility. Family must make full payment within 14 calendar days of the final eligibility interview. Failure to do so will result in denial of eligibility and family's name will be removed from the waiting list. Each family so denied will be advised in writing with procedures to follow to request an informal review.

For participating families**,** the Housing Agency may offer a repayment agreement. The family's non-compliance with the terms of the repayment agreement is considered grounds for termination of program participation. The Housing Agency will give both the family and the owner 30 days written notice of intent to terminate for family's failure to comply.

Applicants and participant families will be offered the opportunity for an informal review or hearing in accordance with Section Y of this plan.

4. Prior Termination from Section 8 Program

The Municipality of Ceiba Section 8 Rental Assistance Program Office may deny assistance to the applicant if the applicant has been previously terminated from a Section 8 Rental Voucher programs for violation of program obligations, or if a family member has been evicted from public housing in the three year period, preceding the date of application, for drug related criminal activity unless there is evidence of successful completion of drug rehab or the family member involved in drug related criminal activity is no longer a member of the applicant/participant household.

5. Disposition of Assets

An applicant who has assigned, converted, transferred, or otherwise disposed of assets within two years prior to the date of initial certification or re-certification shall have the value of such assets included in the determination of net family assets as set forth in 24 CFR 5 Subpart F, as amended.

a. The Municipality of Ceiba Section 8 Rental Assistance Program Office will obtain the Family's certification as to whether any member has disposed of assets for less than fair market value during the two years preceding effective date of the certification or re-certification.
b. If the family certifies that they did dispose of assets for less than fair market value, a certification that shows:
    - All assets disposed of for less than Fair Market Value;
    - The date they disposed of the assets;
    - The amount the family received; and
    - The assets' market value at the time of disposition.

PF-§1.00 Establishing Applicant Eligibility

All families must qualify for assistance in accordance with HUD's criteria for eligibility.

The preliminary determination of income eligibility will be based on the family's self-declared sources and amounts of income.

Factors confirming any local preferences claimed factors of eligibility and income will not be third-party verified until the family reaches the top of the waiting list.

PF-§1.01 Definition of a Family

The applicant must qualify as a family. A *family* may be a single person or a group of persons. Discrimination on the basis on familial status is prohibited, and a group of persons may not be denied solely on the basis that they are not related by blood, marriage or operation of law.

1. Definition of Family

To qualify for rental assistance, an applicant household must meet one of the following criteria:

a. Two or more persons regularly living together in a stable family-type relationship, who will live together in the Municipality of Ceiba Section 8 Rental Assistance Program Office-assisted housing.
   Two or more persons who are not related by blood, marriage, adoption, guardianship or operation of law, but are regularly living together, can verify shared income or resources, and will live together in the Municipality of Ceiba Section 8 Rental Assistance Program Office housing.

b. The term *"Family"* also includes, but is not limited to:

   - A family with or without children;
   - An elderly family;
   - A disabled family;
   - A displaced family;
   - The remaining member of tenant's family;
   - A single person who is not elderly, displaced, or a person with disabilities, or the remaining member of a tenant family.
   - Two or more elderly or disabled persons living together, or one or more elderly or disabled persons living with one or more live-in aides.

d. A child who is verified as being "temporarily absent" from the home due to placement in foster care shall be considered when determining the family composition and family size.

2. Head of Household

The head of household is the adult member of the household who is designated by the family as head, and who is wholly or partly responsible for paying the rent, and has the legal capacity to enter into a lease with an owner under State/Local laws.

Emancipated minors who qualify under State law may be recognized as head of household if there is additional evidence/documentation that they are capable of upholding all essential terms and conditions of occupancy.

A family may designate an elderly or disabled family member as head of household solely to qualify the family as an elderly household, provided that the person is at least partially responsible for paying the rent.

3. Applicable Definitions

For proper application of the rule governing *Restriction on Assistance to Non-citizens*1, the definition of *spouse* is: the marriage partner who, in order to dissolve the relationship, would have to be divorced. It includes the partner in a common law marriage. The term "spouse" does not apply to boyfriends, girlfriends, significant others, or co-heads.

4. A one-person household (i.e., *single person)* is considered to be an eligible family without restriction**.**

Spouse generally means the husband or wife of the head of household in a marriage recognized under Commonwealth of Puerto Rico Law.

Live-in aide means the person expected to reside with an elderly or disabled voucher holder which a physician has declared to be medically necessary for the care and well-being of the voucher-holder and who is not obligated to provide the support for this person and who would not be living in the (subsidized) unit except to provide the necessary care.

Co-head of household means the person(s) who are (a) living in a spousal relationship or (b) are related or unrelated adults with equal responsibility for program/lease compliance, such as may be the case with two adult sisters or two adult disabled persons wishing to live together.

PF-§1.02 Eligible Single Persons

All single persons are eligible to apply for and receive Section 8 subsidy if otherwise eligible during periods of time when the agency is accepting applications.

PF-§1.03 Income Limitations

At the time of issuance of the voucher to a family from the waiting list a family's gross annual income must not exceed the Low Income (i.e., 80% of area median income) limit. In addition, the family, when first admitted, must select a unit in an area in which the family meets the income limit for the housing choice voucher program.

For a family receiving assistance at the time of the portability move (i.e., "currently assisted family"), who elects to move with continued assistance under portability to the jurisdiction of

1 Section 214 of the 1980 Housing and Community Development Amendments

another Section 8 program, they may be either very low or low income as a *continuously assisted family*.

PF-§1.04 Procedure for Projecting Unstable Income

Where a family member has sporadic, yet recurring income such as a business owner or temporary clerical work (i.e., "Kelley-Girl") the income will include projected income based upon current income and expenses:

1. Place family on a 90-day re-exam cycle;
2. Require family to bring income information for the most recent 60-day (eight-week period) preceding the date of certification;
3. Calculate average weekly or monthly income and use this as a base line figure to project income for the upcoming 12-month period.
4. Combine the income from this period with the income from the prior period to establish a new baseline weekly or monthly figure;
5. Recalculate the TTP and determine need for additional interim re-exams.

PF-§1.05 Housing Agency Policy Governing Verification of Zero Income.

All income representations made by the family to the Housing Agency must be verified to ensure the accurate calculation of total tenant payment and housing assistance payment. When a family claims *zero* income the staff will use the following procedures:

1. Head or co-head of household must complete a *Family Economic-Sufficiency* Form. This form will inquire as to how the family is currently covering living expenses such as utilities, food, clothing, etc.
2. Review the family information to evaluate possible participation in programs such as TANF, unemployment, etc.
3. Pose questions to the family intended to probe for unreported income and to clarify any discrepancies.
4. Have the head or co-head complete the following verification forms, even if they represent they do not receive income from these sources:
   - Food Stamp verification form
   - TANF verification form
   - Unemployment benefits verification form
   - Credit bureau reporting verification form
   - Any other verification form that appears to fit the family's profile
   - Income Tax Return
   - IRS Request for Information

If the verification form reflects income from these sources the Section 8 staff will act on the information provided by the source. The Section 8 staff is also to meet with the family to discuss

any discrepancies and to provide the family with the opportunity to explain the discrepancies, and to supply information, which controverts the information, received.

When the credit report reflects "more money going out than coming in" any recurring payments made to the family or on behalf of the family will be counted as "income" consistent with 24 CFR 5 as “regularly recurring cash contributing gifts”.

If the family generally disputes the information provided by the third party the Section 8 staff is to seek further clarification by phone with the third party. The information provided by the third party is to prevail. The family will be offered the opportunity for an informal review of any decision reached based upon the third party information if the family feels that the Housing Agency's decision has an adverse effect. The decision of the hearing officer will prevail.

PF-§1.06 Social Security Reporting Requirements

Families are required to provide social security numbers for all family members age 6 and older, if they have been assigned a social security number (SSN), as a condition of initial and continued eligibility.

If a family member age six and older does not have a social security number the family:

- Must provide a certification that a SSN has not been assigned; and Family must agree to provide any social security numbers assigned after the date of the certification.
- For a minor age six to seventeen without a social security number the head of household or legal guardian will be required to complete the prescribed certification form.
- If an adult household member reports no social security number the adult must execute the required form.

If a non-elderly applicant or participant provides a social security number for which they state they cannot provide the appropriate verification the Housing Agency may grant a 60-day extension period in which to obtain and submit the required documentation.

For elderly families the Housing Agency may grant an extension of up to 120 days in which to provide the required documentation.

Failure of any family to supply the required documentation within the prescribed extension period will result in denial (applicant) or termination (participant) of assistance.

Verification of social security numbers reported by household members will be evidenced through submission of a valid social security card issued by the Social Security Administration or through an alternate form of documentation including, but not necessarily limited to:

- Benefit award letters
- Drivers license

- Employment identification card
- Payroll stubs
- Bank statements
- Medical insurance identification card
- IRS form 1099 (or similar)
- Medical insurance/medical provider card.
- Military identification card

A person age 6+ proposed to join a family in occupancy must comply with provisions of this part.

PF-§1.07 Section 214 Declaration

Pursuant to Section 214 of the 1980 *Housing and Community Development Amendments,* all applicant and participant households must provide a declaration of citizenship or eligible immigration status. The Section 8 staff will provide this form with a letter of explanation to each household applying for assistance. If an applicant family member has ineligible status the family may not receive full subsidy. If any member of the family is a U.S. citizen or has eligible immigration status then the family may qualify for pro-rated/partial assistance. If there are no family members with citizen or eligible immigration status then the family will be determined ineligible for subsidy and denied issuance of a voucher. An ineligible family will be informed in writing of the denial and their right to request an informal hearing equal to the hearing granted for a participant family.

If there are no family members with citizen or eligible immigration status then the family will be determined ineligible for housing. An ineligible family will be informed in writing of the denial and their right to request an informal hearing.

1. In order to receive assistance, a family member must be a U.S. citizen or eligible immigrant. Individuals who are neither may elect not to content their status. Eligible immigrants are persons who are in one of the six immigrant categories as specified by HUD.

    a. Mixed Families. A family is eligible for assistance as long as at least one member is citizen or eligible immigrant. Families that include eligible and ineligible individuals are called a mixed family. Such applicant families will be given notice that their assistance will be pro-rated and that they may request a hearing if they contest this determination.

    b. No eligible members. Applicant families that include no eligible members will be ineligible for assistance. Such families will be denied admission and offered an opportunity for a hearing.

    c. Non-citizen students defined by HUD in the non-citizen regulations are not eligible for assistance.

2. Section 214 verifications will be accomplished as follows:

    a. U.S. Citizens or Nationals. Persons claiming status as a U.S. citizen or U.S.

national will provide a self-certification in the form prescribed by the agency.

b. Eligible Immigrants. Staff will conduct primary verification of eligible immigrant status through the INS automated SAVE (*Systematic Verification for Entitlements*) system using the instructions provided at HUD Guidebook 7420.10 G (pg. 5-7).

Staff will not delay, deny, or terminate assistance to an applicant or currently assisted household if any one of the following circumstances applies:

- At least one person in the household has submitted appropriate INS documents;
- The documents were submitted to the INS on a timely basis, but the verification process has not been completed;
- The family member in question moves;
- The INS appeals process has not been completed
- Assistance is pro-rated;
- Deferral of termination of assistance is granted by the agency;
- For a program participant, the informal hearing process is not complete.

Assistance will be denied or terminated when:

- Declaration of citizenship or eligible immigration status is not submitted by the specified deadline or any extension;
- Required documentation is submitted but INS primary and secondary verification does not verify immigration status and family does not pursue INS or PHA appeal; or
- Required documentation is submitted but INS primary and secondary verification does not verify immigration status, and INS or PHA appeal is pursued but decision(s) are rendered against the family.

When the MCS8APO decides to deny or terminated assistance, a written notice, which includes the following, will be sent by first class mail:

- An explanation of why the financial assistance will be denied or terminated;
- Notification that the family may be eligible for prorated assistance if it is a *mixed family*;
- Procedures for requesting *temporary deferral or proration of assistance* for currently assisted families;
- Family's right to appeal the results of the secondary verification to the INS; and
- Family's right to request an informal hearing from the PHA in lieu of an INS appeal or after an appeal.

Where feasible, the agency will provide all required notices and instructions in a language that the Family understands if the family is not proficient in English. Care will be taken to ensure that the implementations of the 214 requirements are accomplished consistent with Section 504 and Fair Housing requirements.

PF-§1.08 Other Criteria For Admission

1. Applicant must have paid in full any outstanding debt owed to any PHA for public housing, Section 8 voucher or for any previous tenancy under the 1937 Housing Act and/or any other federally assisted housing program.

2. Applicant must have left any previous tenancy under the Section 8 program without being in violation of a family obligation under its Housing Voucher, (unless there was good cause) within the five-year period preceding the date of application for assistance.

3. No family member has committed:

   - Fraud
   - Bribery; or
   - Any other corrupt or criminal act in connection with any federally assisted housing program in the five-year period preceding the date of application for assistance.

4. Family has not breached a pre-existing agreement to repay the Housing Agency for monies owed as a prior program participant. If there are any monies due and owing the Housing Agency the family must make full payment of the debt prior to being issued a voucher. Failure to do so is grounds for denial of assistance.

5. No family member to occupy the assisted unit is an employee the Housing Agency or governing body that makes policies or decisions relating to the operation of the Section 8 program unless HUD has granted a written waiver.

PF-§1.09 Family Suitability

It is not the intent of the federal government nor the local government to provide subsidy for a family with a member(s) who have a history of drug related, violent criminal activity, nor alcohol abuse that interferes with the health, safety or right to peaceful enjoyment of others..

If the family member involved in the illegal drug activity or violent criminal activity will not occupy the assisted unit, or can demonstrate that he/she is recovering or has recovered from such addiction and does not currently use or possess a controlled substance, the Housing Agency may approve the family for program participation.

The Housing Agency will not screen for factors that relate to suitability of the applicant family as "tenants".

Section 8 staff is prohibited from considering *suitability factors*, such as those described below, when determining family eligibility for Section 8 rental assistance:

1. Prior rent paying history;
2. Outstanding debts owed to previous owners (unless there was an owner's claim which was paid by the Housing Agency on behalf of the family, thus creating a financial obligation to the Housing Agency); or
2. History of damage to rental properties, etc.

The above forms of screening and evaluating an applicant for tenancy are the responsibility of the landlord and not the Housing Agency.

Owners are advised both orally and in writing of their obligation to perform normal, routine screening of applicants they propose to house.

The Housing Agency will continually urge owners to conduct such thorough screening on a uniform, consistent and non-discriminatory basis as part of the owner's routine tenant selection process.

The Housing Agency will provide the following information to prospective landlords to the extent such information is a part of the applicant/tenant file and does not violate the privacy act.

- Current address
- Current landlord information
- Prior landlord information
- Outstanding claims for unpaid rent or damages owing the program

PF-§1.10 Grounds For Denial of Admission and Notice to Family

If the applicant household does not meet the factors of eligibility stated in this section the Housing Agency will make a determination of ineligibility. Any family determined to be ineligible for assistance will be notified in writing within five (5) working days of the decision.

PF-§1.11 Informal Review Procedure for Applicants

Applicants will be provided an opportunity for informal review of decisions that deny the applicant placement on the Waiting List, issuance of a Section 8 voucher or participation in the Section 8 program.

1. The written notice of ineligibility will state the reason for the determination and advise the family of its right to request an informal review of the decision within fourteen (14) calendar days of the date of the Housing Agency's notice of ineligibility.

2. Applicant will be given the opportunity for informal review in accordance with these procedures:

    - If such a review is requested the informal review will be conducted within ten (10) calendar days of receiving the family's written request.

- Review shall be conducted by any employee, other than a person who made or approved the decision under review or a subordinate of that person.
- Applicant shall be given an opportunity to present oral or written objections to the Housing Agency decision.
- Applicant has the right to legal counsel or other representation at his/her expense.
- The hearing officer will notify the applicant in writing of the final decision within five (5) working days after the informal review. This notice shall include a brief statement of the reasons for the final decision.

G. DETERMINATION OF FAMILY INCOME AND FACTORS OF ELIGIBILITY

1. Application for Admission

The Housing Agency shall determine eligibility for Section 8 rental assistance in accordance with criteria established by HUD and the Municipality of Ceiba Section 8 Rental Assistance Program Office. In so doing, the Housing Agency shall require every applicant to complete and sign an application prescribed by the Housing Agency, as well as applicable verification consent forms.

2. Determination of Annual Income

Family income for purposes of determining income eligibility and tenant rent and subsidy shall be computed in accordance with HUD specified sources and amounts of income to be included or excluded as stated at 24 CFR §5 Subpart F.

Additionally, the Municipality of Ceiba Section 8 Rental Assistance Program Office shall exclude certain amounts of earned income under designated and qualified local training programs related to Welfare Reform as specified in HUD Notice 98-2, and consistent with 24 CFR§5.609.

3. Verification of Factors of Initial Eligibility and Tenant Rent

To document program eligibility, preference rating, dwelling size and rent to be paid, the information submitted on the application for admission shall be independently verified. Program verification used shall be valid for a period of 60 days prior to admission. Program verifications used for annual re-exams shall be valid for a period of 120 days prior to the effective date of re-examination of family circumstances.

The Housing Agency will follow the verification methods prescribed in HUD PIH- Notice 92-45 and PIH Notice 2001-15.

When third party verification source cannot or will not provide the required information within four weeks this will be noted in the applicant or tenant file and the Housing Agency will

document the alternative method used.

The Housing Agency may review original documents provided by the family and use this as the basis for a provisional determination that will remain subject to third party verification.

If third party verification is received after the provisional determination of initial/continued eligibility or tenant rent has been made the Housing Agency will use the third party independent verification to make a retroactive determination. A family's rent may be increased or decreased retroactively.

If there is a determination that a family was not initially eligible for program participation the family will be terminated on 30 day written notice to the family and owner. Any ineligible family will be required to make full repayment of subsidy received to which the family was not entitled.

4. Verification of Annual Income

Anticipated income is a prime determinant of an applicant's eligibility for participation and their level of rental assistance. An Annual income means income from all sources received by the family head and spouse (even if temporarily absent), and by each additional member of the family, including all net income to be derived from assets for the upcoming 12-month period.

Annual income will be determined based on appropriate third party verification. Initial income eligibility is established by comparing annual income to the HUD-prescribed maximum income limit.

There is no minimum income requirement for participation in the Section 8 rental assistance programs.

5. Record of Family

A file folder shall be established for each applicant and participant family and shall contain the original application and all data collected to verify and document the family's status. For each participant family the Housing Agency will maintain as part of the family record the family's application, applicable verifications, a copy of the executed lease and the HAP contract, as well as correspondence between the family and Housing Agency. The Housing Agency shall retain all applicant/tenant certifications and relevant documentation as set forth in 24 CFR 982, as amended.

6. Misrepresentation of Family Circumstances

If any applicant deliberately misrepresents the information on which eligibility or tenant rent is established, the Housing Agency may deny and/or terminate assistance and may refer the family file/record to the proper authorities for appropriate disposition.

7. Determination of Ineligibility

If an applicant is determined to be ineligible for Section 8 rental assistance, the Housing Agency shall promptly state the reasons for its determination to the applicant in writing. The letter shall also state that the applicant may request an informal discussion and explain how to request the informal discussion.

8. Suspension of Voucher Issuance

If there is insufficient funding to assist the family at the top of the waiting list, the Housing Agency will not issue any form of assistance to any other family on the waiting list until there is sufficient funds to assist the family at the top of the waiting list.

However, if HUD awards the Housing Agency funds for a specified category of families on the waiting list, the Housing Agency must select families in that category, even if they are not at the top of the waiting list for one year. All such selections will be made as a Special Admission and so noted in the tenant and waiting list records.

9. Removal from the Tenant-Based Assistance Waiting List

The Housing Agency will remove a family's name from the Section 8 Tenant-Based Assistance waiting list if the family is determined ineligible in accordance with criteria prescribed by HUD or Housing Agency policy. The Housing Agency may also remove a family's name from its waiting list for family's failure to provide the Housing Agency with a new mailing address and/or any correspondence is returned with no forwarding address or family fails to participate in 2+ scheduled appointment(s) without good cause. The Housing Agency may also remove a family's name from the waiting list based upon a family's written request.

PG-§1.00 Policy and Procedures for Verifying Factors of Eligibility

Verification of income and asset information is required to determine eligibility for admission and continued assistance. All of the family's written representations that affect the family's eligibility for rent must be verified by the Housing Agency's Section 8 admissions staff.

Written inquiries will include:

- Statement of the purpose for requesting family data; and
- Statement signed by the applicant to permit the source to release information/family data.

When an applicant or tenant reports annual income that appears to be less than adequate for the family's needs, or if the family appears to be eligible for income that is not reported to be received, (i.e., Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), welfare, unemployment compensation, child support, etc.) the absence of such income will be verified.

Family may be required to sign verification consent forms for:

- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- Food Stamps
- Unemployment Compensation
- State Wage Information Collection Housing Agency
- Credit Reports

For an initial determination of eligibility all required verifications must be current (i.e., issued within the 60 day period preceding the date of interview).

Tenant files will contain documentation of all required verifications.

1. Applicants/tenants must cooperate with Section 8 staff and comply with the Housing Agency's certification/verification process by providing enough information to allow the Section 8 office to obtain verification from a third party of all statements regarding eligibility and rent. Family composition is generally treated as a self-certification. The signature of the head and/or co-head of household on the application for housing assistance will normally be considered sufficient verification for family composition. However, the Housing Agency may require proof of family composition consistent with the Housing Agency's definition of *family*.

2. All income, assets and each applicable deduction will be verified at the time of admission and at each subsequent re-examination. Income will be verified by third party verification. If third party written verification is not possible Section 8 staff shall attempt to receive third party oral verification by calling the source or participating in a meeting with the source. Whenever third party oral verification is utilized the Eligibility Specialist/Housing Representative who received the information will be required to document the date of the phone contact, the name of the person they spoke with, information received and sign their name. Additionally, the Eligibility Specialist/Housing Representative will complete the Housing Agency's third party oral verification form. This form will identify with whom they spoke, the date, and other critical information. If neither third party neither written nor oral verification is possible this will be noted in the file and Section 8 staff shall undertake a review of documentation provided by the family. Eligibility Specialists/Housing Representatives are to review documents provided by the family for: *date, authenticity, and completeness*. If documents appear to be altered they should not be considered and alternative documentation should be requested.

   The following statements will also be verified and documented in the tenant file:

   a. Age of family members when the sole factor determining factor of eligibility is age or to support deductions claimed for minors or elderly household status;
   b. Displacement, handicap, disability, veteran or serviceman status when they are a factor in determining eligibility for certain deductions or preferences;
   c. Full-time student status.

PG-§1.00.a Policy and Procedures for Third Party Verifications

The verification process during the time of application, interim reexamination and annual Re-examination is a critical task in the administration of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) assisted housing programs. This task requires Public Housing Agencies (PHA's) to verify factors that affect the determination of an applicant's/participant's adjusted income. The verification process also requires the applicant/participant to provide and disclose information that is true and complete, which is necessary in the administration of HUD's assisted housing programs. The Housing Agency of the Municipality of Ceiba is committed to insure that all applicants and participants information if verified for accuracy and completeness.

The requirement for third party verification can be found at 24 CFR §960.259(c)(1) and §982.516(a)(2) and states that "The PHA must obtain and document in the family file third party verification of the following factors, or must document in the file why third party verification was not available:

- Reported family annual income;
- The value of assets;
- Expenses related to deductions from annual income; and
- Other factors that affect the determination of adjusted income or income-based rent."

The Department has defined third party verification based on verification requirements established by the Inspector General's Office, prior HUD notices and guidebooks. References: PIH Notice 2001-15: Improving Income Integrity in Public and Assisted Housing Choice Voucher Program Guidebook (Section 12-4) issued April 2001 The Tenant Integrity Program Training Guide issued by the Office of the Inspector General (Page 51) issued October 1989.

Third party verification is defined as independent verification of income and/or expenses by contacting the individual income/expense source(s) supplied by the family. The verification documents must be supplied directly to the independent source by the PHA and returned directly to the PHA from the independent source.

The tenant shall not hand carry documents to or from the independent source. The Agency will mail, fax, or e- mail the verification request form to the independent source. In the event that the independent source does not respond to the Agency's, faxed, mailed, or emailed request for information, the Agency will secure and document oral third party verification.

The agency will ensure that they use appropriate consent forms to obtain specific information. The HUD Form 9886 authorizes HUD and the PHA to obtain third party verification of the following:

- Any income information or materials from State Wage Information Collection Agencies (SWICA).
- Income information obtained from previous and current employers. The HUD Form 9886 authorizes HUD only, to obtain third party verification of the following:
- Income information from the SSA.

- Income returns information from the IRS.

The HUD Form 9886 may not be used to obtain any other information

Verification Guidance

The Agency will make every effort to secure HUD Systems Available for Upfront Income Verification.
The Agency will use HUD's Tenant Assessment Sub-System (TASS) and centralized UIV System as acceptable methods for verifying family income.

Note: The Agency will insure to have a valid HUD Form 9886 signed by all household members who are 18 years of age or older in the tenant file.

The Agency will make use of the Third Party Verification to Supplement Upfront Income Verification.

Written Third Party Verification: Independent verification of income and/or expenses will be secured by contacting the individual income/expense source(s) supplied by the family. The verification documents must be supplied directly to the independent source by the PHA and be returned directly to the Agency from the independent source.

Oral Third Party Verification: Independent verification of income and/or expenses will be secured and documented by contacting the individual income/expense source(s) supplied by the family, via telephone or in-person visit. Agency staff will document in the tenant file, the date and time of the telephone call, the name of the person contacted and telephone number, along with the confirmed verified information. This verification method will be the last resource used in the event that the independent source does not respond to the Agency's faxed, mailed, or e-mailed request for information in ten (10) business days.

Document Review: The Agency will review original documents provided by the tenant in support of their declaration of income during the income reexamination. This verification method will only be used as the sole source of income verification when all other sources of third party verification cannot be obtained. When the Agency has to resort to reviewing tenant-provided documents, the Agency will document in the tenant file why third party verification was not available.

Part HH of this plan provides further guidance on the verification method that the Agency will utilize to insure full compliance and adherence with this policy and with HUD's requirements.

The Housing Agency of the Municipality of Ceiba will use the following verification methods in the order listed below:
(1) Upfront Verification
(2) Written Third Party Verification
(3) Oral Third Party Verification
(4) Document Review

(5) Tenant Declaration

The Agency will attempt to use upfront income verification first and whenever possible, since it is the most preferred method by HUD and does not rely on an individual filling out a form, which may result in lower data integrity.

If upfront verification is not available then the Agency will obtain required written third party verification. Verification forms are to be mailed, faxed or e- mailed directly to the independent source. In the event that the independent source fails to respond to written verification requests, the Agency will then contact the independent source by telephone or an in a personal visit to obtain the verification. Upon receipt of the information, the Agency must document in the family file, the date and time the information was received along with the name of the person and title that provided the information.

EXCEPTIONS TO THIRD PARTY VERIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:

The Housing Agency of the Municipality of Ceiba is aware that in some situations, third party verification is not available for a variety of reasons. Oftentimes, the Agency may have to make numerous attempts to obtain the required verifications with no luck, or the income source may not honor written or oral requests for income information, or the asset or expenses to be verified is an insignificant amount, or it may not be cost effective to obtain third party verification of assets and expenses, when the impact on total tenant payment is minimal (See summary of example exceptions to third party verification in Part HH). In these cases, it is acceptable for Agency to review original documents provided by the tenant. However, the Agency is required to document in the family file the reason(s) why third party verification was not available. The Agency will maintain a photocopy of the original document in the family file.

PG-§1.01 Verification of Handicap/Disability Status

To ensure compliance with the non-discrimination provisions of the *Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988* and *Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973*, the Housing Agency will implement the following procedures when verifying a family's representation that the head or co-head/spouse is handicapped or disabled for 12 months or more.

1. Such verification will only occur when the head/co-head has indicated in writing that a family member is handicapped or disabled and the family feels that such status entitles them to special deductions and/or special assistance in locating suitable units or preference in tenant selection.
2. Person(s) who receives Social Security Disability (SSD) benefits will be determined handicapped/disabled and no further verification will be required.
3. No family/family member will be required to attest to nor establish their ability to live independently as a condition of initial or continued eligibility for assistance.
4. If the individual with a disability has been recently de-institutionalized or states they are otherwise disabled, but is not receiving SSD, verification from a trained professional (i.e., doctor, therapist,) that the named person meets HUD's definition of handicap or

disability will be adequate verification. Section 8 staff will provide the third party with a certification form containing the HUD definition.

PG-§1.02 Use of the HUD Form 9886.

The HUD Form 9886, *Authorization for the Release of Information/Privacy Act Notice*, must be executed by all adult household members (and spouse regardless of age) age 18 and older. This form must be completed for each initial certification and annual re-certification. If the family undergoes an interim re-exam and there is a family member who has since the last certification attained age 18, this household member will be required to complete the Form 9886 as part of the interim re-examination.

Eligibility Specialist /Housing Representative will review with the applicants/participants the Authorization for the Release of Information/Privacy Act Notice, to explain (a) how the information provided by the participant will be used by HUD; (b) HUD's restriction on disclosure of the information; and (c) that other information requested by the Public Housing Agency are HUD eligibility requirements.

Note: The Consent form expires 15 months after date signed.

Individual verification forms will continue to be used to collect the specific information to be verified, such as the employment verification form which requests information specific to rate and frequency of pay, as well as potential for overtime, tips, fees, and bonuses.

When the Housing Agency has reason to believe that a family's circumstances have changed, or are different from the representations made on the most recent certification the Housing Agency will send the form 9886 to any/all sources designated on the form.

H. ELIGIBLE FAMILIES

1. Voucher

If an applicant is determined to be eligible and sufficient funding is available, such applicant shall be issued a *Housing Choice Voucher* signed by a duly authorized representative of the Housing Agency.

2. Declared Emergencies

In the event of an emergency declared by resolution of the Municipality of Ceiba Legislature or Mayor, State or Local Emergency Management Office, the waiting list for Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers may be bypassed. Under such circumstances, vouchers may be provided to current residents of public housing (or other forms of assisted housing owned by the Municipality of Ceiba Section 8 Rental Assistance Program Office) to families who meet the qualifications for participation in the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program. This housing assistance shall be provided solely for the purpose of relocating such families residing in the housing units specified in the Emergency Declaration to other housing units that meet all Section

8 program requirements.

In the event no suitable relocation units exist within the Municipality of Ceiba Section 8 Rental Assistance Program Office inventory, Section 8 Vouchers shall be used if the family otherwise qualifies for this form of assistance.

3. Preference in Selection of Eligible Families

In selecting eligible families for participation in the Housing Choice Voucher Program, the Housing Agency shall apply the following order of preference. Eligible families qualifying for any one of the following preferences shall be selected in the order of the date and time of their application:

- Involuntarily Displacement (Disaster, Government Action, Action of Housing Owner, Inaccessibility, Property Disposition).
- Victims of Domestic Violence.
- Working Families and/or those unable to work because of age or disability.

4. Exception(s) To the Granting of Local Preferences in Tenant Selection

An applicant will not be granted any local preference if any member of the family has been evicted from any federally assisted housing during the past three years because of drug-related criminal activity.

The Municipality of Ceiba Section 8 Rental Assistance Program Office will grant an exception to such a family only if:

- The responsible member has successfully completed a rehabilitation program.
- The evicted person was not involved in the drug related activity that occasioned the eviction.

5. Notice of Denial of a Preference

If the Housing Agency determines that an applicant does not meet the criteria for a local preference claimed, the Housing Agency should promptly notify the applicant in writing. The notice shall state the reasons for the denial and that the applicant has a right to request an informal review with the Housing Agency's staff.

The Housing Agency will not deny a family's claimed preference, nor remove a family from the waiting list solely because the applicant family has applied for, received, or refused other forms of housing assistance.

PH-§1.00 Issuance of Housing Choice Vouchers

1. Tenant Selection

The Housing Agency will issue housing choice vouchers pursuant to HUD'S final rule, effective October 1, 1999. An available housing choice voucher will be issued to eligible applicants as the family reaches the top of the waiting list (and in accordance with applicable preferences and date/time of application). The owner decides whether a voucher-holder is suitable for tenancy based upon the outcome of the owner's routine screening.

The Housing Agency, in deciding whether to admit the applicant/family, will not discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, religion, sex**,** national origin, disability, whether the family has children, whether family members are unwed parents, recipients of public assistance, or children born out of wedlock. The Housing Agency cannot adopt a preference in tenant selection for higher income families over lower income families. [24 CFR **§**982.202 (b)]

2. Family Briefing

When a family initially receives a Voucher, a full explanation of the Section 8 program requirements shall be provided as part of the family's briefing as outlined in 24 CFR 982.301, as amended, for Voucher holders.

3. Expiration and Extension of Voucher

The term of the Voucher shall be as outlined in 24 CFR 982.303, as amended. The initial term of the voucher is 60 days. As a *reasonable* accommodation for a family where the head or spouse is disabled, the Housing Agency will **initially** grant a family the full 120-day term, as an added reasonable accommodation. A disabled family may hold such form of assistance for more than 120 days term as a *reasonable accommodation* where supported by documentation that the family's inability to secure approved housing within the 120 day term was directly related to a family member's disability.

If a family submits a Request for Tenancy Approval (RFTA) prior to the expiration date and the RFTA is subsequently disapproved, the Voucher may be extended upon written request of the family for a period equivalent to the number of days between the submission of the RFTA and the date of disapproval of the RFTA.

A family may submit a written request for an extension of time to search for suitable housing. The written request must be received before the expiration date on the voucher. The Housing Agency will evaluate each request and determine the likelihood of the family finding housing with additional time to search. An approved extension will be granted for a 30 day period of time with proof of effort to timely secure an approved form of housing. Only in extenuating circumstances, such as hospitalization or jury sequestration, will a second extension of 30 days be granted.

4. Family Break-Up- Eligibility in Event of *Family Dissolution*

If either an applicant's or participant's family experiences a break or division of its original household composition the Housing Agency shall commit the housing assistance to the adult

applicant, and who was either head or co-head of household, and who retains custody of any minor children. If there are no minor children involved the housing assistance shall be committed to the person who signed the application for initial or continued assistance. If more than one person signed the application, and there are no minor children involved, the Housing Agency shall require the adults to decide who shall receive the housing assistance. If the adults cannot decide within the time frame prescribed, then the Housing Agency shall terminate the application for initial or continued assistance and each party must make new application for assistance.

In the event the parties elect to resolve the dispute in a court of law, then the Housing Agency shall stay any administrative decision and comply with the terms of the court decision.

5. Family Absence From the Unit

Family may be absent from the assisted unit for up to 30 consecutive days without written notice to the Housing Agency. If the family expects to be absent in excess of 30 consecutive days the family must advise the Housing Agency in writing of the anticipated term of absence and the reason. The Housing Agency may allow the family to be absent from the unit for up to 90 consecutive days with continued assistance on good cause shown. If there is no family member remaining in the unit after 90 consecutive days the Housing Agency will commence the process of terminating housing assistance payments to the owner upon written notice to family and owner. Should the Housing Agency become aware of a family's extended absence from the assisted unit and the family has not received written approval of the Housing Agency the housing assistance may be terminated sooner than 90 days upon written notice to family and owner. A waiver to this part can be granted at the discretion of the Housing Agency's Manager for periods exceeding 90 days but for no more than 180 days. [24 CFR §982.312]

I. SUBSIDY STANDARDS [24 CFR §982.402]

In issuing the choice voucher to an eligible family, the Housing Agency shall determine the number of bedrooms to be placed on the housing choice voucher for families of different size and composition. These standards are developed for the purpose of determining the voucher size that will best meet the family's needs at the lowest cost to the government.

1. In establishing the subsidy standards the Housing Agency shall:

- Consider the smallest number of bedrooms needed to house the family without overcrowding;
- Assign a subsidy standard that does not require more than two persons to occupy the same bedroom;
- Include every member of the family, regardless of age, including a child who is temporarily absent due to placement in foster care;
- Consider a single pregnant woman with no other family members as a two-person family;
- Consider an approved live-in aide for a qualified family;
- Not assign a subsidy standard that requires parent(s) to share a bedroom with a

children(s);

- Not require children of the opposite sex to share a bedroom as long as one child is age six (6) or older.

In determining the appropriate unit size for a particular family, the Housing Agency may grant an exception to its established standards where justified by the age, sex, health, handicap, or relationship of family members or by other personal circumstances.

A family may lease an otherwise acceptable unit with more bedrooms than the subsidy standard stated on the voucher, though the payment standard (for the voucher program) cannot exceed the payment standard for the designated family unit (subsidy standard) size.

The family may also lease a unit with fewer bedrooms than the subsidy standard size stated on the housing voucher, as long as the smaller unit meets the applicable HQS space requirements at 24 CFR **§**982.402[d]. However, the calculation of housing subsidy will be based on the actual unit size selected as will the allowance for any tenant-paid utilities.

The living room of a unit may be used as a sleeping room if it meets the HQS standards for a sleeping room. However, the living room cannot be counted as a bedroom for purposes of determining the *applicable payment standard* for the family.

PI-§1.00 Subsidy Standards for Issuing Vouchers

The Housing Agency will use its subsidy standards to determine the voucher that appears to best meet the family's need for housing while maximizing the use of the space and minimizing the cost to the government. The adopted standards will be consistent with the HQS space standards that are intended to avoid overcrowding. The family, at its option, may select a unit with fewer bedrooms than stated on the vouchers if it does not require more than two persons per sleeping room. This usually results in a lesser payment standard and reduced subsidy.

The Housing Representative is to issue the voucher in the size consistent with the Housing Agency's most recently adopted subsidy standards. Should this result in a unit of five (5) or more bedrooms the Housing Representative shall use the formula in the *Federal Register* for establishing the applicable FMR and Payment Standard.

PI-§1.01 Fair Housing Impact.

The Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988 extended protections against discrimination in housing to two additional classes of persons:

- Persons with a disability; and
- Families with children.

The family can select a unit equal in size to the voucher size, or larger or smaller than the voucher size, but consistent with the HQS space standard restrictions (i.e., no more than 2 persons per sleeping room including the use of the living room as a sleeping room).

It is the intent of this Housing Agency to administer all aspects of its program administration and personnel management system in a non-discriminatory fashion.

PI-§1.02 Factors to be Considered

All household members and *persons expected to reside* are to be included when establishing the voucher size that will best meet the family's needs.

A temporarily absent family member will be counted for subsidy purposes. A temporarily *absent family member* means a member of the household who is expected to reside in the assisted dwelling unit during the upcoming 12-month period but who will be absent from the unit for some portion of this 12-month period.

1. Children away at school who are listed as family members will:

    a. Also be included when determining the applicable family subsidy standard; and
    b. Any other family members who are temporarily absent.

2. A single person household may be assigned a zero bedroom voucher.

PI-§1.03 Section 8 Unit Assignment v. Actual Unit Size Selected.

The Housing Representative establishes the voucher size (i.e., *family unit size*) based upon a review of the family's household composition.

The family may select a unit, which differs from the voucher size, and the Housing Representative under the following guidelines will approve this:

- Generally, unit size selected would not result in more than two persons per sleeping room under the voucher program (including the living room). .
- For a voucher-holder the Payment Standard used to establish subsidy would be based on the <u>lesser</u> of the voucher size or the actual unit size selected by the family.
- When a family must pay some or all of their own utilities directly to the utility supplier the utility allowance to be used will always be based on actual unit size selected by the family.

PI-§1.04 Exceptions to the Established Subsidy Standards Prior to Family HAP Being Made (i.e. Applicant Status)

A family may request an exception to the established subsidy standards for the following reasons and with appropriate documentation.

- Medical reasons;
- Additional household members due to birth, adoption, court-awarded custody,

marriage; and
- Addition of a live-in aide.

Any request for an exception must be made in writing with the appropriate supporting documentation.

PI-§1.05 Live-In Aide Policy

An elderly, handicapped, or disabled person may have a care-attendant/live-in aide occupy the unit when this care is:

- Essential to the care and well-being of the voucher holder; and
- The care-giver is not obligated to provide financial support for the elderly, handicapped or disabled person; and
- The care provider would not occupy the unit except for the express purpose of providing necessary supportive services.

The Housing Agency requires verification from a source qualified to make the following determinations:

- The care provided is medically necessary;
- Description of the medical and/or necessary supportive services to be provided
- Estimate of the period of time such care will be required.

Persons qualified to provide the required third party verification include, but are not necessarily limited to:

- Medical doctors
- Psychologists/psychiatrists
- Chiropractors
- Osteopaths
- Psychiatric Social Worker

There is no prohibition against a related family member acting in the capacity of a live-in aide. The relative must meet the same criteria and the same third party verification is required. When a relative is the "live-in aide" they will not be listed as a "family" member and any income of a live-in aide will not be counted as income to the household for purposes of determining eligibility or rent. There will be no "deductions" for a live-in aide and the live-in aide does not retain any right to occupancy as the remaining member of a tenant’s family when the voucher-holder vacates the unit/program.

If the live-in aide has other family members they wish to occupy the unit, the Housing Agency shall grant such approval if the addition of the live-in aide's family members does not result in a larger voucher size (i.e., increased subsidy) and the occupancy by the voucher-holder with the live-in aide and live-in aide's family members will not result in overcrowding, (i.e., more than 2 persons per sleeping room).

The live-in aide is subject to screening and approval by both the agency and the owner.

The live-in aide may hold outside employment or attend school if there is evidence that appropriate alternative care will be provided to the elderly, handicapped or disabled person during these periods of time.

The landlord has the right to require the live-in aide to execute a lease rider agreeing to abide by the terms and conditions of occupancy set forth in the lease agreement.

If the live-in aide violates provisions of the lease rider the owner may take action against the live-in aide separate from action against the assisted family.

If the live-in aide or their family members participate in drug-related activities, either the Housing Agency or the owner may rescind the aide's right to occupy the unit.

When the Housing Agency takes such action against the live-in aide the aide is not entitled to the informal hearing process of the Housing Agency.

PI-§1.06 Exceptions to the Established Subsidy Standards after Subsidy Payments (HAP) Have Begun (i.e., Participant Status)

The Housing Representative will review the family's composition as part of the annual re-exam.

1. If there are/will be changes in the household size the voucher size will automatically be adjusted based upon the established subsidy standards and the current/projected family composition.

2. The participant/family may request a different voucher size between regularly scheduled re-exams due to changes in the family size that would result in more than two persons per sleeping room.

   All such additions to the family composition must first be approved/ documented by the Section 8 Office before there is consideration of the voucher unit size change due to reasons such as:

   - Adoption
   - Births
   - Court awarded custody
   - Foster child care
   - Need for a live-in aide
   - Disability of a current household member
   - Adult children/other family members wishing to join a family already in occupancy

J. FINDERS'- KEEPERS POLICY

Upon receipt of a Housing Choice Voucher, the family shall be responsible for finding a unit of appropriate size that meets the HQS prior to expiration of the Voucher. The family may select the unit that it currently occupies if the unit meets the HQS and is determined to be *rent reasonable* and the owner is willing to execute new leasing documents under the Section 8 program. The Housing Agency may provide assistance in finding units for those families who, because of age, handicap, or other reasons are unable to find a unit and may provide assistance in cases where the family alleges that discrimination is preventing it from finding a unit. Any such assistance shall be in accordance with the Housing Agency's *Administrative Plan and Procedures* and shall not directly or indirectly reduce the family's opportunity to choose among available units. Section 8 housing choice voucher assistance may not be utilized for dwelling units receiving Section 8 project-based assistance as this constitutes *duplicative assistance*.

K. PORTABILITY [24 CFR '982.354]

The provisions for portability of vouchers shall be as outlined in 24 CFR §982.354, as amended. If neither the head nor spouse resides in Ceiba at the time of application they must initially lease a unit in Berkeley before they can exercise their right of portability. The Housing Agency limits family moves to not more than one in any twelve-month period under portability.

The Housing Agency will deny permission for a family to exercise portability as cited in 24 CFR 982.314(e)(1), in the event that the Municipality of Ceiba Section 8 Rental Assistance Program Office does not have sufficient funds to pay a higher subsidy in another jurisdiction and the receiving LHA will not absorb the family into their program.

PK-§1.00 Portability of Housing Choice Vouchers

For any family wishing to exercise *portability* an individual briefing session will be scheduled.

Vouchers are portable as the result of various statutory and regulatory provisions. Participating families will be advised during both the initial and annual reexam briefing sessions of the portability provisions.

The Municipality of Ceiba Section 8 Rental Assistance Program Office will provide a list of neighboring PHA's with the name, address and telephone number of a portability contact person at each.

Housing Choice Vouchers allow the holder to move to the jurisdiction of any public Housing Agency administering the Section 8 voucher program.

A Housing Representative will provide families wishing to exercise their option of portability with an updated *portability-move* packet. The Housing Representative must establish the family's income eligibility under the receiving PHA's income limits for those families with first time assistance at time of portability, and must forward the most recent form 50058 and related verification forms to the receiving PHA. The family currently receiving subsidy at the time of

portability is not required to be income-eligible.

The required HUD form (Form HUD 52665) for recording portability activity will be completed by the Housing Representative and explained to the client family, as appropriate. The Section 8 program manager will be the first point of contact for each *incoming portable* client.

A family who owes money to the Housing Agency will be required to either repay in full or be current under any existing repayment agreement as a condition of eligibility to move with continued rental assistance under portability. A voucher holder must be in full compliance with the family obligations to be eligible for a portability move.

In-coming portable participants currently enrolled in another PHA's FSS program will be automatically enrolled in the Housing Agency's FSS program if slots are available. If not they will be placed on FSS waiting list.

L. FAMILY'S RIGHT TO MOVE [24 CFR §982.314]

Without regard to portability, an assisted family may move to a new unit if:

- The assisted lease for the old unit has terminated;
- The owner has given the tenant a notice to vacate or has commenced an eviction action, or has obtained a court judgment or other process allowing the owner to evict the family; or
- The family has given notice to the owner and the Housing Agency of their intent to terminate the lease.

In order to move with continued assistance, the family must initially occupy an assisted unit for 12 months before terminating the lease with the owner unless there is (a) good cause. *Good cause* may include, but is not necessarily limited to owner's failure to provide services under the lease, or (b) mutual agreement by the owner and tenant to terminate the lease.

A family may move one or more times with continued assistance, either within the jurisdiction of the Housing Agency or to the jurisdiction of another PHA, notwithstanding the limitation of moving only once in a 12 month period under portability.

A family who owes money to the Housing Agency will be required to either repay in full or be current under any existing repayment agreement as a condition of eligibility to move with continued rental assistance under portability.

M. OWNER OBLIGATION TO SCREEN FAMILIES [24 CFR §982.307]

An owner generally has no obligation to participate in the Section 8 housing choice voucher program and can refuse to accept a voucher holder, even if this means an otherwise acceptable family is unable to lease the unit.

Owners are responsible for screening families selected by the Housing Agency for admission to the program to determine whether they will be suitable tenants. While the Housing Agency may elect to implement some limited form of *tenant suitability screening* this does not remove the owner of duty for performing tenant screening in a manner equal to the screening performed for unassisted tenants.

An owner may consider such factors as:

1. The family's history of payment of rent and utility bills;
2. Caring for a dwelling unit**;**
3. Respecting- the rights of others;
4. Family history of drug-related criminal activity or other criminal activity which threatens the life, safety, or property of others.

The Housing Agency will give the owner the Voucher-holder's current address and, if known, the name and address of the landlord at the family's current and prior address. The Housing Agency will also provide a prospective landlord with any of the following information which is a part of the applicant's/participant's file: record of prior eviction from a unit receiving Section 8 assistance through this Housing Agency; and/or record of family creating excessive damages to a rental unit. [24 CFR**§**982.307]

N. RENTAL AGREEMENT/ LEASE APPROVAL [24 CFR §982.308]

The Housing Agency must approve the owner's form of lease for the rental unit. The Housing Agency may not give such approval until it determines that the unit is eligible and meets the HQS; that the lease is approvable; the rent to the owner is *reasonable*; and the owner has not been deemed ineligible by HUD or the agency to participate in any HUD-funded housing program.

The Municipality of Ceiba Section 8 Rental Assistance Program Office will establish and maintain records that include comparable data on unassisted units in the market. This data will be used by Section 8 staff in making their determination of the reasonableness of the owner's proposed rent. The Housing Representative(s) will use the methodology described in Exhibit #2 of this Plan.

All assisted leases must include certain language required by HUD. The language must prohibit certain types of lease provisions involving concessions by the tenant, and include by reference all other lease covenants prescribed by law for the Section 8 housing choice voucher program. The Housing Agency may also decline to approve the owner's lease if the owner fails to execute the required HUD Lease Addendum (Form HUD 52641-A), or if the owner's lease does not comply with major provisions of any applicable state or local landlord tenant laws. [24 CFR **§**982.308]

PN-§1.00 Housing Representative's Role in Leasing

The Housing Representative is to ensure that all activities and required forms for establishing the assisted tenancy are properly and timely executed. This includes the review and approval of forms provided by the Housing Agency and/or the owner.

PN-§1.01 Review of Owner's Form of Lease

The Housing Representative is to review the owner's form of lease against the *prohibited lease provisions* in the HUD tenancy addendum. Any prohibited lease provision must be struck in red ink from the owner's lease and the owner must initial and date the change. The owner is to be advised of their additional obligation to comply with material terms and provisions of Puerto Rico State Landlord-Tenant laws, including laws prohibiting discrimination in the sale, rental or financing of housing.

The Section 8 Supervisor must approve the owner's lease and the Housing Representative must review the owner's lease for:

1. Initial term of tenancy of one year with a start and end date of 12 months. Where the lease will begin on other than the first day of the month the end date will be the last day of the same month one year later. For example, if the start date is 5/15/07 the end date will be 5/31/08.
2. Automatic renewal with defined successive term of *month-to-month, year to year, etc.*
3. Amount of rent due under the lease stated as the *tenant rent* calculated by the Housing Representative.
4. Amount of security deposit in an amount not to exceed one month's contract rent or the deposit charged by owner for their other *unassisted* units, whichever is the lesser.
5. Required provisions of HUD's Section 8 Tenancy Addendum dated March 2000.

O. TERM OF ASSISTED LEASE [24 CFR §982.309]

The initial term of the assisted lease between the owner and tenant must be at least one year, and the assisted lease must provide for automatic renewal. However, a shorter initial term may be entered into if consistent with local rental market practices.

The tenant family can terminate the lease at any time after the initial term of the lease. The tenant family must provide written notice of termination to the owner, pursuant to the lease, with a copy to the Housing Agency. The tenant cannot be required to give more than 60 days notice to the owner. [24 CFR §982.309(b)]

The lease can also be terminated at any time by mutual agreement of the owner and tenant. The assisted lease will automatically terminate if the PHA terminates the owner’s HAP contract or assistance for the family.

The owner is required to give 30 days written notice to the tenant where the owner is terminating at the end of the lease term.

The owner can terminate the family's tenancy during the term of the lease only for *serious or repeated violations of the lease; violation of federal, state, or local law; or other good cause.* Owner must follow lease terms and landlord/tenant law for such terminations.

Grounds for owners to terminate the lease include, but is not limited to: criminal activity by the tenant, any member of the tenant's household, a guest, or any other person under the tenant's control that involves drugs or other criminal activity threatening the health, safety, or right to peaceful enjoyment of their residence by persons residing in or near the tenant's residence. [24 CFR §982.3 1 0].

Owner initiated eviction procedure must be established through the court systems, pursuant to State and local laws and any applicable HUD requirements.

Other good cause generally includes, but is not limited to: the family's failure to accept a new or revised lease; a family's history of disturbance of neighbors or destruction of property the owner's desire to use the unit for personal use or for a purpose other than as a residential rental unit; or a business or economic purpose, such as the owner's desire to lease the unit at a higher rent. During the first year of the lease, the owner may not terminate for *other good cause* unless it involves a family lease violation. [24 CFR §982.310]

PO-§1.00 Assisted Tenancy

The lease between the owner and tenant family is for less than the full rent due on the unit. The Housing Agency will make rental assistance payments to the owner on behalf of the assisted tenant. During the term of the assisted tenancy the owner and tenant family must comply with the terms of the lease and HAP contract to ensure continued eligibility for program participation.

PO-§1.01 Initial and Successive Lease Terms

The Housing Representative must review the owner's form of lease to ensure an initial term of lease for a period of not less than 12 months. The Housing Representative must also ensure that the assisted lease provides for *automatic renewal* (e.g., *month to month or year to year)* after the initial term.

P. HOUSING AGENCY POLICY GOVERNING OWNER APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL [24 CFR §982.306]

An owner can be disapproved for program participation. Reasons for denial of participation can include, but are not limited to: owner has been *debarred, suspended,* or is subject to a *limited denial of participation (LDP)* by HUD [24 CFR 24]; owner has been found to have a practice of serious and repeated noncompliance with the terms of the Section 8 housing assistance payments contract (Form HUD 52641); or criminal activity by the owner.

When directed by HUD, the Housing Agency will not approve an owner or owner's unit if there is a government initiated administrative or judicial action is pending against the owner for a violation of the *Fair Housing Act* or other federal equal opportunity requirements or if a court or administrative Housing Agency has determined that the owner has committed such a violation. [24 CFR**§**982.306 (a)-(b)]

The Housing Agency may deny an owner's request for participation for any of the following reasons: [24 CFR **§**982.306(c)]

- Violation of owner's obligations under any Section 8 contract;
- Fraud, bribery, or any other corrupt or criminal act in connection with any federal housing program;
- Drug trafficking (based on a *preponderance of evidence);*
- Owner's history of non-compliance with the HQS or other applicable housing standards,
- Owner's history or practice of renting units which fail to comply with state or local housing codes; and/or
- Owner's failure to pay state or local real estate taxes, fines, or assessments.
- Owner's denial to incorporated improvements to the housing unit to comply with Section 504 and ADA Regulations.

Q. PAYMENTS TO DUE THE OWNER: HOUSING ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS AND TENANT RENT

The Housing Agency shall make Housing Assistance Payments to the Owner on behalf of the eligible family in accordance with the HAP Contract. No payments shall be made for any unit occupied by an Owner except in the instance of owner occupied cooperative housing units or owner occupied mobile homes approved for pad rental assistance payments..

The lease between the owner and tenant shall provide *tenant rent* under the applicable HUD formula. The Housing Agency shall make a payment on behalf of the family to the owner that is known as the housing assistance payment (HAP). **The lease between the owner and tenant shall state the tenant's share of the rent**. The HAP contract will provide for the amount to be paid by the Housing Agency. Initially, and until notice of a change in tenant rent or HAP, the owner may collect only the amounts approved by the Housing Agency.

The Housing Agency may abate its housing assistance payment to the owner for non-compliance with material terms of the HAP contract. The Housing Agency may also withhold housing assistance payments to owner for amounts due the Housing Agency under one or more contracts with the Housing Agency. The owner may not collect from the tenant family any amounts withheld by the Housing Agency. The Housing Agency will terminate HAP the date any owner initiated eviction is concluded.

1. Calculation of Tenant Rent and Subsidy.

The tenant's rent and subsidy will be calculated in accordance with the prevailing HUD formula, including the minimum rent as most recently adopted by the Housing Board. The minimum rent adopted by Municipality of Ceiba Housing Agency is $50.00 dollars.

2. Establishing and Documenting Reasonableness of Owner's Rent

The rent to owner under the housing choice voucher program must be *reasonable* when compared to comparable unassisted units.

The Housing Representative must execute a rent-reasonableness certification at initial occupancy; whenever the owner submits a request for an increase in contract rent; and when there is a decrease in FMRs of five-percent (5%) or more in the 60-day period preceding the effective date of the rent increase. The Section 8 staff will utilize the rent reasonableness methodology included at Exhibit #1 of this Plan.

3. Timing of Payments

Tenant rent is due and payable to the owner as of the date stated in the lease. For new contracts, the Housing Agency shall make assistance payments to the owner as of the effective date of the Housing Agency-approved lease; in some instances this may result in a retroactive payment of HAP. The Housing Agency will make every effort to execute the HAP contract with the owner as of the start of the lease term. The Housing Agency has up to 60 days from the date of the approved lease to execute the HAP contract. An owner is entitled to full payment of the HAP as of the approved lease date. However, if the Housing Agency and owner do not execute the HAP contract within 60 days of the lease effective date, the lease between owner and tenant shall be voided and no housing assistance payments will be made. [24 CFR §982.305(c)]

In some instances, the first payment for a new lease-up may not be made until the second month after the approved lease and HAP contract signed by the owner has been returned to the Housing Agency.

After the initial payment for a contract has been received the owner shall continue to receive monthly payments between the first and tenth working day of each month that the family occupies the unit as a Section 8-assisted family. The Municipality of Ceiba Section 0 Rental Assistance Program Office shall make every reasonable effort to ensure owner payments are mailed on or before the first day of each month. Lost checks may be reissued after notifying the bank to stop payment.

4. Additional Payments

If the family vacates the unit after the first day of the month without written notice to the owner, with a copy to the Municipality of Ceiba Section 8 Rental Assistance Program Office, as required under the lease and housing choice voucher, the owner is entitled to keep the full housing assistance payment for the month. The Housing Agency will not make further payments to an owner for any month after the month the family vacates.

If the family is approved to lease another unit during the same month, the Housing Agency will make a pro-rated payment to the new owner. In short, a family may be approved for two assistance payments for two different units in the same month, and such payments are not considered duplicate assistance.[24 CFR §982.31 l(d)]

5. Special Claims

Payments other than the regular housing assistance payments and approved *late fees* are prohibited in the housing choice voucher program. Any owner claims for unpaid tenant rent, vacancy loss or unit damage must be pursued with the tenant family.

R. CHANGING THE VOUCHER PAYMENT STANDARD [24 CFR §982.503]

At least annually, the Housing Agency shall evaluate whether an adjustment to the payment standard is necessary to assure continued *affordability* of housing by participating families. The evaluation shall take into account "local factors" as well as the financial impact on the program. In no event shall the payment standard be less than 90% of the most recently neither FMR, nor greater than 110% of the most recently published FMR without express written approval of HUD.

The following are examples of local factors to be considered in establishing the payment standard schedule:

- Participant rent burden
- Actual contract rents for specific bedroom sizes
- Actual rent increases for participating families
- Current fair market rent
- Success rate in securing eligible housing
- Rent reasonableness data
- Vacancy rate data
- Market rent data for comparable unassisted units
- Financial impact on the Housing Voucher Program
- Sufficient funding level provided by HUD to support continued assistance to families

The Municipality of Ceiba Section 8 Rental Assistance Program Office shall analyze whether voucher holders have experienced difficulties in finding housing outside areas of poverty or minority concentration and, where such difficulties were found, the Public Housing Agency will consider whether it is appropriate to seek approval of exception payment standard amounts in any part of its jurisdiction and has sought HUD approval when necessary.

In the event that funding levels are insufficient to continue supporting assistance to families, the Ceiba Housing Agency will analyze costs to the program, burden to participating families, burden to participating landlords and the overall social economic impacts to its communities. In its analysis the Ceiba Housing Agency determines that funding levels are to low it will attempt to

lower its payments standards to a tolerable 90% of FMR levels of funding. The Ceiba Housing Agency will make every available effort to continue assistance at an adequate level of assistance to include lowering its payment standards below 90% of FMR as an intent to avoid terminations of HAP contracts in accordance with HUD requirements as stated in 24 CFR 982.454.

1. Changes in Application of the Payment Standard

The family's payment standard may be changed at regular re-examination and at the time the family moves, consistent with the Municipality of Ceiba Section 8 Rental Assistance Program Office most recently adopted payment standard schedule.

2. Adjustment to Initial "Rent to Owner"

The rent to owner (contract rent) shall not be changed during the "initial term of lease". Owner may request an increase no sooner than 60 days before the anniversary date of the contract to ensure timely review and response from the MCHA and family. The owner may also request approval of an adjustment in the initial rent after the anniversary date upon 60 days written notice. However, any approved increase in rent will not be effective until the firs rent period following a 30 day notice of approval to the owner and family.

Owner must provide both the family and the Housing Agency with copy of the owner's proposed rent. The Housing Agency shall make a determination of the "reasonableness" of the owner's proposed rent adjustment using the criteria described in Section Q.2 of this plan. If the agency determines the owner's proposed rent adjustment to be "unreasonable" in light of its review of "like units" (i.e., *unit comparables*) the family will be so advised and given the opportunity to:

a. Move with continued voucher assistance;
b. Continue in occupancy with the owner under a non-assisted lease agreement (and absent voucher subsidy).

S. SECURITY DEPOSITS [24 CFR §982.313]

The owner may collect a security deposit from the tenant family that does not exceed one month's contract rent. If the owner collects less than one month's rent as security deposit on the owner's other (unassisted) rental units the security deposits on the Section 8 assisted units must be established at the same amount.

Owner may use the security deposit to cover unpaid tenant rent owing at time of move out, damages and/or other costs allowed under State Landlord-Tenant Act. The Municipality of Ceiba Section 8 Rental Assistance Program Office will provide a prior Section 8 owner with the current address of a family who continues to receive Section 8 assistance when the owner provides evidence that (1) the unpaid rent/damages exceed the security deposit collected and (2) the owner has received a court judgment for additional amounts owed.

T. CONTINUED ELIGIBILITY AND INCOME ADJUSTMENT

A family's eligibility for Section 8 Voucher Assistance (HAP) continues if the family meets the requirements governing eligibility, **until** (1) the Total Tenant Payment equals the Gross Rent for the dwelling unit occupied under the Housing choice voucher Program or (2) until 30% of the family's monthly adjusted income equals or exceeds the applicable payment standard under the Voucher Program; or (3) 10% of family's monthly income equals or exceeds the actual rent plus any allowance for tenant-paid utilities. Payments under both programs can be reinstated if the family's income drops. However, if no payments are made for a period of 180 days (6 months), the HAP contract automatically terminates. [24 CFR **§**982.455]

Termination of rental assistance at such point shall not affect the family's other rights under its lease Agreement nor shall such termination preclude resumption of payment as a result of subsequent changes in income or rents or other relevant circumstances during the six-month term. The family must pay the full contract rent when HAP is reduced to zero, and the assisted lease between the owner and tenant automatically terminates.

PT-§1.00 Interim Reporting Policy and Procedures

Housing Choice Voucher families are required to report the following changes in family circumstances between regularly scheduled re-certifications:

1. The tenant <u>must</u> report all changes in the household composition.

    a. If a household member vacates the unit and is considered by the family to be permanently absent; or
    b. A new person is proposed to move into the unit.

2. The tenant may report any of the following changes that would result in a decrease in the tenant's rent:

    a. Loss of income;
    b. Increase in allowable expenses (i.e., *child care, handicapped assistance, medical*).

Decreases in the tenant’s portion of the rent will be effective the first day of the month following the month in which the change occurs, sometimes resulting in a retroactive decrease.

However, the MCS8HA will not reduce a tenant's rent for a loss/reduction in welfare income (TANF) due to family:

- Fraud
- Failure to participate in a required work activity
- Failure to participate in a required economic self-sufficiency activity

Any reported reduction in welfare benefits will be verified with the local welfare department.

The agency will rely on the written statements of the welfare agency in making its determination of eligibility for a rent reduction.

3. Tenants must report **all** income increases within **10** days of the change. However, rent increases as a result of an increase in *earned* income from a previously reported employer, or an increase in *cash assistance payments* (e.g., SSD, TANF, etc.) will not go into effect until the next regular schedule annual examination. However, a change of employers, or a family member becoming employed after having reported being unemployed, will result in an interim re-determination of tenant rent. Other family changes resulting in an interim re-determination of tenant's rent is described at section PT 1.02.

4. A new source of income and/or unreported increases in income (where required by this policy) that remains unreported for more than 30 days, will be considered a program violation resulting in a retroactive increase in tenant's rent. A family with a retroactive increase may be eligible for a repayment agreement. A family cannot, however, enter into multiple payment agreements with the MCS8HA which may result in a requirement of full payment of the amounts owed.

PT. §1.02 Family Circumstances Requiring Interim Re-exams:

1. For families reporting zero income, interim re-examinations will be scheduled every 90 days and an affected family will be given 30 days written notice of any increase in TTP;

2. For families whose annual income cannot be projected with any reasonable degree of accuracy such as self-employed persons, interim re-examination shall be conducted every 90 days;

3. For families where Housing Agency personnel made an error at admission or re-examination an interim re-exam will be conducted upon notice by the Municipality of Ceiba Section 8 Rental Assistance Program Office. The family will not be charged retroactively for an increase in TTP; however, any decrease in tenant's rent will be made retroactive.

4. For families who report a temporary loss of income and the income is expected to be fully restored within 30 days the Housing Agency will not perform an interim re-exam. Staff must receive 3rd party written verification that the income is expected to be fully restored.

5. For families whose rent has been based on false or incomplete information supplied by the applicant or resident an interim re-exam will be conducted upon notice by the Municipality of Ceiba Section 8 Rental Assistance Program Office. Any increase in TTP will be made retroactively.

6. Notice to the Housing Agency of *family income discrepancies* through HUD's *Tenant Assessment Sub-System (TASS)* will require performance of an interim reexam.

PT-§1.03 Forms Used for Interim Reexaminations

Adult household members will be required to sign the applicable forms for third party verification for all factors of income or household composition **that have changed since the last certification.** Family factors impacting the rent calculation, which have not changed will not be re-verified even if the verifications are more than 120 days old. Section 8 staff will only verify the reported changes.

PT-§1.04 Standard for Timely Reporting of Changes and Tenant Penalties for Untimely Reporting

The family must report any required change within thirty (30) calendar days of when income or change in household composition occurs.

If the family does not bring the required information with them to the interview, a new interview date will be set within that month. In addition, third party verification will be sent out to verify the change(s).

An increase in tenant rent may be made retroactively while any decrease will be implemented prospectively, when the family does not keep the second scheduled interview appointment and fails to return by the end of the month. The Total Tenant Payment is calculated when the verification is received, and it will be considered "untimely reporting" by the tenant.

PT-§1.05 When the Change is Reported in a Timely Manner:

When the family reports a required change in a timely manner the Municipality of Ceiba Section 8 Rental Assistance Program Office will notify the tenant of any change in the Tenant's Rent to be effective in accordance with the following guidelines:

1. Increase in the Tenant's Rent will be made effective on the first of the month following the 30-day notice of rent increase.

2. Decreases in the Tenant's Rent will be effective the first of the month following the month the change occurred.

The change may be based on the documentation the tenant brought with them to the interview, followed up by the third party verification sent to the agency. Verbal representation alone by the tenant will not be acceptable. If the tenant has no form of documentation to support a decrease, downward rent adjustment will not be processed until the Housing Agency has received the necessary verifications. In such cases, this will result in a retroactive decrease in tenant's rent and the family is not liable for rent payment until the interim has been completed and the family has been notified of the amount and effective date of the change.

PT-§1.06 Timing of the Next Annual Re-certification:

Without regard to the number of interim re-exams conducted, the family's annual date of re-exam will remain the same.

PT-§1.07 Section 8 Staff Procedures for Conducting Annual Re-exams

The Section 8 Housing Representatives have responsibility for initiating and completing the annual re-exams in a timely manner. This means all required actions, including the annual inspection, is concluded at least thirty (30) days prior to the anniversary date.

The staff shall:

1. Send initial notice to re-certify with scheduled appointment date/time 90-120 days prior to the effective date;
2. Send follow-up notice within 5 days of a missed appointment if a family fails to show or reschedule appointment;
3. Send 30-day notice (3rd notice) of intent to terminate for non-compliance with terms of the voucher if the family has failed to respond to first and second notices. However, third notice must be sent at least 30 days prior to anniversary date. Third notice serves as the 30-day termination notice and shall be sent to both the tenant family and owner with reason(s) for proposed termination and family's right to request an informal hearing.
4. If family schedules appointment during the last 30 days Section 8 staff is to process the re-certification. Any changes in tenant's rent will be subject to timing described at §1.04 (i.e., tenant penalty for untimely reporting).
5. If family does not participate in re-exam interview by the scheduled effective date Section 8 staff will follow normal termination of assistance procedures.

U. REGULAR (ANNUAL) RE-EXAMINATION OF FAMILY'S INCOME AND CIRCUMSTANCES [24 CFR §882.212/882.515]

1. Annual Re-examination

Re-examination of a family's income and composition shall be made at least annually. If at the time of admission or re-examination, a family's income cannot be reasonably determined for the upcoming 12 month period, the Housing Agency shall require the family to comply with its 30, 60 or 90 day re-exam schedule.

2. Re-determination of Total Tenant Payments and Housing Assistance Payment

The Housing Agency shall make an appropriate re-determination on the amount of Total Tenant Payment and amount of the Housing Assistance Payment. Written Notice of Tenant's Rent and HAP will be provided to both the owner and tenant with a copy to the tenant's file.

3. Termination of Payments

Termination of Housing Assistance Payments due to a determination of family's ineligibility shall be in accordance with applicable HUD guidelines.

4. Changes in Family Size and Composition

Changes in family composition that result in a change in *family unit size (i.e., "voucher size")* will result in issuance of voucher with a different unit size only at the time the family moves, or at the time of the regularly scheduled annual reexamination of family circumstances.

5. Disclosures and Verification of Social Security Number

At re-examination, the family shall be required to disclose and verify Social Security Numbers for any family member age 6+ who has been assigned a social security number since the last certification or re-certification, as outlined in 24 CFR 5, as amended.

6. Evidence of Eligibility for Assistance Based on Citizen or Eligible Alien Status

Each family member, regardless of age, must submit a declaration of status as a U.S. citizen or a U.S. national or evidence of *eligible immigration status,* as defined at Section 214 of the U.S. Housing Act of 1980, and as amended in the Immigration Reform Act of 1996.

For citizens or nationals, all that must be submitted is a signed declaration of citizenship. Non-citizens age 60 and older, as of 6/19/95, must submit a signed declaration of eligible immigration status and proof of age. Other non-citizens must submit a signed declaration of eligible immigration status, proper documentation, and a signed verification form. Adults must sign their own forms. An adult residing in the assisted housing unit who is responsible for the child must sign applicable forms for children. [24 CFR §5]

The Housing Agency will conduct verification of eligible immigration status when other aspects of eligibility for assistance are being verified. The primary method of verification will be the use of the computerized verification system administered by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). [24 CFR §5]

Housing assistance may be denied or terminated to an applicant or recipient in accordance with 24 CFR §5). An applicant household will have their assistance delayed or denied until at least one continuing family member has established eligibility as a U.S. citizen, U.S. national or an eligible immigrant. If all other factors of eligibility have been confirmed the family may be granted a 30 day extension to comply with the Section 214 provision, as amended. If the family fails to comply within this 30 day period the family will be determined ineligible for housing assistance and their HAP will be terminated.

Section 214 Compliance is a one-time requirement for each family member and is only implemented at re-exam for new family members.

Denial or termination of assistance to an applicant or participant's family can be appealed to the Housing Agency consistent with Section Y and with the INS in accordance with 24 CFR 5 subpart F.

PU-§1.00 Income Determinations

The gross annual income of the family is used to determine income eligibility and Total Tenant Payment, including sources of income as described at 24 CFR §5, and as periodically revised by HUD.

1. Income of Minors (Family members age 17 and younger)

Only certain sources of income to a minor will be included when determining the family's gross annual income. Such income includes benefit income of a minor such as social security, TANF, or any unearned income of a minor (including interest on a savings account). None of the earned/wage income of a minor will be included.

2. Income of Full Time Students

The Housing Agency will only include the first $480 of earned income of a full-time student age 18 and older.

If the student receives grant or scholarship income the Housing Agency will not include any of the educational benefit income in calculation of annual income. In no case will the Municipality of Ceiba Section 8 Rental Assistance Program Office include student loans as income to the household no matter how the loan will be expended.

3. Income of Temporarily Absent Family Members

Family composition is a self-certification by the head/co-head of household. It is the policy of the Housing Agency to include:

a. Income of all persons expected to reside in the unit in the upcoming 12 month period.

b. If one or more family members will be absent from the unit for any portion of the 12 month period covered by the certification they will be considered a temporarily absent family member.

c. The absent family member's income will be included for the full 12 month period even if the income will not be available to the household for the period of time they expect to be absent.

d. If the absent family member is the head or spouse their full income will be included as income to the household even if they are not expected to occupy the

unit or to be listed on the lease.

e. If the head or spouse is permanently absent from the household the Housing Representative may require verification.

f. Acceptable forms of independent verification will include:

- Legal separation papers
- Divorce decree
- Evidence of institutionalization; and
- Document from Department of Human Services identifying current household members.

Dependent upon the circumstances the Housing Agency may consider other forms of verification that the family member is no longer a "member of the family".

In the absence of acceptable verification, the Housing Agency will continue to include the income of the absent family member as if they were only "temporarily absent".

4. Income of a Confined Family Member

If a family member has been permanently confined to a hospital or nursing home the Housing Agency will not include the income of this family member as income to the household, nor will the Housing Agency compute allowances/deductions for a permanently confined household member.

When the confined family member's income is excluded, the confined family member must not be listed on the assisted lease agreement between the owner and tenant family. The permanently absent family member's name can be removed from the existing lease. No new lease is required.

5. Regular Recurring Cash Contributions or Gifts

The Housing Agency will include as income only those cash contributions that the family expects to receive on a regular recurring basis. Staff may use credit reports to determine the potential for such recurring gifts, in addition to signed statements by donors or affidavits by the recipient. If an adult family member "barters" their labor for goods rather than monetary compensation the Municipality of Ceiba Section 8 Rental Assistance Program Office may establish a cash value for the personal service and use it as income to the household.

Non-cash gifts such, as groceries will not be included.

6. Net Income From a Business (or Profession) or From Rental of Real or Personal Property

The net income from a business or from rental of real or personal property will be included as income to the household.

Section 8 Staff will calculate the net income from a business by deducting from the projected gross income the following expenses: straight-line depreciation, the interest portion of loan payments, and all other expenses of the business which are routine expenses of the business, and not related to business expansion or capital improvements.

If there is evidence that the family withdraws cash or assets from the business these withdrawals will be included as income to the household unless there is verification that the withdrawal is specifically for reimbursement of amounts the family invested in the business.

Verification of business expenses to be deducted from the gross income of the business will be in keeping with requirements stated at Exhibit (Statement of Acceptable forms of verification).

Adult family members engaged in the operation of a business or profession will be subject to a 90 day re-exam schedule, as deemed appropriate by staff, for purposes of documenting current income. Section 8 staff may require such adults to maintain reports/records of current income (gross receipts) and expenses for the period between the performances of the interim re-exam.

7. Lump-sum Payments to be counted as Income

The Housing Agency will include only two types of lump-sum payments as income to the household. All other lump sum payments will be treated as an asset. The two types of lump sum payments to be included as income are:

a. Lump-sum payments for either a delayed start of a periodic payment (such as delayed payment of unemployment benefits); or
b. Lump sum payments for settlement of a disputed claim of what would have been a periodic payment (such as a lump sum payment of back child support).

Where such lump sum payments are received, the Housing Agency will require repayment on a prospective basis rather than a retroactive basis.

This method will result in an increased TTP over 12-18 month period and allows for the gradual repayment of the monies owed for the period of time that Housing Agency "carried" the family while they were awaiting the benefit payments.

In the event the family receives a lump-sum payment that includes payment for a period of time that the family was not receiving housing assistance the Housing Agency will not include that portion of the lump sum payment in its prospective calculation in the amounts to be repaid.

8. Policy Governing Alimony and Child Support

A court-ordered decree will serve as third party verification of the amount of alimony and child support income expected to be received by the family. No other form of verification is required

unless the family asserts that they are receiving an amount that differs from the decree. In this instance the Housing Representative must verify the amount which is actually being received; and the family has made all reasonable effort to collect the full amount due, including evidence of filing with courts or agencies responsible for enforcement of the payments due.

If the family is using the services of Legal Aid and there is documentation that the family has made an appointment for the express purpose of pursing back payments the Municipality of Ceiba Section Rental Assistance Program Office will consider this as an appropriate measure for taking "legal" action. Evidence of filing for enforcement of the child support order with the local Child Support Enforcement Agency (CSEA) a it is also considered an appropriate form of action under this rule.

When third party verification cannot be obtained which counters the decree the amount in the decree will be considered as income to the household.

9. Treatment of Military Pay

The military pay of the head of household or spouse, including allowances with the exception of combat/hazardous duty pay, will be included as income to the household, even if the head/co-head or spouse is not listed on the lease.

a. If the absent head/co-head has income from outside jobs or income from assets these income sources will not be counted as income to the family.

b. If the family receives an allotment from an adult child in the military on a regular recurring basis only the amount of the allotment will be included as income and not the full military pay.

c. In instances where the adult child in the military is listed on the lease they will be treated, as a "temporarily absent family member" and the full amount of pay, including all regular allowances, will be counted as income to the household.

d. Verification of the military pay and regular allowances will be solicited first from the unit commander on a form developed by the Housing Agency unless the military requires a different form for verification purposes, in which case the military's form will be used.

If Section 8 staff is unable to receive third party verification (written preferred) a review of documents will be undertaken. The Section 8 staff will document the family file as to why they were unable to receive third party verification. The spouse/co-head must cooperate by providing Section 8 staff with required information such as:

- Unit identification/address,
- Rank
- Serial/social security number

Failure to cooperate will result in a denial of admission or termination of assistance for a

participating family.

10. Procedure for Projecting Unstable Income

Where a family member has sporadic, yet recurring income such as a business owner or temporary clerical work (i.e., "Kelly-Girl") the Section 8 staff will include projected income based upon current income and expenses:

a. Place family on a 90-day re-exam cycle;

b. Require family to bring income information for the 12-week period preceding the date of certification;

c. Calculate average weekly or monthly income and use this as a base line figure to project income for the upcoming 12-month period.

d. Combine the income from this period with the income from the prior period to establish a new baseline weekly or monthly figure;

e. Recalculate the TTP and determine need for additional interim re-exams.

PU-§1.02 Asset Determinations

Income from assets is to be included as income to the household. Asset income to be included can include either actual or *imputed* income from assets depending upon the total value of assets effectively owned by the family. Accordingly, the Housing Representative shall establish the cash value of assets held by the family.

Assets to be considered will include the following:

- Amounts in savings and checking accounts;
- Stocks, bonds, savings certificates, moneymaker funds and other investment accounts;
- Equity in real property or other capital investments
- Cash value of trusts that are available to the household;
- IRA, Keogh and similar retirement savings accounts;
- Contributions to company retirement/pension fund;
- Assets, which although owned by more than one person, allow unrestricted access by the applicant;
- Lump-sum receipts such as inheritances, capital gains, lottery winnings, cash from sale of assets, insurance settlements, Social Security and SSI lump-sum payments and other claims;
- Personal property held as an investment such as gems, jewelry, coin collections, antiques cars, etc.;

- Cash value of life insurance policies;
- Assets disposed of for less than fair market value during the two years preceding examination or re-examination.

Where there is a dispute over the "effective ownership" of an asset, the Section 8 staff will determine ownership based upon (a) who reports the asset to IRS for tax liability purposes; and (b) who receives the income from the asset as reported to the IRS.

Where the percentage of ownership is legally defined only that portion/percentage of the cash value of the asset will be included in the calculation of net family assets.

The value of necessary personal property maintained for personal use will not be included in the calculation of net family assets, including but limited to items such as clothing, furniture, jewelry, automobiles, stereo/TV equipment, etc..

If the family, however, maintains personal property for money-making purposes (i.e., investment purposes) the value of such items will be included in the calculation of net family assets. If there is a question/dispute over whether or not personal property is to be included as an asset the definition/ test will be as follows:

- Necessary personal property is not expected to increase in value; and
- Necessary personal property is usually "used" by the owner.

This would include *rental property for investment purposes* as an asset to the household. In this instance, the cash value of the rental property and the *net rental income* will be included as a source of income to the household. If the property is part of an active business, as would be the case of a person where real estate is their main occupation, then the property will be treated as Assets of the business and not as a family asset.

The Section 8 staff will include both current and actual assets the family now holds as well as assets the family has disposed of for less than fair market value (i.e., imputed assets) in the two-year period preceding the date of certification or re-certification.

It is the policy of this Housing Agency to exclude the imputed assets when calculating the net family assets in two instances. First, where the asset(s) were disposed of for less than fair market value as the result of a legal proceeding/judgment or, second, when the value of the asset at the time of disposal was less than $1,000.00.

PU-§1.03 Determining Adjusted Annual Income

Adjusted annual income is defined as *gross annual income less allowable deductions from income.*

Congress has established the deductions and allowable expenses to be deducted from the gross annual income. Currently, the Housing Agency is implementing the following deductions from

income as applicable to each family's individual circumstances:

- $480 dependent deduction
- $400 elderly/disabled household deduction

Neither of these deductions from income requires third party verification. Eligibility for the *dependent* and *elderly household* deduction is achieved through a Section 8 staff evaluation of the family's circumstances and prevailing HUD instructions/definitions.

Allowable expenses, which can be deducted from gross annual income, must be third party verified and include:

- Reasonable childcare expense
- Allowable handicapped assistance expense; and
- Allowable medical expense

PU-§1.04 Housing Agency Child Care Policy

1. Consistent with current HUD instructions at 24 CFR 5 and handbook 4350.3 CHG-1, the MCHA will deduct reasonable childcare expense when all of the following is true (and verifiable):
2. Expense enables a family member to go to work, to school or to look for a job after recently losing a job; (up to 20 hours weekly with documentation acceptable to the Municipality of Ceiba Section 8 Rental Assistance Program Office).
3. In instances where the childcare is necessary to allow an adult family member to seek employment, the agency will allow up to 20 hours of weekly child care expense. The family must provide documentation to support both their efforts to gain employment, and the related childcare expense. Staff may use receipts or similar forms of verification that are dated for the period of eight weeks preceding the certification.
4. "School" is either academic or vocational and the course of study will result in a degree/diploma or a certificate;
5. Enrollment in school is either full- or part-time in accordance with that institution's definition;
6. Expense is for the care of children in the assisted household who are age 12 or younger (including the cost of care for a foster child age 12 and younger which is not paid/reimbursed);
7. Childcare expenses cannot be paid to a family member residing in the assisted unit nor paid (or reimbursed) by an organization or individual outside of the unit;
8. Expense is reasonable in terms of cost and relationship to eligible activity (as stated in [a] above).
9. Any expense associated with the keeping of children to allow a family member to go to work does not exceed the earnings of the individual who is enabled to work.

10. No adult is available or capable of providing the childcare during the hours required.

11. Childcare expenses (not to exceed $600.00 annually) to unable a family member to seek employment.

Procedures for Establishing Reasonable Costs of Child Care

To determine if the cost of the childcare is reasonable the Housing Agency will conduct a survey of childcare providers at least annually. This survey will include both "in-home" providers as well as institutional providers (e.g., Kinder Care Center). Section 8 staff will be provided a schedule of "reasonable" charges and the maximum cost to be deducted will be established in light of the survey results.

If the family incurs expense in excess of the stated amounts on the Housing Agency's schedule the survey amount will become the maximum allowable expense to be deducted unless there are extenuating circumstances. In such cases the approval to exceed the scheduled amounts must be approved by the supervisor of Housing Representatives on a case-by-case basis.

PU-§1.05 Income Verification Requirements

The Housing Representative will request only that information which is necessary to determine the family's eligibility or level of assistance. For some types of income listed in Appendix 1 of this plan, appropriate requests for information are combined with the types of verification that are permitted.

In deciding whether to add information to a particular verification request that is not listed below, the Housing Representative must ask:

- *Is this information necessary to determine the individual's eligibility for assistance or level of assistance*? If the answer is *yes*, then the Housing Representative may verify that information.
- If the answer is *no*, then the Housing Representative may not verify that information.

V. INSPECTIONS OF DWELLING UNIT [24 CFR '982.401]

1. Initial Inspection of Unit

Before approving any Lease Agreement, the Authority shall inspect the unit for compliance with the HUD Housing Quality Standards, as amended by local code, where applicable. Any such amendments to the HQS will board adopted.

a. If there are any deficiencies that must be corrected, the Housing Agency shall notify the Owner and tenant of the corrections required. The Housing Agency shall re-inspect the unit to insure that all deficiencies are corrected prior to

approving a Lease or HAP Contract.

b. The Authority shall prepare and maintain reports on initial inspections and any required re-inspections. The inspection report shall specify (i) any deficiencies that must be corrected; and (ii) any other deficiencies (comments), as a factor in determining the *reasonableness* of the rent to owner.

2. On-going Inspections to Determine If Unit meets HQS

The Housing Agency shall inspect or cause to be inspected each unit at least annually, and at such other times as may be necessary, to assure that the owner and tenant family is maintaining the unit to meet the HQS and providing the agreed upon utilities and other services.

3. Applicability of the HQS Occupancy/Space Standard

The HQS Occupancy Standard shall be used as *acceptability criteria* for space and security requirements. The *family unit size* on the assigned housing choice voucher shall be established in accordance with the following general criteria:

a. Parents are not required to share a bedroom with a child (regardless of age)

b. Children of the same sex are expected to share a bedroom (regardless of age)

c. Two children of the opposite sex, ages 6 or younger are expected to share a bedroom

d. Two children of the opposite sex over the age of 6 are not expected to share a bedroom

e. Adults of different generations (e.g., grandmother, mother, daughter) will be assumed to have separate bedrooms

f. An unrelated adult, such as a live-in aide, is not expected to share a bedroom with a family member

g. Elderly or disabled household members (related or unrelated) will be considered for separate bedrooms; and

h. Spouses or persons operating in a *spousal type* relationship are expected to share a bedroom.

Exceptions to the above criteria will be made, when necessary, for persons with disabilities as a *reasonable accommodation* under law. For example, a husband and wife could be assigned a two bedroom voucher if there are documented disabilities/medical conditions that necessitate separate bedrooms.

Similarly, a family may actually select a unit smaller than the designated *family unit size* as long as the unit selection will not result in more than two persons sharing a *sleeping room* (as defined

by HUD regulations).

The Housing Agency shall not charge the family or the owner for any inspection performed. (24 CFR §982.405.)

4. Determination that Unit does not meet HQS

The owner is generally responsible for maintaining a unit in accordance with the HQS, and failure to carry out this responsibility can result in Housing Agency enforcement action.

When a unit does not meet the HQS and the Owner or tenant fails to take corrective action after being duly notified, the Housing Agency may exercise any of its rights, including abatement of HAP (even if the family continues in occupancy), reduction of HAP and/or termination of the Contract. The Housing Agency cannot make HAP for a dwelling unit that fails to meet the HQS unless the owner corrects the defect(s) within the time period specified by the Housing Agency.

Life threatening defects must be corrected within no more than 24 hours, and other defects must be corrected within no more than 30 days or any Housing Agency-approved extension.

Life threatening defects are defined to include, but not necessarily limited to:

- Electrical hazards (e.g., *exposed wiring, "shorting", open/non-functioning junction boxes, improper wiring, etc.*);
- Broken/missing smoke detectors
- Severe tripping hazards (e.g., *missing floorboards, severely broken/missing steps in rooms used for living, etc.*)
- Severe water leaks (i.e., freely running water that poses a threat to life or property)
- Noxious gases/odors
- Blocked fire exits
- Sharp edges (e.g., broken protruding glass)
- Improperly stored flammable liquids (e.g., gasoline, kerosene, etc.)
- Health hazards as defined by local/county code

5. Family Obligation to Comply with the HQS

The family is responsible for any HQS breach caused by its failure to maintain tenant paid utilities, by its failure to maintain tenant-supplied appliances, or damage to the unit by a family member or guest over and above ordinary wear and tear. The family, like the owner, must correct any life-threatening defect for which it is responsible within no more than 24 hours and any other defect within 30 days or any Housing Agency-approved extension.

The Housing Agency may terminate Section 8 rental assistance for a family that causes an HQS breach. [24 CFR §982.404]

6. Housing Agency and Owner Obligations for Units with *Lead-Based Paint*

Prior to execution of the HAP contract the owner must inform the Housing Agency and the family of any knowledge the owner has of the presence of lead-based paint on the surfaces of the residential unit. [24 CFR **§**982.401]

The Municipality of Ceiba Section 8 Rental Assistance Program Office will inspect units constructed before January 1, 1978, **expected to be occupied by children under the age of six** to determine if there is deteriorated paint. All deteriorated paint will be made intact before the Municipality of Ceiba Section 8 Rental Assistance Program Office will enter into a HAP contract. If the unit will be occupied by a child with an *elevated intervention blood lead level*, the Municipality of Ceiba Section 8 Rental Assistance Program Office will perform an inspection of the unit to determine whether there is lead-based paint on chewable surfaces or any deteriorated lead-based paint. Chewable surfaces include all painted chewable surfaces in the unit within reach of a six-year-old child (i.e., painted surfaces up to five feet from the floor).

The Municipality of Ceiba Section 8 Rental Assistance Program Office will pay for the lead-based paint testing of unit constructed before January 1, 1978 that will be occupied by children under the age of six if the local or state health agencies are unwilling or unable to do so.

A clearance test will be performed by the Municipality of Ceiba Section 8 Rental Assistance Program Office for initial and annual units when the amount of deteriorated paint exceeds the *de minimis* levels specified in the regulations of no more than 20 square feet collectively on exterior surfaces or no more than two square feet in any one interior space or room, or no more than 10 percent of the total surface area on an interior or exterior type of component with a small surface area such as window sills, baseboards, and trim. The Municipality of Ceiba Section 8 Rental Assistance Program Office will ensure that the owner is responsible for:

a. Payment of subsequent clearance test where the initial clearance test failed the unit, and
b. Submittal of the results of the subsequent clearance tests to the Municipality of Ceiba Section 8 Rental Assistance Program Office and the family.

Pursuant to §982.401(j)(3) the Municipality of Ceiba Section 8 Rental Assistance Program Office will undertake a visual inspection for defective paint surfaces, on which paint is cracking, scaling, chipping, peeling or loose, in all pre-1978 units that will be occupied by families with children under the age of six. If defective paint surfaces are found, the unit may not be approved unless surfaces have been treated in accordance with §982.4401(j)(6).

When inspecting a dwelling unit (both initial and annual inspections) that was constructed before January 1, 1978, and that will be occupied by a family with a child under the age of six with an identified EBL condition, the Housing Agency will include:

a. Visual inspection for deteriorated paint;

b. A test for lead-based paint on chewable surfaces; and
c. Any other tests required by local or State laws.

The Municipality of Ceiba Housing Section 8 Rental Assistance Program Office will also inspect and, if applicable, have the owner treat exterior chewable surfaces within five feet from the ground.

The MCHA will conduct a risk assessment of the unit in which the child, under age of six with an environmental intervention blood-lead level (EIBLL) lived at the time the blood as last sampled, unless an evaluation has already been conducted by the public health department. Risk assessments will be conducted within 15 days of being notified by the public health department or other medical health providers that a EIBLL child under age of six resides at a unit assisted by a housing choice voucher pursuant to 24 CFR §35.1350(d).

Clearance inspections will be performed within 24 hours of the owner's notification that repairs have been completed. For initial units, if the unit fails a second time the Municipality of Ceiba Section 8 Rental Assistance Program Office shall notify the owner that the family may not lease the unit with assistance under the housing choice voucher program, unless final clearance is achieved. If the unit is under a HAP contract, the Municipality of Ceiba Section 8 Rental Assistance Program Office will notify the owner that the Housing Agency will abate payments and that the HAP contract will be terminated once the family is relocated.

7. PHA Data Collection and Record keeping

The owner and the Housing Agency must comply with all requirements of the final rule on Lead-based Paint published, effective September 15, 2000.

The Housing Agency will attempt to collect annually from local health agencies the names of children with an *elevated blood level (EBL,)* and will annually attempt to match this information with the names and addresses of assisted families. If a match occurs, the Housing Agency must determine whether local health officials have tested the unit for lead-based paint. If the unit has lead based paint the Housing Agency will require the owner to treat the lead based paint in accordance with 24 CFR 982.401. If the owner does not take the required corrective action in the time prescribed, the Housing Agency will issue the affected family a voucher to move.

The Housing Agency will keep a copy of each unit's inspection report for at least three years. If a dwelling unit requires testing for lead-based paint, or if the dwelling unit requires treatment of chewable surfaces based on the testing, the Housing Agency will maintain the unit inspection reports indefinitely and, if applicable, the owner's certification of treatment.

The Municipality of Ceiba Section 8 Rental Assistance Program Office will document that it requested from local and State Health Department the address of families with RBL children assisted with housing choice vouchers in the tenant-based assistance programs.

8. Applicability of Local Code to Health and Safety

Section 8 Representatives will use local code requirements for existing housing in determining the appropriate corrective action to be taken by an owner for any defects related to the health and/or safety of the occupants.

9. Conduct of Quality Control (QC) Inspections

The Section 8 program supervisor will re-inspect at least units initially inspected by the Section 8 Housing Representatives.

The QC inspections will be performed throughout the year, and a record of all such QC inspections will be maintained in a separate file, as SEMAP Documentation.

The QC sampling will include units that initially passed and failed HQS to assure:

- Consistency between Representatives
- Uniform application for HQS

PV-§1.00 Overview

The Municipality of Ceiba Section 8 Rental Assistance Program Office adheres to the acceptability criteria as found in 24 CFR 982.403 and the HUD Inspection Booklet (governing the Section 8 Housing Quality Inspection Standards. HUD's Housing Quality Standards are applicable to all housing assisted under any form of HAP contract.

PV-§1.01 New/Move Unit Inspection Procedures

The Housing Agency shall conduct unit inspections before lease approval and execution of a HAP Contract to ensure the unit is in compliance with the HQS or HUD-approved variations for

the Municipality of Ceiba Section 8 Rental Assistance Program.

Once a Voucher- Holder and prospective owner have requested lease approval for a specific unit, the Housing Agency is responsible for the following:

1. The Housing Inspector shall make every reasonable effort to schedule a unit inspection on the date the owner indicates the unit will be ready for inspection within seven days of receiving RFTA, or as soon thereafter as possible. Lengthy delays of inspections will be avoided since delays can cause owners and families to lose interest in program participation.

2. The Housing Inspector shall conduct a thorough inspection of the unit to determine compliance with all HQS *Performance Requirements and Acceptability Criteria* prior to lease approval.

3. *Marginal units* (i.e., those that are likely to fall below the HQS within a year) will not be approved.
4. The Housing Inspector will inspect the unit using the long or short version of Form HUD-52580, as instructed by the supervisor of inspections.

    - If the unit fail its initial inspection the owner will be given ten (10) calendar days in which to make the required repairs.
    - If the unit fails the re-inspection and the owner cannot show "good cause" for failure to comply, the unit shall not be eligible for re-inspection under the same RFTA. Family shall be advised to search for another unit and to submit another RFTA before the expiration date of the voucher.

All determinations resulting from each inspector's on-site inspection will be adequately documented in the participant file.

PV-§1.02 Additional Duties of the Inspector

Prior to or during the inspection, the Housing Inspector (Representative) shall obtain the following information to assist the Housing Representative in making additional determinations which are required by the program:

1. The actual number of bedrooms (excluding living/sleeping rooms) contained within the unit to insure that the proper FMR limitations are used and that the owner's statements on the *Request for Tenancy Approval* regarding unit size are factual (applicable to the voucher program).

    For example, an owner may have considered the unit to be a three bedroom unit, but the Housing Agency may find that only two of the bedrooms meet the applicable HQS criteria (e.g., a window, two electrical outlets or one outlet and one permanently installed light fixture).

    Unless the owner is willing and able to bring the third bedroom into compliance, the unit

must be considered a two-bedroom unit for rent reasonableness, and for determining whether the unit meets the HQS space and security criteria.

2. Information with respect to the unit's age, quality, amenities, location, contract and gross rents, unit type, and square footage of living space, which is necessary to determine whether the requested rent to owner is reasonable.

   The Housing Agency's Representatives will assist in collecting and validating the information given as they have first hand knowledge of the units and the rental marketplace.

PV-§1.03 Annual Inspection Procedures

The Housing Agency is required to inspect each dwelling unit at least annually to determine if the owner and tenant family is maintaining the unit in a decent, safe, and sanitary condition.

1. The Housing Agency shall conduct its annual inspection(s) within one year of the date of the previous inspection. The annual re-inspection will usually coincide with the anniversary date of the contract. In some limited circumstances the Section 8 Office may conduct the re-inspection and the family re-examination at different points in time, but both activities will occur within 12 months of the initial activity.

2. The Housing Agency will also promptly conduct inspections as part of the re-exam process to ensure that any deficiencies are corrected as of the anniversary date.

3. The same procedures and forms as used for initial inspections shall be used for annual inspections.

4. At re-exam, the inspector shall use the inspection form to document improvements that may have been made to the unit since the last inspection to determine whether information pertaining to rent reasonableness should be updated. This documentation for Housing Agency files is especially important if the owner is requesting an annual adjustment in the contract rent on the basis of such actions.

5. The Housing Agency shall also cite recommended improvements to encourage upgrading of units above the HQS on the annual inspection form. Such improvements may be in the owner's best interest since this may justify a higher comparable rent.

PV-§1.04 Special Unit Inspections

There may be circumstances other than the initial and annual inspections which require the Housing Agency to determine a unit's compliance with the HQS criteria, as follows:

- Written or oral complaints/requests from participating families, owners, or other sources regarding the unit's condition or lack of maintenance and services by the responsible parties; or

- Owner requests to determine if a unit (s) qualifies for potential participation, such preliminary inspections may not be considered as substitutions for required initial inspections that may result from the submission of a Request of Lease Approval.

PV-§1.05 Required Actions after Completed Inspections

1. Initial Inspections

The following requirements apply to results of inspections performed in connection with an initial RFTA Tenancy. If the inspector has questions about the adequacy of certain items, these issues will be discussed with the family.

a. If the Housing Agency's inspection reveals that the unit meets the applicable HQS criteria, the Housing Agency may proceed with the other necessary determinations, such as rent reasonableness, preparation of HAP Contract and approval of lease, etc. The Section 8 Housing Representative shall notify the owner and family of the inspection results and may send the family a copy of the completed form.

b. If the Section 8 Inspection reveals HQS violations, the Housing Agency shall notify the owner and the family that the unit may not be leased under the program until all deficiencies is corrected. A written list of the deficiencies will be forwarded to both the owner and the family with a prescribed time period for corrective action (10 ten calendar days unless there are extenuating circumstances).

c. At the time of re-inspection of the failed unit the Section 8 Inspector will re-inspect all those items that were cited in the original deficiency notice. Should the unit pass the re-inspection the Section 8 Inspector will document the file accordingly and promptly notify the Housing Representative of the need to precede with the other required lease-up activities. Should the unit fail the re-inspection the owner and family will both be notified that the unit will not be re-inspected under the initial RFTA and that the family is to continue their search.

d. Neither the family nor the owner is entitled to an informal review of the decision to fail the unit for non-compliance with the HQS.

2. Annual Inspection

If the occupied unit fails HQS; or is otherwise not in compliance with any other provisions of the HAP Contract, the Section 8 Inspector will immediately notify the owner of the deficiencies, in writing. It is not the responsibility of the Section 8 Housing Inspector to prepare detailed repair specifications. The notice will describe the deficiencies which are in violation of the HQS and require that the conditions be corrected within a time period specified by the Section 8 Inspector to be determined by the Housing Agency as follows:

a. If there are serious deficiencies that present an immediate danger to the health and

safety of the family, (e.g., exhaust fumes from heating system) the Housing Agency requires the owner or tenant (to be determined by the Inspector) abate the hazardous condition within not more than 24 hours. If the owner/tenant does not take the required actions within the 24-hour time period, assistance payments will be abated until such time as the owner/tenant corrects the deficiencies.

In the event the "emergency" repairs are not completed within a maximum of 72 hours (or less if so prescribed by the Housing Agency) the contract will be terminated.

If the repairs to be made by the owner/tenant are made within the prescribed time frame the HAP will resume as of the date the deficiencies are fully corrected. The Housing Agency will not make payments for the period the unit was not in compliance and the owner/tenant had been notified, in writing, of the start of the abatement period.

b. If there are other deficiencies that do not affect the health and safety of the occupants, a determination of whether the owner or the tenant's family must make the repairs will be made. In either case, the owner or tenant must correct the items within 30 days or less.

The time period for corrective action will be specified in the Housing Agency's notice to the owner, and such time frame will be dependent upon the type, nature, extent of the repairs to be made.

c. If the owner or tenant does not take the required corrective action within the specified time period, the Housing Agency will determine if an extension of time is warranted depending upon the nature of the required work and any extenuating circumstances.

If an extension is not granted, the Housing Agency will either abate the housing assistance payments or terminate the HAP Contract.

d If the HAP Contract is terminated, the Housing Agency will determine whether to reissue the family's voucher. If the unit deficiencies, which resulted in the termination of HAP were tenant caused the family may be terminated from the program.

If the owner fails to make any owner-required repairs and the owner has a history of HQS non-compliance the owner may be barred from future/continued program participation.

e. During the period when payments have been abated, the Housing Agency will apprise the tenant of its responsibility to pay its share of rent to the owner and will advise the owner that abatement of the HAP is not grounds for termination or other adverse action against the family.

f. Section 8 Housing Representatives will re-inspect the unit to ensure that all HQS deficiencies have been corrected (a) as of the date of the scheduled inspection, and (b) prior to approval of any annual or special rent adjustment.

3. Special Complaint Unit Inspections

If problems similar to those discussed in the preceding sections are disclosed during a special unit inspection (e.g., performed as a result of a complaint from the family, owner, or other source), the same steps shall be taken by the Housing Agency, as outlined in the sections above, as appropriate.

If an annual or special inspection reveals that a unit or building has serious or life-threatening deficiencies, the Housing Agency will re-inspect other units in the building leased to Section 8 assisted families, even though annual inspections of these units are not yet required.

4. Inspections Which Reveal Tenant Non-compliance

If an annual or special inspection reveals that a unit is no longer in a decent, safe, and sanitary condition according to the applicable HQS criteria because of the tenant's lack of maintenance, the tenant is responsible for taking appropriate action to correct deficiencies. In addition to notifying the tenant, in writing, of any deficiencies and corrective action required, the Section 8 Housing Representative shall also advise of the possible consequences of non-compliance. If the owner or Housing Agency is unable to get compliance from the family, the Housing Representative shall either abate the HAP payments or terminate the HAP Contract and the family's housing voucher. If the family remains in occupancy the family will become responsible for the full payment of the rent and the *assisted lease agreement* shall automatically terminate.

PV-§1.06 Termination of Payments and Contracts

If the Housing Agency finds the owner or tenant in continued non-compliance with the HQS both parties will be sent advance written notice of abatement of HAP and/or termination of the HAP contract.

When it has been determined that a unit fails to meet the HQS and the owner/tenant has failed to correct the failed items within the prescribed time frame, the housing assistance payment for the unit will be abated.

The abatement will continue until all failed items have been corrected or for 30 days from the date of abatement, whichever is the earlier.

The Housing Agency will re-inspect the abated units as soon as possible after the date of the owner's contact with the Housing Agency to report the completed work.

The abatement will end if it is confirmed at the re-inspection that all required repairs have been satisfactorily accomplished. Owner or tenant's failure to make required repairs during the abatement period will result in the issuance of the 30-day notice of termination.

While the termination notice is running the abatement will remain in effect. Once the HAP Contract is terminated it will not be reinstated for the same family, at the same unit.

The participating family will be reissued a Voucher to allow for a move with continued assistance if the HQS non-compliance was solely related to the owner's failure to act.

If the repairs are completed before the effective date of the termination, the termination notice can be rescinded if the tenant chooses to stay in the unit.

W. GROUNDS FOR DENIAL OR TERMINATION OF ASSISTANCE

The Housing Agency may deny assistance to an applicant or terminate assistance for a participant family because of the family's action or failure to act. Grounds for denial or termination of assistance may include violation of obligations under the program, prior eviction from public housing or prior termination of voucher assistance, a debt to the Housing Agency or another Housing Agency in connection with the Section 8 or public housing program, and drug related or violent criminal activity. [24 CFR §982.552-553]. The Housing Agency will terminate HAP Contracts as stipulated in 24 CFR 982.454, in the event that there are insufficient funding levels from HUD. The Housing Agency will notify in writing the landlord and participant on the date of effectiveness of termination. Once the Housing Agency regains sufficient levels of funding the Agency will re-instate participants if their circumstances have not changed.

X. MCHA POLICY GOVERNING

The Housing Agency has a Policy of Zero Tolerance for *"Drug Related or Violent Criminal Activity*". If the tenant, any member of the tenant's household, any guest or other person under the tenant's control engages in (a) any Criminal Activity that threatens the health, safety, or right of the peaceable enjoyment of their resident by persons residing in or near the participants resident. Drug related Criminal Activity means the illegal manufacture, sale, distribution, use or possession with intent to manufacture, sell, distribute, or use of controlled substance as defined in sec. 102 of the Controlled Substance Act (21 U.S.C. §802). Tenant and persons of the age of majority listed in the tenants' household engages in one and only one such act of Criminal Activity shall be cause for termination of Assistance, and cause for refusal of subsequent housing applications for a period of three (3) years. The Municipality of Ceiba Section 8 Rental Assistance Program Office may utilize without regard to federal or local preferences it's available voucher Housing Agency, or any such Housing Agency/assistance made available through HUD's national pool of subsidy, to assist persons who are cooperating with a federal, state or local law enforcement investigation involving drug-related criminal activity, and when the applicant or participant is under a threat assignment and recommended for relocation to minimize or eliminate the potential for harm to the family.

Y. INFORMAL REVIEW OR HEARING ON AGENCY ACTION OR DECISION [24 CFR §982.554-555]

A family who feels adversely affected as a result of an agency determination is entitled to an

informal hearing. The request for an informal discussion must be filed in writing within fourteen (14) calendar days from the date of the written notification of the Housing Agency's action or decision.

Under the Section 8 program policies, the Housing Agency is not required to provide a hearing for determinations involving administrative discretion, general policy issues or class grievances, utility allowance schedules, refusal to extend or suspend a voucher term, refusal to approve a new lease, noncompliance with the HQS, or exercising or not exercising any right or remedy against the owner under the HAP contract. [24 CFR §982.555(b)]

PY-§1.00 Informal hearing for participant (24 CFR §982.555)

When hearing is required:

1. The Municipality of Ceiba Section 8 Rental Assistance Program Office will give a participant's family an opportunity for an informal hearing to consider whether the following PHA decisions relating to the individual circumstances of a participant's family are in accordance with the law, HUD regulations and PHA 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 PHA utility allowance schedule.

    c. A determination of the family unit size under the PHA subsidy standards.

    d. A determination that a voucher program family is residing in a unit with a larger number of bedrooms than appropriate for the family unit size under the PHA subsidy standards, or the PHA determination to deny the family's request for an exception from the standards.

    e. A determination to terminate assistance for a participant family because of the family's action or failure to act (see §982.552).

    f. A determination to terminate assistance because the participant family has been absent from the assisted unit for longer than the maximum period permitted under PHA policy and HUD rules.

2. In the cases described in paragraphs (a)(1) (iv), (v) and (vi) of this section, the PHA will give the opportunity for an informal hearing before the PHA terminates housing assistance payments for the family under an outstanding HAP Contract.

Notice to Family:

1. In the cases described in paragraphs (a)(1) (i), (ii) and (iii) of this section, the PHA will notify the family that the family may ask for an explanation of the basis of the PHA 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 (a)(1) (iv), (v) and (vi) of this section, the PHA will give the family prompt written notice that the family may request a hearing. This notice will:

- Contain a brief statement of reasons for the decision.
- State that if the family does not agree with the decision, the family may request an informal hearing on the decision, and
- State the deadlines for the family to request an informal hearing.

Expeditious hearing process:

Where a hearing for a participant's family is required under this section, the PHA will proceed with the hearing in a reasonably expeditious manner upon the request of the family. (i.e., 3-5 working days)

Participant's Hearing procedure:

1. *Discovery*

   a. By family. The family will be given the opportunity to examine before the PHA hearing any PHA documents that are directly relevant to the hearing. The family will provide requested copies at the cost of five cents per page payable in cash at the office of the Central Administrative Office of the Municipality of Ceiba Section 8 Rental Assistance Program Office. If the PHA does not make the document available for examination on request of the family, the Municipality of Ceiba Section 8 Rental Assistance Program Office may not rely on the document at the hearing.

   b. By PHA. The HA hearing procedures do provide that the PHA must be given the opportunity to examine at PHA offices before the PHA hearing any family documents that are directly relevant to the hearing. The PHA must be allowed to copy any such document at the PHA's expense. If the family does not make the document available for examination on request of the PHA, the family may not rely on the document at the hearing.

   c. Documents. The term "documents" includes records and regulations.

2. *Representation of family*. At the family's own expense, the family may be represented by a lawyer or other representative.

3. *Hearing officer: Appointment and Housing Agency*.

   - The hearing may be conducted by any person or persons designated by the PHA, other than a person who made or approved the decision under review or a subordinate of this person.
   - The person who conducts the hearing may regulate the conduct of the hearing in

accordance with the PHA hearing procedures.

4. *Evidence.* The PHA and the family must be given 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(s), stating briefly the reason(s) 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. A copy of the hearing decision shall be furnished within seven (7) working days to the family.

Effect of Decision. The PHA is not bound by a hearing decision:

1. Concerning a matter for which the PHA is not required to provide an informal hearing under this section, or that otherwise exceeds the Housing Agency of the person conducting the hearing under the PHA hearing procedures.

2. Contrary to HUD regulations or requirements, or otherwise contrary Federal, State, or Local laws.

   If the PHA's general counsel determines that it is not bound by a hearing decision, the general counsel must notify the family within seven (7) working days of the determination, and of the reasons for the determination.

Z. USE OF SECTION 8 VOUCHERS FOR WITNESS RELOCATION PURPOSES [P.L. 104-134, 110 Stat. 1321]

Section 8 Rental Vouchers designated by HUD for the exclusive purpose of providing for families who have cooperated as witnesses in efforts to combat crime in public, Indian, and other assisted housing, including Section 8 Tenant-Based assisted housing, will be assigned consistent with the policies and procedures prescribed in HUD Notice 96-83.

The Municipality of Ceiba Section 8 Rental Assistance Program Office may utilize its own voucher funding for this same purpose on a case-by-case basis upon approval of the HUD Regional office.

In all such instance, the Municipality of Ceiba Section 8 Rental Assistance Program Office may maintain the tenant’s files of these families separate from the remaining tenant files and under a fictitious name to ensure the confidentiality and security of all such families. These files may be maintained in the office of the Manager or the Office of General Counsel of the Municipality of Ceiba Section 8 Rental Assistance Program Office.

AA. USE OF SECTION 8 ASSISTANCE TO PROMOTE HOMEOWNERSHIP

Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher assistance may be utilized to promote homeownership opportunities under a Lease-Purchase Agreement (LPA), upon approval of the board of Housing

Authority to adopt a Section 8 Homeownership Program.

The LPA is an agreement between an owner and tenant of a rental unit that gives the tenant the opportunity to purchase. The owner may offer either an option or an obligation to purchase.

The Housing Representative must review the LPA for:

- Same required provisions as for any assisted tenancy; and
- Reasonableness of rent in comparison to the rent for other comparable, unassisted units. For this purpose, comparable rent may not include any value or incremental increase for tenant's right to purchase. The rent to owner must be comparable to units without an LPA. Additionally, the tenant may not pay any amount in excess of the established tenant's rent to the owner as a condition of occupancy under the LPA.

Approval of the unit, the lease, and the lease terms will be made in accordance with the normal program requirements, including HQS.

Section 8 assistance terminates when the family takes title to the unit.

BB. CONDUCT OF ANNUAL SURVEY OF UTILITY SUPPLIERS

The Municipality of Ceiba Section 8 Rental Assistance Program Office will undertake an annual survey of local utility suppliers. Said survey will establish the need to retain, increase and/or decrease tenant allowances based on a review of area rates and consumption.

The survey results will be formatted and submitted to the Municipality of Ceiba Housing Agency Board of Housing Agency with staff's recommendation.

Whether the allowances remain the same or change, an allowance schedule will be published with a current date.

CC. EQUAL OPPORTUNITY REQUIREMENTS

The Housing Agency will administer its programs in a non-discriminatory manner. The Housing Agency shall not provide disparate services or treatment to any applicant, participant or owner based upon *race, color, creed, national origin, sex, handicap, or familial status.* The Housing Agency shall comply with all applicable provisions of federal, state and local fair housing laws. Further, the Housing Agency affirms its ongoing compliance with non-discrimination requirements governing assisted housing. [24 CFR §l and 24 CFR §8]

DD. EXPENDITURES FROM OPERATING RESERVE

A budget is prepared by the Housing Agency for expenditures from the Operating Reserve (Section 8 administrative fees from prior years) for other housing purposes each fiscal year and approved by the Board of Housing Agency.

EE. SEVERABILITY

If any rule, section, sentence, clause or phrase of the rules and regulations or its application to any person or circumstances or property is held to be unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining portions of these rules and regulations or the application of these rules and regulations to other persons or circumstances or property shall not be affected. The Housing Agency hereby declares that it would have adopted these rules and regulations, and each and every rule, section, sentence, clause or phrase thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more of the other rules, sections, sentences, clauses, or phrases is declared unconstitutional or invalid.

FF. REPAYMENT POLICY AND PROCEDURE

Repayment Agreements may be used to modify the terms (periodic amount and timing) of delinquent amounts owed. The circumstances under which repayment agreements are acceptable are under the discretion of the Section 8 manager as long as the family meets the basic eligibility requirements, as stated below, for a repayment agreement. The Section 8 Director is cautioned against the indiscriminate use of these agreements as they can become an obstacle to timely collection of monies due and owing the Housing Agency.

PFF-§1.00 Purpose of Repayment Agreement

A repayment agreement sets up an legally binding agreement between a delinquent tenant and the Municipality of Ceiba Section 8 Rental Assistance Program Office under which the tenant agrees to pay current rent and charges plus a fair amount each month toward delinquent rent or charges until the delinquency is repaid in full.

The Municipality of Ceiba Section 8 Rental Assistance Program Office, for its part, agrees not to terminate the lease of the delinquent tenant for nonpayment unless the tenant breaks the terms of the repayment agreement.

PFF-§1.01 Eligibility to Enter into a Repayment Agreement

A tenant is eligible to execute a repayment agreement when all of the following conditions are met:

1. No other repayment agreement is in force,
2. Any repayment agreements executed within the past 12 months have been fully satisfied in the manner prescribed by the agreement,
3. The tenant has not been delinquent 3 times within the preceding 12 month period,
4. The repayment agreement is requested within the 14 day delinquency remedy period which is concurrent with the running of the 14-day notice (this requirement may be waived if the tenant can prove that he/she was physically incapable of requesting this agreement during this period of time through no fault of his/her own),
5. The tenant is not under any actual or pending eviction proceeding,
6. There are no carryover balances from the previous month, and

7. The reason for the request for the repayment agreement is valid and is fully substantiated and documented.

Generally, these agreements should be restricted to clear cases of hardship (e.g., death in the immediate family, serious illness of tenant/lease holder, lost or stolen benefit check/paycheck, an unexpected Municipality of Ceiba Section 8 Rental Assistance Program Office charge that exceeds the tenant's ability to pay in one sum). The Section 8 supervisor shall document the reason for granting each request for a repayment agreement.

PFF-§1.02 Terms of Repayment Contracts

The maximum duration of any repayment agreement that the Section 8 manager may approve shall be 12 months, inclusive of the month in which the down payment is made. The terms of all Municipality of Section 8 Rental Assistance Program Office repayment contracts shall be as follows:

Balance Due	Payment Due
$26-$100	$25 down and $25 per month
$101-$500	25% down and balance within 11 months with minimum payment of $35/month
$501-$1000	25% down and balance within 11 months with minimum payment of $50/month
$1001+	25% down and balance within 11 months with minimum payment of $75/month

When the down payment required exceeds $125, the Section 8 supervisor may approve arrangements resulting in the payment of the portion that exceeds $125 in equal installments over a two-month period.

PFF-§1.03 Preparation to Negotiate a Repayment Agreement

The Section 8 supervisor will conduct a file review before meeting with the tenant to determine whether the tenant's rent was computed correctly, whether the tenant is entitled to some interim reduction in rent not yet granted, whether the tenant utility allowance schedule has been reviewed within the past year as required by HUD regulations (24 CFR, Part 965), or whether the tenant might be entitled to a rent abatement because of documented conditions hazardous of life, health or safety.

Any of these situations might reduce or alter the amount delinquent (or eliminate the delinquency) so all these possibilities must be checked before meeting with the tenant. If any of these conditions are present and warrant a reduction in the amount of rent or charges due, an adjustment is to be made and any resulting rent credit shall be applied retroactively to the time that the circumstances arose.

The Section 8 supervisor’s file review should also include an examination of the tenant's

payment history, any pending eviction actions, special circumstances and income. The Section 8 supervisor should be thoroughly familiar with the specific tenant's circumstances and be able to fully document the tenant's eligibility and sufficiency of justification for a repayment agreement.

PFF-§1.04 Negotiating a Repayment Agreement

Once the Section 8 manager has determined that the tenant is eligible the parties will meet to address the terms of the agreement. The primary topics for the negotiation are the down payment and the amount of the subsequent monthly payments under the agreement. The negotiation shall be carried out in a professional and non-threatening manner.

The Section 8 supervisor should attempt to shorten the duration of the agreement by seeking the largest down payment and subsequent monthly payments that the tenant can afford. Under no circumstances may the Section 8 manager agree to a term that is in excess of 12 months or which requires a down payment of less than what is specified by the Municipality of Ceiba Section 8 Rental Assistance Program Office policy.

The Section 8 supervisor shall emphasize to the tenant that the repayment agreement being negotiated must be paid off in full and in accordance with the terms before the tenant can be considered for any other repayment agreement. The Section 8 supervisor should also inform the tenant that failure to abide by the terms of the agreement will be grounds for termination of rental assistance for amounts due and owing the Housing Agency.

PFF-§1.05 Executing the Repayment Agreement

When the terms of the Agreement have been settled, the Section 8 Housing Representative will complete the Repayment Agreement for approval and signature of the Section 8 supervisor. The form will then be explained to the tenant and both parties will sign it in the appropriate places. Two copies of the executed Agreement will be made and given to the tenant. The supervisor will place the original of the agreement in the tenant's file.

The Section 8 supervisor shall provide accounting with the pertinent information from all executed repayment agreements.

GG. FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY ENROLLMENT

The Municipality of Ceiba Section 8 Rental Assistance Program Office will enroll families as required and consistent with 24 CFR §984.105 in the Family Self-Sufficiency Program (FSS), to promote the development of local strategies, integrate programs, and coordinate public and private resources to enable low-income families to achieve economic independence and self-sufficiency**.**

Under the FSS Program, participating families will enter into contracts with the Municipality of Ceiba Section 8 Rental Assistance Program Office to set forth the resources for education, job training, counseling and other forms of assistance while living in assisted housing.

The FSS program will limit the increase in rent payable by very low-income families due to

increases in earned income. The excess will be used to fund an escrow savings account that is available to the family upon successful completion of the program.

HH. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND JUSTICE DEPARTMENT REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2005-PH NOTICE 2006-23

The Municipality of Ceiba Section 8 Rental Assistance Program Offices will comply with the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) which prohibits the eviction of, and removal of assistance from, certain persons living in public or Section 8-assisted housing if the asserted ground for such action is an instance of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, as those terms are defined in Section 3 of the United State Housing Act of 1937 as amended by VAWA (42 U.S.C. 13925).

In order to comply with the VAWA legislation, the Municipality of Ceiba Section 8 Rental Assistance Program is establishing administrative procedures that prevent the eviction or termination of assistance from our Section 8 Program of victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking. If the asserted grounds for such actions are instances of perpetrated against them or their immediate families.

Our Section 8 participants who claims having been or being victimized-according to the VAWA provisions- will be requested to present evidence of undergoing legal actions against their victimizer and/or reports by the State Family Department that support their allegations of abuse.

After verifying the validity of the participant's claims, we will put into effect reasonable accommodations provisions to ensure protection of the family's rights to assistance, including:

1. the exclusion from the Program of the victimizer (if he/she were a participant),
2. authorizing relocation of the family as a preventive measure (if they so desire),
3. documenting in file those instances of violence that arise from the abuser's actions, as disturbances created within the community by the aggressor/stalker.

Municipality of Ceiba Section 8 Rental Assistance Program Office and all owners in the Section 8 voucher program must comply with this law.

ATTACHMENT 1
PHA- VAWA STATEMENT

The Ceiba Public Housing Agency (PHA) has adopted a policy to implement applicable provisions of the Violence against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 205 (Pub. L. 109-162,-VAWA). The PHA amended the Housing Choice Voucher Program Administrative Plan to include such policy.

The PHA goals and objectives under VAWA regulations are:

1. Maintaining compliances with all applicable legal requirements imposed by VAWA;
2. Ensuring the physical safety of victims of actual or threatened domestic violence, dating violence, or staking who are assisted by Ceiba PHA;
3. Taking appropriate action in response to an incident of domestic violence, dating violence, or staking , affecting individuals assisted by Ceiba PHA;
4. Providing and maintaining housing opportunities for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, or staking;
5. Creating and maintaining collaborative arrangement between PHA, law enforcement authorities, victim service providers, and others to promote the safety and well-being of victims of actual and threatened domestic violence, dating violence and stalking, who are assisted by the PHA.

A. The following activities, services or programs are provided by PHA, directly or in partnership with other service providers, to child and adult victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or staking.

The PHA coordinates with "Milagros de Amor", a non-profit organization located at Caguas that brings assistance to victims of domestic violence. These services are available to victims whose are non Section 8 participants and Section 8 participants, if needed. However, Ceiba Public Housing Agency has no report of incident or incidents of actual or threatened domestic violence, dating violence or staking.

B. Activities, services, or programs are provided by PHA to help child and adult victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking to obtain or maintain housing.

1. All owners were notifying on family's participants rights under Vawa and their responsibilities as owners.

2. Families participating in Section 8 Voucher Program received information on VAWA rights and their responsibilities under VAWA regulations.

C. The following activities, services, or programs are provided by PHA to prevent domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking, or to enhance victim safety in assisted families.

1. All owners were notified on family's rights under VAWA.
2. Family's were orientated on their rights to move (portability) in behavior of victim safety.

Juicio por Masacre de Pájaros

Quieren probar que 'Peca' no estuvo

Jackeline Del Toro Cordero
EL VOCERO

BAYAMON – La información que dio el oficial probatorio de Jorge L. "Peca" Reyes Santiago a nivel federal, Martín de Santiago, no fue tomada en consideración al radicar las acusaciones contra éste, trató de probar ayer el abogado Jorge Gordon en su contrainterrogatorio a la agente Vivian Acevedo.

El abogado trató de probar ayer que su cliente estuvo en el edificio federal en Hato Rey cerca de la hora de los hechos, lo que le hubiera impedido participar en la Masacre de Pájaros.

Acevedo fue confrontada por el licenciado con un documento que refleja la visita de Reyes Santiago a su oficial probatorio en la tarde del pasado cinco de mayo. El acusado, de 32 años, acudió a la oficina de Martín de Santiago a eso de la 1:35 de la tarde. La hoja de asistencia y la grabación de una cámara de seguridad dan constancia de la presencia del hombre en el edificio.

La declaración de Martín de Santiago no fue plasmada en una declaración jurada, por lo que el abogado cuestionó si la misma fue descartada ya que no era pertinente para la prueba en contra. La agente respondió "yo no diría eso".

Los hechos en los que murieron Alexis "El Loco" Olivo, su hija Arieliz, de dos años, y el adolescente Angel I. Vázquez, de 16, ocurrieron a las cuatro de la tarde en el barrio Pájaros, de Toa Baja.

Además, Gordon cuestionó la versión que el 'testigo estrella' del caso, Billy Alexis Vargas, dio a la Policía en el sentido de que Reyes Santiago estuvo todo el tiempo con el grupo mientras se preparaban para perpetrar la matanza. De haber estado desde el mediodía con los demás, en algún momento habría tenido que separarse para ir a Hato Rey, o se hubiera unido más tarde.

Vargas sólo mencionó que "los de Loíza" fueron los que se unieron después. De estos, sólo Aquilino Pizarro fue arrestado al resultar herido en la balacera.

Gordon también cuestionó a la agente de Homicidios sobre si reclamó a Vargas sobre el asunto durante la celebración de la vista preliminar celebrada en agosto. Ella estuvo presente la mayor parte de las veces en las que el testigo fue trasladado entre la cárcel federal y el Tribunal de Justicia de Bayamón. Acevedo contestó que lo confrontó en algún momento, pero que no recuerda el momento exacto.

Un testigo no puede hablar del caso con nadie luego de haber prestado juramento ante el Tribunal. En este caso, ambos son testigos de cargo.

El juicio reinició ayer, luego de un receso de 21 días debido a que hubo un brote de varicelas en el módulo de la cárcel federal donde se encuentra sumariado José Luis José "Ñoño" Cruz Ortiz. Los otros coausados en esta etapa del proceso son: Aquilino Pizarro, José Luis "Marcian" Colón de Jesús, Luis Javier "Bebito" Hernández Cruz y Rafael Vélez Andino.

El proceso judicial continuará hoy, mientras que el juez Juan José Delgado determinó trabajar más allá de horas laborables regulares, incluyendo sábados.

El juicio contra los acusados de la Masa Pájaros continuará hoy.

OFICINA DE SECCION 8

AVISO DE VISTAS PUBLICAS

El Municipio de Ceiba está revisando y preparando el Plan de Cinco Años 2010-2014 y el Plan Anual 2010-2011 para el Programa de Sección 8 que administra el Municipio. Este documento contiene los procedimientos que seguirá el programa para atender las necesidades de vivienda de familias de ingresos bajos y extremadamente bajos. También se incluye la misión, objetivos y metas que ha establecido el Municipio de Ceiba para la operación inmediata del programa de Renta subsidiada (Sección 8) y servicios que se estarán ofreciendo a los participantes así como las estrategias para atender las necesidades de éstos dentro del año fiscal 2010-2011. Copia del Plan y la documentación relacionada con el mismo estarán disponible en la Oficina de Sección 8. Como parte del proceso de participación ciudadana, se celebrará una vista el día 23 de marzo del 2010, a la 1:30 p.m. en el Salón de Música.

Los participantes deberán presentar sus comentarios, sugerencias y/o recomendaciones por escrito el día de la vista pública o enviarlas antes del 19 de marzo de 2010 a la siguiente dirección postal: Gobierno Municipal de Ceiba, Oficina de Programas Federales, Atención Sra. Jackeline Aponte Burgos P.O. Box 224, Ceiba, PR 00735. Para información adicional sobre este proceso se pueden comunicar con la Sra. Florence Torres Torres, Técnica de Vivienda, al teléfono (787) 885-4140.

La Oficina de Programas Federales del Municipio de Ceiba ofrece igualdad de oportunidad de vivienda sin discriminar por raza, color, origen, religión, sexo, incapacidad, estatus familiar u origen nacional.

HON. PEDRO COLON OSORIO
ALCALDE

ESTADO LIBRE ASOCIADO DE PUERTO RICO

MUNICIPIO DE BARCELONETA

AVISO PÚBLICO

TALLER INFORMATIVO

PROYECTO ESTUDIO DE VIABILIDAD SISTEMA DE TRANSPC COLECTIVO DESDE BAYAMON HASTA HATILLO (CORREDOR NORTE CENTRAL)

El Municipio Autónomo de Barceloneta y la Organización Iniciativa Tecnológica del Norte (INT a las organizaciones privadas, agencias de gobierno, entidades municipales y al público gene de la segunda serie de talleres informativos sobre el propuesto sistema de transporte colectiv los municipios desde Hatillo hasta Bayamón.

Actualmente se evalúan alternativas, incluyendo sistemas de tránsito, que tengan capacid grandes cantidades de personas entre los municipios que comprenden la Región Norte Cen sistema del Tren Urbano de San Juan.

El propósito de la celebración de los talleres informativos es recibir y considerar los co ciudadanos temprano en la etapa de desarrollo del proyecto propuesto; ofrecerles la oportun sus dudas, ideas y comentarios; anticipar posibles factores ambientales y revisar la posible t proyecto de transportación.

A continuación la fecha y lugar donde celebraremos los mismos:

Municipio	Fecha	Hora	Dirección y/o Ubicación	Tel
Vega Alta	2 de marzo de 2010	6:00 PM	Centro de Recepciones-Salón Marisol Conde López (Piso 2)	
Vega Baja	4 de marzo de 2010	6:00 PM	Salón de sesiones Legislatura Municipal Edificio Cano Llovio, (Piso 2)	
Dorado	8 de marzo de 2010	6:00 PM	Teatro Juan Boria	7
Arecibo	16 de febrero de 2010	6:00 PM	Casa Ulanga	
Hatillo	17 de febrero de 2010	6:00 PM	Teatro Municipal	
Toa Baja	18 de febrero de 2010	6:00 PM	Salón de Conferencias (Piso 5) en la Casa Alcaldía	
Bayamón	23 de febrero de 2010	3:00 PM	Facilidades Estación del Tren Urbano, Bayamón Centro	
Barceloneta	24 de febrero de 2010	6:00 PM	Teatro Municipal Ernesto Ramos Antonini	
Manatí	25 de febrero de 2010	6:00 PM	Salón de los Poetas	

Personas con impedimentos físicos que deseen participar en los talleres informativos y ne especiales, deberán comunicarse a la oficina de contacto en horas laborables con cinco dí taller informativo en el que interesa participar.

SOL LUIS FONTANES OLIVO
ALCALDE

FELIPE CA
DIRECTOR EJECUT

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT OF CEIBA
CEIBA PUBLIC HOUSING AGENCY
SECTION 8
RESIDENTS ADVISORY BOARD[1]

1. Yazmin Ortiz
   Urb. Monte Brisas, Calle 2 AA-12
   Fajardo, Puerto Rico

2. Inés Navedo
   Calle Ángel Ramos #1137
   Ceiba, Puerto Rico

3. Charles Strawn
   Carretera 975, Sector Las Calderonas
   Barrio Saco, Ceiba, Puerto Rico

4. Margarita Corcino
   Mundo Plaza, Apto. 4
   Ceiba, Puerto Rico

5. Jessica Feliciano
   Calle 5 #101
   Brisas de Ceiba, Ceiba, Puerto Rico

6. Deyanira Piña
   Urb. River Valley, Calle 24
   Ceiba, Puerto Rico

[1] Effective Date: February 2010 until December 2012

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT OF CEIBA
Housing Choice Voucher Program
Section 8

RAB COMMENTS

No comments received during comments period and/or public hearing due on March 23, 2010.

GOBIERNO MUNICIPAL DE CEIBA
PROGRAMA RENTA SUBSIDIADA SECCION 8
HOJA DE ASISTENCIA
VISTA PUBLICA PLAN CINCO AÑOS 2010-2014 Y PLAN ANUAL 2010-2011
MARTES 23 DE MARZO DE 2010-1:30 PM

NOMBRE EN LETRA DE MOLDE	FIRMA	DIRECCION POSTAL	TELEFONO	GRUPO QUE REPRESENTA
José Montes		Celina E-34,	787-885-5255	Rendatario
Joseam Rodríguez		Calle 7 F24 Santa Maria	885-1352	Dueño
Yarmin Ortiz		Monte Brisas Ct#2 AA-12 Fajardo	787-234-4241	Participante
Miriam Cruz		9 Cl Jard. Avila Ceiba PR	787-718-4211	Rendatario
Kevin J Melendez		P.O Box 90 Ceiba P.R. 00735	(787)-562-6058	Rendatario
Samuel Santiago		Avenida Ponce #217 Ceiba PR	885-2100	(Rendatario)
Leyda Ayala		Buzón 83 Bo. Daguao	627-2412	Participante

ESTADO LIBRE ASOCIADO DE PUERTO RICO
Gobierno Municipal
OFICINA DE PROGRAMAS FEDERALES
PO Box 224
Ceiba Puerto Rico 00735-0224

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(787) 885-3220
885-4140
FAX:
(787) 885-5596

PROGRAMA RENTA SUBSIDIADA SECCION 8
HOJA DE ASISTENCIA-JUNTA DE RESIDENTES
VISTA PUBLICA PLAN ANUAL 2010-2011
MARTES 23 DE MARZO DE 2010-1:30 PM

NOMBRE EN LETRA DE MOLDE	FIRMA	POSICION
Loyda Ayala		
Yazmin Ortiz		

MUNICIPALITY OF CEIBA

ACTION PLAN

FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY (FSS) PROGRAM

MUNICIPALITY OF CEIBA
FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY (FSS) PROGRAM
ACTION PLAN

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MUNICIPALITY OF CEIBA
FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY (FSS) PROGRAM
ACTION PLAN

I. INTRODUCTION

A growing number of families in our communities face a proverty situation of serious proportions. Unemployment, family break-ups or health conditions contribute to temporary conditions of poverty; nevertheless, many families manage to recover and return to productive lives. There is however a very large segment of our population who remain poor, chronically unemployed, and basically dependent of welfare helps or government assisted programs.

Among the basic needs of the families, housing constitutes one of the most important. Housing provides shelter, protection, and a sense of identity, belonging, and privacy. A home is where basic cultural values are transmitted and should provide the minimum conditions for adequate social integration for its residents.

As a Public Housing Agency (PHA), the Municipality of Ceiba has received additional Rental vouchers, to assist in the provision of new housing opportunities to the very low income families, whose demand cannot be met with our current Section 8 Vouchers Program. These units will be used in connection with the Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Program.

II. FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY (FSS) PROGRAM

The purpose of the FSS Program is to promote the development of local strategies to coordinate the use of assistance under the Section 8 Vouchers Program with public and private resources, to enable families eligible for or receiving assistance under this program to achieve economic independence and self-sufficiency.

The FSS Program will be development and operated by the PHA in conformity with the Section 8 program regulations and applicable civil rights authorities, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Fair Housing Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Executive Order 11063, and Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968, as amended.

III. ACTION PLAN

Through the development and implementation of a well coordinated Action Plan, we aim to combat many problems of poverty and dependency using strategies that will focus on work preparation and personal values development. Community agencies, both government and private, have been approached and encouraged to participate with us in this challenging and rewarding program.

The proposed course of actions and details of the program are included in this Action Plan. This document will be outlined in meetings with members of the Coordinating Committee and coordinated with the Chief Executive Officer of the municipality whose families will be assisted under PHA's FSS Program.

This Action Plan contains target dates, commitment agreements in the provision of the supportive services, the FSS Program Contract of Participation, enclosed as Exhibit A, the outreach efforts, procedural requirements, and other information and documents, as needed.

IV. PROGRAM DESIGN

A. FSS Program Management and PHA Coordination

The Program's initial activities are being coordinated by the PH's Executive Director. Upon approval of our FSS proposal by HUD, the PHA will appoint a program Coordinator to supervise and structure the related programmatic activities, under the overall direction of the Executive Director. The Coordinator will continue to carry out the necessary functions in the formal structure of the Coordinating Committee, which have been already initiated, and other related tasks.

B. Coordinating Committee

The Program Coordinating Committee (PCC) will be integrated by professional representatives from public and private enterprises, church groups, community leaders, local business, and other resources. The representatives from these entities will have an input in the program design and action steps of the FSS Program, and will be responsible for functions such as:

1. Developing a working relationship with the Program Coordinator and other related program staff in the achievement of the program objectives.

2. Coordinating the needed actions for the selection of committee representatives.

3. Making specific commitments of time, staff, and resources to the program.

4. Providing input into the program research and evaluation process.

The organization of the Committee is already underway, and meetings will be help with some of its proposed members, during which we will discussed aspects such as:

1. The creation and purpose of the Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Program.

2. The proposal of the PHA to development and implement the FSS Program, upon HUD approval of the new units (Housing Vouchers), as well as for Section 8 participants.

3. The services that should be provided and resources that can be used in carrying out a successful program.

4. The functions of the Committee and its assistance to our PHA, in securing commitments of public and private resources for the operation of the FSS Program.

5. A form will be drafted to gather the necessary data to draw the profiles of the Section 8 participants and applicants under the FSS Program.

The initial PCC meeting is scheduled to be held during the first week immediately after the proposal's approval by HUD.
From thereon, the Committee will meet at least twice quarterly during the first year of implementation of the FSS Program, to oversee program progress and accomplishments.
The expertise and sound experience of this PHA will enhance the outcome of the self-sufficiency Program.

V. PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

A. Program Description and PHA's Administrative Capability

1. The local PHA has the legal capability to develop and operate the Section 8 Rental Assistance FSS Program. The current program consists of 41 vouchers; all committed to very low income families. There are not outstanding vouchers for an occupancy rate of 100 percent.
Although all participants are of Hispanic origin, the racial composition may be estimated in 5% black and 95% white, approximately.

2. Supportive Services – The PHA proposes to expand the functions of the Program Coordinating Committee to include the assessment of needs of the target population and to develop a plan for rendering those services, which directly address the Family Self-Sufficiency Program objectives. This Action Plan includes the role of the Coordinating Committee. One of the Family Self-sufficiency Program stronger features will de a network of counseling services to be provided in an effort to increase the participant's capability for self-sufficiency.

   Through the FSS Program, families will be offered the opportunity to become acquainted with other local agencies, will have direct access to existing and emerging job opportunities, and will be, in general, counseled and trained as to ways in which grow gradually into economic independence.

   The FSS Program efforts offering accurate and timely information concerning the availability and adequate utilization of services will ultimately contribute to a better local distribution of these services, whether federally or locally funded. This includes benefits currently provided by different entities.

B. Eligible Participating Families

The 13 eligible participating families who can reasonably be expected to receive supportive services under the Family Self-sufficiency Program must be eligible for Section 8 or Public Housing Programs as applicable.

Also, additional applicant families will be accepted when there are no families in the waiting list willing to participate in the FSS Program.

C. Description of Activities and Supportive Services

The following agencies and entities will provide the activities and supportive services:

a. Department of Labor
b. Department of Health

c. Department of Education
d. Department of Transportation
e. Planning Board
f. Municipal Agencies and Offices
g. Federal Agencies
    - Rural Development Adminsitration- Housing Agency
    - Department of Housing and Urban Development
h. Private community groups
i. Local Banks
j. Saving and Loans Associations

By the coordinate efforts of public and private entities participating and providing support to the FSS Program, obstacles to Family Self-sufficiency can be minimized or eliminated. Support services to be provided by the above-mentioned agencies and entities are as follows:

a. Child Care- It is considered an essential element of a successful Self-Sufficiency Program. This service will be provided by the local government through the Head Start Centers and/or by the Human Resources/Child Care office in the Governor's Office.

b. Counseling Assistance- Technical staff of the Municipality's Section 8 Office and other local government offices' staff will be available to provide counseling assistance through the Section 8 Technicians, Social Workers, and the other qualified personnel.

c. Owners Participation- Owners of units eligible to participate in the program will be contacted by local invitation and radio spots, if necessary, indicating the housing type and sized need for eligible families.

d. Transportation – Transportation assistance to program participants will be provided by the local government and private volunteer groups.

e. Supplementary Education – Over 75% of FSS Program participants will require some kind of supplementary adult education. The cost of these services will be assumed by the State Government through the Department of Education and other entities, with whom the PHA will make due coordination.

f. Job-development, Training, and Placement – Considering the distressed economic conditions of the area, these services are essential to the success of the FSS Program. The Department of Labor and Human Resources as well as the Workforce Investment Act. (WIA), the Youth Affairs Office, Governor Office, the Municipal Government, and other competent and interested agencies are available to provide assistance in these areas.

g. Substance Abuse Treatment and Counseling – These services, if needed, will be provided by the Department of Anti-addiction Services (DSCA). The Puerto Rico Department of Family, the Puerto Rico Health Department, and other qualified entities will be also contacted in the provision of these services.

h. Counseling in Homeownership Responsibilities and Opportunities Available for Rental and Homeownership in the Private Housing Market

The Mortgage Bankers, the Housing Development Corporation for Puerto Rico (BDC), and non-profit organization engaged in the development and

administration of housing for low and very low income families in Puerto Rico, the Rural Development Agency, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the local municipal government, and other qualified entities will be contacted in this important servicing area.

i. Training in Homemaking and Parenting Skills, Money Management, and Household Management. – These services will be provided by the qualified personnel of the Municipal Government, local banking entities, and other private entities, if available.

j. Church Services and Counseling. – Church representatives will be contacted to contribute with important services, such as: talks and movies about human relations, leadership, and communication between parents, religious counseling, religious and social activities, stimulate the children participation in organized groups like the Boys and Girls Scouts, Police Athletic League, and other activities of benefit to the family members.

D. Identification of Needs and Deliver Services

1. Tenant Group Orientation and Initial Training. – The group orientation and initial training will be designed to establish and reinforce new social and norms values and strengthen and increase the participant's self-image. They will be motivated in the development of skills and making effective use of community programs for growth and development.

The following information will be provided to the prospective applicants during the initial orientation:

a. The purpose and objectives of the Self-Sufficiency Program
b. The eligibility requirements for participation established by HUD.
c. The Selection process
d. The number of Section 8 Vouchers and Vouchers available for the Self-Sufficiency Program.
e. Owner requirements for participation
f. Introduction to the Contract of Administration under the FSS Program

The group orientation will continue throughout the program. Participants attendance to any training course will be monitored, as well as the progress achieved.

2. Individual Skills Training. – Participants will be made fully aware of the fact that in order to succeed in their employment, they should gain a set of basic skills, Based on the above, the FSS program will focus on individual skills training from remedial education to socialization skills training.

After completing the initial training, the participants will be interviewed by the Coordinator and other program related staff, as well as the Coordinating Committee members as needed. Personal needs assessments will be prepared based on the outcome of the interviews. The assessment will identify any special needs or limitations, which may inhibit the participant from achieving self-sufficiency, to take the pertinent steps. A referral system will be developed where the FSS Program Coordinator will synchronize the necessary actions with the support service providers, emphasizing on the services and activities, which will conduct the achieve self-sufficiency according to the personal needs assessment.

3. Job Training – Employment service agencies will be used to the maximum during the training periods to engage participants in job

assignments. This process will lead to the action phase of the Program's job placement.

4. Job Placement and Retention. – This final step after the job training phase will be designed to increase the probability that FSS program participants will find and retain good jobs with the needed support and continue their individual development outside the boundaries of the program.

E. Public and Private Resources Available to Provide Activities and Services.

A description of services and programs available in our community and represented in the Program Coordinating Committee are as follows:

1. Tutoring Programs – For persons who have not finished elementary or high school and want to take the equivalency tests.
   a. Remedial courses
   b. Workshops about high school requirements or College Board
   c. Counseling individual and collective
   d. Seminars about study habits
   e. Cultural activities

2. WIA Program – This program offers institutional training including secondary school, professional sewing, on the job training>

3. Religious Organizations.
   a. Religious counseling
   b. Religious and social activities
   c. Referral to other agencies and professionals
   d. Human relations, leadership, and communication between parents

4. Department of Education
   a. adults basic education (1st to 8th grade)
   b. Adults secondary education (9th to 12th grade)
   c. Conversational English courses

F. Timetable for Implementation of the FSS Program

The timetable for implementing the Family Self-Sufficiency Program (FSS) will begin within twelve months from the date of HUD notification of approval of the award application for rental units for the Family Self-Sufficiency Program. Therefore, all activities such as outreach, participant selection, etc. must have begun.

G. Certification of Development Services and Activities

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that development of the services and activities under the FSS program has been coordinated with the Job Opportunities and Basic Skills Training Program under Part F of Title IV of the Social Security Act, the program under the Workforce Investment Act, and any other relevant employment, child care, transportation, training, and education programs (e.g., Job training for the Homeless Demonstration program) in the applicable area, and that implementation will continue to be coordinated, in order to avoid duplication of services and activities.

_____

PHA Authorized Signature

H. Designation of the Number of Units by Bedroom Size and Program Type.

The following number of units to be allocated for the Family Self-Sufficiency Program by Bedroom Size and Program type is those expected to be approved by the Annual Contributions Contract (ACC) under rental vouchers.

Number of units	1 BDR	2 BDR	3 BDR	4 BDR
13	0	3	10	0

Program Type

13 Housing existing rental Vouchers

I. FSS Tenant Participant Selection Procedures

1. Section 8 Applicant – Eligible participants in the Section 8 Waiting List established pursuant to 24 CFR 887 (Housing Vouchers) will be given the opportunity to participate in the program after they are carefully explained the details of the Self-Sufficiency Program. A system for establishing the list of interested participants will be developed. The PHA will ensure that all applicants are provided reasonable opportunities to place their names in the list until the PHA complete the number of families needed to comply with the program implementation.

   When a Section 8 FSS slot becomes available, the slot will be offered to the qualified family at the top of the Section 8 Waiting List, in accordance with the selection preferences in the HUD-approved Administrative Plan for the Section 8 Vouchers Program and the Equal Opportunity Housing Plan.

   Current Section 8 vouchers participants who do not wish to participate in the FSS Program will not lose their housing assistance because of this decision.

2. Soliciting Current Resident Participant Interest.- The PHA will publicize the availability of the Section 8 FSS Program, after HUD approval, and will further develop the procedures to solicit resident/participant expressions of interest in the program.

3. Opening the Waiting List. – According to the programs regulations, the PHA will open its Section 8 Waiting List to additional families interested in participating in the FSS Program only when there are no families in the Section 8 Waiting List willing to participate in it. The number of families to be maintained in the Waiting List for turn-over purposes.

4. Local Preferences.- The local preferences will be followed as called for in the regulations and the Administrative Plan for the Housing Vouchers Programs. The selection from the PHA Waiting List of any applicant family without a local preference ahead of a family with a preference will be counted against the federal exception, pursuant to 24 CFR 882.219 and 24 CFR 887.157, Federal Selection Preferences.

5. Nondiscrimination.-The PHA will not discriminate against potential FSS participants for reasons of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familiar status, or national origin, sexual orientation or gender identity. We will fully comply with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (P.L. 88-352) and regulations pursuant thereto (Title 24 CFR Part I), Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (P. L. 90-284), as amended, Executive Order 11063 on Equal Opportunity in Housing, the HUD-approved Equal Opportunity Housing Plan, and all related requirements.

J. Selection of Participant Families

It is the PHA intention to select Family Self-Sufficiency participants from the Section 8 Program Waiting List interested in participating in the Family Self-Sufficiency Program.

The PHA closed Waiting List may be opened to additional families interested in participating in the FSS program only when there are

no families on Section 8 Waiting Lists willing to participate in the FSS program. The PHA will advertise this solicitation of interest in accordance with the procedures established in its Action, Administrative, and Equal Opportunity Housing Plans.

K. PHA Notification and Outreach Efforts

The PHA will be selecting FSS participants from the Section 8 Waiting List, which is a large one (Approximately 26 applicants). Therefore, the outreach efforts are not required. The outreach methods are fully described in the Action, Administrative, and Equal Opportunity Housing (EOPH) Plans.

L. Selection of Participants from Current PHA or Section 8 Participants

If the PHA determines to select FSS participants from the current public housing residents or Section 8 participants, a system will be established for the selection of interested participants/residents, which include the following selection preferences:

1. A lottery
2. Seniority based on the length of time the current family has been participating in the PHA's applicable program.
3. Seniority based on the time the family was on the Waiting List and the time it has been participating in the applicable program.
4. The date the family expressed interest in participating in the FSS program.
5. Any other impartial method.

M. Termination of participant in FSS Program

Assistance under the FSS Program will be terminated or withheld by the PHA by reasons set forth in the Contract of Family participation as follows:

1. The failure of a participant family or a member of the participant family to honor the terms of the contract
2. Mutual consent of the parties

3. A participating family's achieving self-sufficiency
4. Expiration of the term of the contract and any extension thereof
5. A participating family's withdrawal from the FSS program
6. By such other act as it deemed inconsistent with the purpose of the FSS program, or
7. by operation of law

It requires that the head of household seek and maintain suitable employment throughout the term of the contract, including any extensions to the contract.

Employment should reflect the person's training and available job opportunities. Only the head of the household must seek employment.

The hearing and housing grievance procedures established in the PHA Administrative and Equal Opportunity Housing Plans will be implemented if assistance under FSS program is terminated or with held by the PHA or participant and requested by the FSS program participant.

Both procedures will be fully explained to FSS participants at time of tenant group orientation and initial training.

N. Soundness of the PHA Proposed Program

Our PHA has the legal capacity to develop and operate the Family Self-Sufficiency Program (FSS) as it has done with the Section 8 Rental Assistance Payments Programs (vouchers). Therefore, we will continue to make all efforts to comply with all requirements in the implementation of the Family Self-Sufficiency Program (FSS).

VI. FSS ESCROW ACCOUNT

In accordance with the program provisions, the PHA will establish an "escrow savings account" (FSS Account) for each family participating in the FSS Program , and will credit it a portion of the increase of "rent paid" that would otherwise result from increases in earned income during the term of the Contract of Participation. The term "rent paid" refers to the

family contribution to rent as defined in accordance with existing program procedures.

The PHA will determine the appropriate amounts to be credited to the escrow account in accordance with HUD requirements.

Under the programs' terminology, "FSS account" means the "FSS escrow account". The term "FSS credit" is used to denote the amount credited by the PHA to the participating family's FSS account.

VII. REPORTS

After implementation of the FSS Program, the PHA will submit an annual report to HUD by September of each year detailing, among others: (a) a description of the activities carried out under the program'(b) a description of the effectiveness of the FSS Program in assisting families to achieve economic independence and self-sufficiency'(c) a description of the effectiveness of the program in coordinating resources of communities to assist families to achieve economic independence and self-sufficiency' and (d) any recommendations of the PHA or the Coordinating Committee for legislative or administrative action that would improve the FSS program and ensure its effectiveness. Other data will be furnished as required under the HUD-prescribed form.

VIII. EVALUATION

The program's success will be measured in terms of the self-sufficiency goals achieved. All participants will be evaluated using criterions, such as educational level attained, employment status, annual income, job skills developed, job placement, and other related factors.

The PHA will conduct the program evaluation on a continuous basis for adjustments or improvements, as needed.