| PHA 5-Year and Annual Plan | U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development<br>Office of Public and Indian Housing | OMB No. 2577-0226<br>Expires 4/30/2011 |
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**1.0 PHA Information**

PHA Name: Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority PHA Code: IN901

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

PHA Fiscal Year Beginning: (MM/YYYY): 01/2012

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

Number of PH units: 0 Number of HCV units: 4837

**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.)

| 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:

**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.

**6.0 PHA Plan Update**

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

There have been no changes to the PHA Plan since the last annual submission.

(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.

IHCDA 5-year plan and HCVP Administrative Plan may be obtained at the IHCDA's web site at http://www.in.gov/ihcda and its office located at 30 S. Meridian Street, Suite 1000, Indianapolis, IN 46204.

**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.*

**8.0 Capital Improvements.** Please complete Parts 8.1 through 8.3, as applicable.

**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 the *Capital Fund Program Annual Statement/Performance and Evaluation Report,* form HUD-50075.1, for each current and open CFP grant and CFFP financing.

**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.

**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.

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| **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. |
| **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.** |
| **10.0** | **Additional Information**. Describe the following, as well as any additional information HUD has requested.<br><br>(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.<br><br>(b) Significant Amendment and Substantial Deviation/Modification. Provide the PHA's definition of "significant amendment" and "substantial deviation/modification" |

| | |
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| **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 signatures, 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.<br><br>(a) Form HUD-50077, *PHA Certifications of Compliance with the PHA Plans and Related Regulations* (which includes all certifications relating to Civil Rights)<br>(b) Form HUD-50070, *Certification for a Drug-Free Workplace* (PHAs receiving CFP grants only)<br>(c) Form HUD-50071, *Certification of Payments to Influence Federal Transactions* (PHAs receiving CFP grants only)<br>(d) Form SF-LLL, *Disclosure of Lobbying Activities* (PHAs receiving CFP grants only)<br>(e) Form SF-LLL-A, *Disclosure of Lobbying Activities Continuation Sheet* (PHAs receiving CFP grants only)<br>(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.<br>(g) Challenged Elements<br>(h) Form HUD-50075.1, *Capital Fund Program Annual Statement/Performance and Evaluation Report* (PHAs receiving CFP grants only)<br>(i) Form HUD-50075.2, *Capital Fund Program Five-Year Action Plan* (PHAs receiving CFP grants only) |

ihcda

Indiana Housing & Community Development Authority

# IN901

# Housing Choice Voucher Program

# Annual Plan Plan FY 2012

## IHCDA 5-Year /Annual Plan

### 5.1 Mission Statement

All Hoosiers should have the opportunity to live in safe, decent, affordable housing in economically stable communities. IHCDA helps build strong communities by providing financial resources and assistance to qualified partners throughout the State of Indiana in their development efforts. A primary focus of IHCDA is providing a continuum of housing from homelessness to homeownership, with a focus on low to moderate income Hoosiers.

### 6.0 IHCDA (PHA) Plan Elements

(a) All elements of the IHCDA Administrative Plan were effected August 2010

(b) The 5-Year, Annual, and Administrative plans are posted on the IHCDA website

*1. Eligibility, Selection and Admissions Policies, including deconcentration and Wait List Procedures*

*A. ELIGIBILITY*

IHCDA HCVP Administrative Plan : Chapter 3: ELIGIBILITY

INTRODUCTION

The PHA is responsible for ensuring that every individual and family admitted to the HCV program meets all program eligibility requirements. This includes any individual approved to join the family after the family has been admitted to the program. The family must provide any information needed by the PHA to confirm eligibility and determine the level of the family's assistance.

To be eligible for the HCV program:

The applicant family must:

Qualify as a family as defined by HUD and the PHA.

Have income at or below HUD-specified income limits.

Qualify on the basis of citizenship or the eligible immigrant status of family members.

Provide social security number information for family members as required.

Consent to the PHA's collection and use of family information as provided for in PHA-provided consent forms.

The PHA must determine that the current or past behavior of household members does not include activities that are prohibited by HUD or the PHA.

This chapter contains three parts:

Part I: Definitions of Family and Household Members. This part contains HUD and PHA definitions of family and household members and explains initial and ongoing eligibility issues related to these members.

Part II: Basic Eligibility Criteria. This part discusses income eligibility, and rules regarding citizenship, social security numbers, and family consent.

Part III: Denial of Assistance. This part covers factors related to an applicant's past or current conduct (e.g. criminal activity) that can cause the PHA to deny assistance.

PART I: DEFINITIONS OF FAMILY AND HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS

3-I.A. OVERVIEW

Some eligibility criteria and program rules vary depending upon the composition of the family requesting assistance. In addition, some requirements apply to the family as a whole and others apply to individual persons who will live in the assisted unit. This part provides information that is needed to correctly identify family and household members, and to apply HUD's eligibility rules.

3-I.B. FAMILY AND HOUSEHOLD [24 CFR 982.201(c), HUD-50058 IB, p. 13]

The terms *family* and *household* have different meanings in the HCV program.

- Family

To be eligible for assistance, an applicant must qualify as a family. A family may be a single person or a group of persons. *Family* as defined by HUD includes a family with a child or children, two or more elderly or disabled persons living together, one or more elderly or disabled persons living with one or more live-in aides, or a single person. A single person family may be an elderly person, a displaced person, a disabled person, or any other single person. The PHA has the discretion to determine if any other group of persons qualifies as a family.

IHCDA Policy

A family includes two or more individuals who are related by blood, marriage, adoption, or other operation of law. A family also includes those who either can demonstrate that they have lived together previously or certifies that each individual's income and other resources will be available to meet the needs of the family.

Each family must identify the individuals to be included in the family at the time of application, and must update this information if the family's composition changes.

- Household

*Household* is a broader term that includes additional people who, with the PHA's permission, live in an assisted unit, such as live-in aides, foster children, and foster adults.

3-I.C. FAMILY BREAK-UP AND REMAINING MEMBER OF TENANT FAMILY

- Family Break-up [24 CFR 982.315]

The PHA has discretion to determine which members of an assisted family continue to receive assistance if the family breaks up. However, if a court determines the disposition of property between members of the assisted family in a divorce or separation decree, the PHA is bound by the court's determination of which family members continue to receive assistance.

IHCDA Policy

When a family on the waiting list breaks up into two otherwise eligible families, only one of the new families may retain the original application date. Other former family members may make a new application with a new application date if the waiting list is open.

If a family breaks up into two otherwise eligible families while receiving assistance, only one of the new families will continue to be assisted.

In the absence of a judicial decision, or an agreement among the original family members, IHCDA will determine which family retains their placement on the waiting list, or will continue to receive assistance taking into consideration the following factors: (1) the interest of any minor children, including custody arrangements, (2) the interest of any ill, elderly, or disabled family members, (3) any possible risks to family members as a result of domestic violence or criminal activity, and (4) the recommendations of social service professionals.

- Remaining Member of a Tenant Family [24 CFR 5.403]

The HUD definition of family includes the *remaining member of a tenant family,* which is a member of an assisted family who remains in the unit when other members of the family have left the unit. Household members such as live-in aides, foster children, and foster adults do not qualify as remaining members of a family.

If dependents are the only "remaining members of a tenant family" and there is no family member able to assume the responsibilities of the head of household, see Chapter 6, Section 6-I.B, for the policy on "Caretakers for a Child."

3-I.D. HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD [24 CFR 5.504(b)]

*Head of household* means the adult member of the family who is considered the head for purposes of determining income eligibility and rent. The head of household is responsible for ensuring that the family fulfills all of its responsibilities under the program, alone or in conjunction with a cohead or spouse.

IHCDA Policy

The family may designate any qualified family member as the head of household.

The head of household must have the legal capacity to enter into a lease under state and local law. A minor who is emancipated under state law may be designated as head of household.

3-I.E. SPOUSE, COHEAD, AND OTHER ADULT

- A family may have a spouse or co-head, but not both [HUD-50058 IB, p. 13].

*Spouse* means the marriage partner of the head of household.

IHCDA Policy

A *marriage partner* includes the partner in a "common law" marriage as defined in state law.

A couple cannot become married under "common law" in the state of Indiana. However, a couple legally married under common law in another state is regarded as married. The couple will need to provide documentation to substantiate this status.

The term "spouse" does not apply to friends, roommates, or significant others who are not marriage partners. A minor who is emancipated under state law may be designated as a spouse.

A *cohead* is an individual in the household who is equally responsible with the head of household for ensuring that the family fulfills all of its responsibilities under the program, but who is not a spouse. A family can have only one cohead.

IHCDA Policy

Minors who are emancipated under state law may be designated as a cohead.

*Other adult* means a family member, other than the head, spouse, or cohead, who is 18 years of age or older. Foster adults and live-in aides are not considered other adults.

3-I.F. DEPENDENT [24 CFR 5.603]

A *dependent* is a family member who is under 18 years of age or a person of any age who is a person with a disability or a full-time student, except that the following persons can never be dependents: the head of household, spouse, cohead, foster children/adults and live-in aides. Identifying each dependent in the family is important because each dependent qualifies the family for a deduction from annual income as described in Chapter 6.

- Joint Custody of Dependents

IHCDA Policy

Dependents that are subject to a joint custody arrangement will be considered a member of the family, if they live with the applicant or participant family 50 percent or more of the time.

When more than one applicant or participant family is claiming the same dependents as family members, the family with primary custody at the time of the initial examination or reexamination will be able to claim the dependents. If there is a dispute about which family should claim them, the IHCDA will make the determination based on available documents such as court orders, or an IRS return showing which family has claimed the child for income tax purposes.

3-I.G. FULL-TIME STUDENT [24 CFR 5.603; HCV GB, p. 5-29]

A *full-time student* (FTS) is a person who is attending school or vocational training on a full-time basis. The time commitment or subject load that is needed to be full-time is defined by the educational institution.

Identifying each FTS is important because: (1) each family member that is an FTS, other than the head, spouse, or cohead, qualifies the family for a dependent deduction, and (2) the income of such an FTS is treated differently from the income of other family members.

3-I.H. ELDERLY AND NEAR-ELDERLY PERSONS, AND ELDERLY FAMILY
[24 CFR 5.100 and 5.403]

- Elderly Persons
- An *elderly person* is a person who is at least 62 years of age.

Near-Elderly Persons

A *near-elderly person* is a person who is 50-61 years of age.

Elderly Family

An *elderly family* is one in which the head, spouse, cohead, or sole member is an elderly person. Identifying elderly families is important because these families qualify for special deductions from income as described in Chapter 6.

3-I.I. PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES AND DISABLED FAMILY [24 CFR 5.403]

Persons with Disabilities

Under the HCV program, special rules apply to persons with disabilities and to any family whose head, spouse, or cohead is a person with disabilities. The technical definitions of individual with handicaps and persons with disabilities are provided in Exhibit 3-1 at the end of this chapter. These definitions are used for a number of purposes including ensuring that persons with disabilities are not discriminated against based upon disability.

As discussed in Chapter 2, the PHA must make all aspects of the HCV program accessible to persons with disabilities and consider reasonable accommodations requested based upon a person's disability.

Disabled Family

A *disabled family* is one in which the head, spouse, or cohead is a person with disabilities. Identifying disabled families is important because these families qualify for special deductions from income as described in Chapter 6.

Even though persons with drug or alcohol dependencies are considered persons with disabilities for the purpose of non-discrimination, this does not prevent the PHA from denying assistance for reasons related to alcohol and drug abuse following policies found in Part III of this chapter, or from terminating assistance following the policies in Chapter 12.

3-I.J. GUESTS [24 CFR 5.100]

A *guest* is a person temporarily staying in the unit with the consent of a member of the household who has express or implied authority to so consent.

IHCDA Policy

A guest can remain in the assisted unit no longer than 7 consecutive days or a total of 30 cumulative calendar days during any 12-month period.

Children who are subject to a joint custody arrangement or for whom a family has visitation privileges, that are not included as a family member because they live outside of the assisted household more than 50 percent of the time, are not subject to the time limitations of guests as described above.

A family may request an exception to this policy for valid reasons (e.g., care of a relative recovering from a medical procedure is expected to last 8 or more consecutive days). An exception will not be made unless the family can identify and provide documentation of the residence to which the guest will return.

3-I.K. FOSTER CHILDREN AND FOSTER ADULTS

*Foster adults* are usually persons with disabilities, unrelated to the tenant family, who are unable to live alone [24 CFR 5.609].

The term *foster child* is not specifically defined by the regulations.

Foster children and foster adults that are living with an applicant or assisted family are considered household members but not family members. The income of foster children/adults is not counted in family annual income, and foster children/adults do not qualify for a dependent deduction [24 CFR 5.603; HUD-50058 IB, p. 13].

IHCDA Policy

A *foster child* is a child that is in the legal guardianship or custody of a state, county, or private adoption or foster care agency, yet is cared for by foster parents in their own homes, under some kind of short-term or long-term foster care arrangement with the custodial agency.

A foster child or foster adult may be allowed to reside in the unit if their presence would not result in a violation of HQS space standards according to 24 CFR 982.401.

Children that are temporarily absent from the home as a result of placement in foster care are discussed in Section 3-I.L.

3-I.L. ABSENT FAMILY MEMBERS

Individuals may be absent from the family, either temporarily or permanently, for a variety of reasons including educational activities, placement in foster care, employment, illness, incarceration, and court order.

Definitions of Temporarily and Permanently Absent

IHCDA Policy

Generally an individual who is or is expected to be absent from the assisted unit for 180 consecutive days or less is considered temporarily absent and continues to be considered a family member. Generally an individual who is or is expected to be absent from the assisted unit for more than 180 consecutive days is considered permanently absent and no longer a family member. Exceptions to this general policy are discussed below.

Absent Students

IHCDA Policy

When someone who has been considered a family member attends school away from home, the person will continue to be considered a family member unless information becomes available to the IHCDA indicating that the student has established a separate household or the family declares that the student has established a separate household.

Absences Due to Placement in Foster Care [24 CFR 5.403]

Children temporarily absent from the home as a result of placement in foster care are considered members of the family.

IHCDA Policy

If a child has been placed in foster care, the IHCDA will verify with the appropriate agency whether and when the child is expected to be returned to the home. Unless the agency confirms that the child has been permanently removed from the home, the child will be counted as a family member for up to one year.

Absent Head, Spouse, or Cohead

IHCDA Policy

An employed head, spouse, or cohead absent from the unit more than 180 consecutive days due to employment will continue to be considered a family member.

Family Members Permanently Confined for Medical Reasons [HCV GB, p. 5-22]

If a family member is confined to a nursing home or hospital on a permanent basis, that person is no longer considered a family member and the income of that person is not counted [HCV GB, p. 5-22].

IHCDA Policy

The IHCDA will request verification from a responsible medical professional and will use this determination. If the responsible medical professional cannot provide a determination, the person generally will be considered temporarily absent. The family may present evidence that the family member is confined on a permanent basis and request that the person not be considered a family member.

Return of Permanently Absent Family Members

IHCDA Policy

The family must request IHCDA approval for the return of any adult family members that the IHCDA has determined to be permanently absent. The individual is subject to the eligibility and screening requirements discussed elsewhere in this chapter.

3-I.M. LIVE-IN AIDE

*Live-in aide* means a person who resides with one or more elderly persons, or near-elderly persons, or persons with disabilities, and who: (1) is determined to be essential to the care and well-being of the persons, (2) is not obligated for the support of the persons, and (3) would not be living in the unit except to provide the necessary supportive services [24 CFR 5.403].

The PHA must approve a live-in aide if needed as a reasonable accommodation in accordance with 24 CFR 8, to make the program accessible to and usable by the family member with disabilities.

A live-in aide is a member of the household, not the family, and the income of the aide is not considered in income calculations [24 CFR 5.609(b)]. Relatives may be approved as live-in aides if they meet all of the

criteria defining a live-in aide. However, a relative who serves as a live-in aide is not considered a family member and would not be considered a remaining member of a tenant family.

IHCDA Policy

A family's request for a live-in aide must be made in writing. Written verification will be required from a reliable, knowledgeable professional, such as a doctor, social worker, or case worker, that the live-in aide is essential for the care and well-being of the elderly, near-elderly, or disabled family member. For continued approval, the family must submit a new, written request-subject to IHCDA verification-at each annual reexamination.

In addition, the family and live-in aide will be required to submit a certification stating that the live-in aide is (1) not obligated for the support of the person(s) needing the care, and (2) would not be living in the unit except to provide the necessary supportive services.

The IHCDA will not approve a particular person as a live-in aide, and may withdraw such approval if [24 CFR 982.316(b)]:

The person commits fraud, bribery or any other corrupt or criminal act in connection with any federal housing program;

The person commits drug-related criminal activity or violent criminal activity; or

The person currently owes rent or other amounts to the IHCDA or to another PHA in connection with Section 8 or public housing assistance under the 1937 Act.

Within 10 business days of receiving a request for a live-in aide, including all required documentation related to the request, the IHCDA will notify the family of its decision in writing.

PART II: BASIC ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA
3-II.A. INCOME ELIGIBILITY AND TARGETING
Income Limits

HUD is required by law to set income limits that determine the eligibility of applicants for HUD's assisted housing programs, including the housing choice voucher program. The income limits are published annually and are based on HUD estimates of median family income in a particular area or county, with adjustments for family size.

Types of Low-Income Families [24 CFR 5.603(b)]

- *Low-income family.* A family whose annual income does not exceed 80 percent of the median income for the area, adjusted for family size.

- *Very low-income family.* A family whose annual income does not exceed 50 percent of the median income for the area, adjusted for family size.

- *Extremely low-income family.* A family whose annual income does not exceed 30 percent of the median income for the area, adjusted for family size.

- HUD may establish income ceilings higher or lower than 30, 50, or 80 percent of the median income for an area if HUD finds that such variations are necessary because of unusually high or low family incomes.

- Using Income Limits for Eligibility [24 CFR 982.201]

Income limits are used for eligibility only at admission. Eligibility is established by comparing a family's annual income with HUD's published income limits. To be income-eligible, a family must be one of the following:

A very low-income family

A *low-income* family that has been "continuously assisted" under the 1937 Housing Act. A family is considered to be continuously assisted if the family is already receiving assistance under any 1937 Housing Act program at the time the family is admitted to the HCV program [24 CFR 982.4]

IHCDA Policy

The IHCDA will consider a family to be continuously assisted if the family was leasing a unit under any 1937 Housing Act program at the time they were issued a voucher by the IHCDA.

A low-income family that qualifies for voucher assistance as a non-purchasing household living in HOPE 1 (public housing homeownership), HOPE 2 (multifamily housing homeownership) developments, or other HUD-assisted multifamily homeownership programs covered by 24 CFR 248.173

A low-income or moderate-income family that is displaced as a result of the prepayment of a mortgage or voluntary termination of a mortgage insurance contract on eligible low-income housing as defined in 24 CFR 248.101

- HUD permits the PHA to establish additional categories of low-income families that may be determined eligible. The additional categories must be consistent with the PHA plan and the consolidated plans for local governments within the PHA's jurisdiction.

IHCDA Policy

The IHCDA has not established any additional categories of eligible low-income families.

Using Income Limits for Targeting [24 CFR 982.201]

At least 75 percent of the families admitted to the PHA's program during a PHA fiscal year must be extremely low-income families. HUD may approve exceptions to this requirement if the PHA demonstrates that it has made all required efforts, but has been unable to attract an adequate number of qualified extremely low-income families.

Families continuously assisted under the 1937 Housing Act and families living in eligible low-income housing that are displaced as a result of prepayment of a mortgage or voluntary termination of a mortgage insurance contract are not subject to the 75 percent restriction.

## 3-II.B. CITIZENSHIP OR ELIGIBLE IMMIGRATION STATUS [24 CFR 5, Subpart E]

Housing assistance is available only to individuals who are U.S. citizens, U.S. nationals (herein referred to as citizens and nationals), or noncitizens that have eligible immigration status. At least one family member must be a citizen, national, or noncitizen with eligible immigration status in order for the family to qualify for any level of assistance.

All applicant families must be notified of the requirement to submit evidence of their citizenship status when they apply. Where feasible, and in accordance with the PHA's Limited English Proficiency Plan, the notice must be in a language that is understood by the individual if the individual is not proficient in English.

### Declaration [24 CFR 5.508]

HUD requires each family member to declare whether the individual is a citizen, a national, or an eligible noncitizen, except those members who elect not to contend that they have eligible immigration status. Those who elect not to contend their status are considered to be ineligible noncitizens. For citizens, nationals and eligible noncitizens the declaration must be signed personally by the head, spouse, cohead, and any other family member 18 or older, and by a parent or guardian for minors. The family must identify in writing any family members who elect not to contend their immigration status (see Ineligible Noncitizens below). No declaration is required for live-in aides, foster children, or foster adults.

U.S. Citizens and Nationals

In general, citizens and nationals are required to submit only a signed declaration that claims their status. However, HUD regulations permit the PHA to request additional documentation of their status, such as a passport.

IHCDA Policy

Family members who declare citizenship or national status will be required to provide documentation for identity purposes. Examples of acceptable documentation include birth certificate, passport and naturalization documents. A full list of acceptable documents may be found in Chapter 7: Verification of Identity.

Eligible Noncitizens

In addition to providing a signed declaration, those declaring eligible noncitizen status must sign a verification consent form and cooperate with PHA efforts to verify their immigration status as described in Chapter 7. The documentation required for establishing eligible noncitizen status varies depending upon factors such as the date the person entered the U.S., the conditions under which eligible immigration status has been granted, the person's age, and the date on which the family began receiving HUD-funded assistance.

Lawful residents of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and Palau, together known as the Freely Associated States, or FAS, are eligible for housing assistance under section 141 of the Compacts of Free Association between the U.S. Government and the Governments of the FAS [Public Law 106-504].

Ineligible Noncitizens

Those noncitizens who do not wish to contend their immigration status are required to have their names listed on a noncontending family members listing, signed by the head, spouse, or cohead (regardless of citizenship status), indicating their ineligible immigration status. The PHA is not required to verify a family

member's ineligible status and is not required to report an individual's unlawful presence in the U.S. to the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

Providing housing assistance to noncitizen students is prohibited [24 CFR 5.522]. This prohibition extends to the noncitizen spouse of a noncitizen student as well as to minor children who accompany or follow to join the noncitizen student. Such prohibition does not extend to the citizen spouse of a noncitizen student or to the children of the citizen spouse and noncitizen student. Such a family is eligible for prorated assistance as a mixed family.

Mixed Families

A family is eligible for assistance as long as at least one member is a citizen, national, or eligible noncitizen. Families that include eligible and ineligible individuals are considered *mixed families*. Such families will be given notice that their assistance will be prorated, and that they may request a hearing if they contest this determination. See Chapter 6 for a discussion of how rents are prorated, and Chapter 16 for a discussion of informal hearing procedures.

Ineligible Families [24 CFR 5.514(d), (e), and (f)]

A PHA may elect to provide assistance to a family before the verification of the eligibility of the individual or one family member [24 CFR 5.512(b)]. Otherwise, no individual or family may be assisted prior to the affirmative establishment by the PHA that the individual or at least one family member is eligible. Verification of eligibility for this purpose occurs when the individual or family members have submitted documentation to the PHA in accordance with program requirements [24 CFR 5.512(a)].

IHCDA Policy

The IHCDA will not provide assistance to a family before the verification of at least one family member.

When the IHCDA determines that an applicant family does not include any citizens, nationals, or eligible noncitizens, following the verification process, the family will be sent a written notice within 10 business days of the determination.

The notice will explain the reasons for the denial of assistance, that the family may be eligible for proration of assistance, and will advise the family of its right to request an appeal to the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), or to request an informal hearing with the IHCDA. The informal hearing with the IHCDA may be requested in lieu of the USCIS appeal, or at the conclusion of the USCIS appeal process. The notice must also inform the applicant family that assistance may not be delayed until the conclusion of the USCIS appeal process, but that it may be delayed pending the completion of the informal hearing process.

Informal hearing procedures are contained in Chapter 16.

Timeframe for Determination of Citizenship Status [24 CFR 5.508(g)]

For new occupants joining the assisted family, the PHA must verify status at the first interim or regular reexamination following the person's occupancy, whichever comes first.

If an individual qualifies for a time extension for the submission of required documents, the PHA must grant such an extension for no more than 30 days [24 CFR 5.508(h)].

Each family member is required to submit evidence of eligible status only one time during continuous occupancy.

IHCDA Policy

The IHCDA will verify the status of applicants at the time other eligibility factors are determined.

3-II.C. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS [24 CFR 5.216 and 5.218, Notice PIH 2010-3]

The applicant and all members of the applicant's household must disclose the complete and accurate social security number (SSN) assigned to each household member, and the documentation necessary to verify each SSN. A detailed discussion of acceptable documentation is provided in Chapter 7.

*Note:* These requirements do not apply to noncitizens who do not contend eligible immigration status.

In addition, each participant who has not previously disclosed an SSN, has previously disclosed an SSN that HUD or the SSA determined was invalid, or has been issued a new SSN, must submit their complete and accurate SSN and the documentation required to verify the SSN at the time of the next interim or annual reexamination or recertification. Participants age 62 or older as of January 31, 2010, whose determination of eligibility was begun before January 31, 2010, are exempted from this requirement.

The PHA must deny assistance to an applicant family if they do not meet the SSN disclosure and documentation requirements contained in 24 CFR 5.216.

3-II.D. FAMILY CONSENT TO RELEASE OF INFORMATION [24 CFR 5.230, HCV GB, p. 5-13]

HUD requires each adult family member, and the head of household, spouse, or cohead, regardless of age, to sign form HUD-9886, Authorization for the Release of Information/Privacy Act Notice, and other consent forms as needed to collect information relevant to the family's eligibility and level of assistance. Chapter 7 provides detailed information concerning the consent forms and verification requirements.

The PHA must deny admission to the program if any member of the applicant family fails to sign and submit the consent forms for obtaining information in accordance with 24 CFR 5, Subparts B and F [24 CFR 982.552(b)(3)].

3-II.E FAMILY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF FORM HUD-52675

HUD requires each PHA to provide Form HUD-52675 "Debts Owed to Public Housing Agencies and Terminations" to each program applicant, and each program applicant is required to acknowledge receipt of this notice by signing page 2. Each adult household member must sign this form.

The PHA must deny admission to the program if any adult member of the household fails to sign and return Form HUD-52675 to the agency. [Form HUD-52675].

3-II.F. STUDENTS ENROLLED IN INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION [24 CFR 5.612 and FR Notice 4/10/06]

Section 327 of Public Law 109-115 and the implementing regulation at 24 CFR 5.612 established new restrictions on the eligibility of certain students (both part- and full-time) who are enrolled in institutions of higher education.

If a student enrolled at an institution of higher education is under the age of 24, is not a veteran, is not married, does not have a dependent child, and is not a person with disabilities receiving HCV assistance as of November 30, 2005, the student's eligibility must be examined along with the income eligibility of the student's parents. In these cases, both the student and the student's parents must be income eligible for the student to receive HCV assistance. If, however, a student in these circumstances is determined independent from his/her parents in accordance with PHA policy, the income of the student's parents will not be considered in determining the student's eligibility.

The new law does not apply to students who reside with parents who are applying to receive HCV assistance. It is limited to students who are seeking assistance on their own, separately from their parents.

- Definitions
- In determining whether and how the new eligibility restrictions apply to a student, the PHA will rely on the following definitions [FR 4/10/06, p. 18148].
- Dependent Child

- In the context of the student eligibility restrictions, *dependent child* means a dependent child of a student enrolled in an institution of higher education. The dependent child must also meet the definition of *dependent* in 24 CFR 5.603, which states that the dependent must be a member of the assisted family, other than the head of household or spouse, who is under 18 years of age, or is a person with a disability, or is a full-time student. Foster children and foster adults are not considered dependents.

Independent Student

IHCDA Policy

The IHCDA will consider a student "independent" from his or her parents and the parents' income will not be considered when determining the student's eligibility if the following four criteria are all met:

The individual is of legal contract age under state law.

The individual has established a household separate from his/her parents for at least one year prior to application for occupancy or the individual meets the U.S. Department of Education's definition of independent student.

To be considered an *independent student* according to the Department of Education, a student must meet one or more of the following criteria:

Be at least 24 years old by December 31 of the award year for which aid is sought

Be an orphan or a ward of the court through the age of 18

Be a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces

Have one or more legal dependents other than a spouse (for example, dependent children or an elderly dependent parent)

Be a graduate or professional student

Be married

The individual was not claimed as a dependent by his/her parents pursuant to IRS regulations, as demonstrated on the parents' most recent tax forms.

The individual provides a certification of the amount of financial assistance that will be provided by his/her parents. This certification must be signed by the individual providing the support and must be submitted even if no assistance is being provided.

The PHA will verify that a student meets the above criteria in accordance with the policies in Section 7-II.E.

Institution of Higher Education

- The PHA will use the statutory definition under section 102 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 to determine whether a student is attending an *institution of higher education* (see Exhibit 3-2).

Parents

IHCDA Policy

For purposes of student eligibility restrictions, the definition of *parents* includes biological or adoptive parents, stepparents (as long as they are currently married to the biological or adoptive parent), and guardians (e.g., grandparents, aunt/uncle, godparents, etc).

Person with Disabilities

- The PHA will use the statutory definition under section 3(b)(3)(E) of the 1937 Act to determine whether a student is a *person with disabilities* (see Exhibit 3-1).

Veteran

IHCDA Policy

A *veteran* is a person who served in the active military, naval, or air service and who was discharged or released from such service under conditions other than dishonorable.

- Determining Student Eligibility

- If a student is applying for assistance on his/her own, apart from his/her parents, the PHA must determine whether the student is subject to the eligibility restrictions contained in 24 CFR 5.612. If the student is subject to those restrictions, the PHA must ensure that: (1) the student is individually eligible for the program, (2) either the student is independent from his/her parents or the student's parents are income eligible for the program, and (3) the "family" with which the student is applying is collectively eligible for the program.

IHCDA Policy

For any student who is subject to the 5.612 restrictions, IHCDA will:

Follow its usual policies in determining whether the student individually and the student's "family" collectively are eligible for the program

Determine whether the student is independent from his/her parents in accordance with the definition of *independent student* in this section

Follow the policies below, if applicable, in determining whether the student's parents are income eligible for the program

If IHCDA determines that the student, the student's parents (if applicable), or the student's "family" is not eligible, IHCDA will send a notice of denial in accordance with the policies in Section 3-III.F, and the applicant family will have the right to request an informal review in accordance with the policies in Section 16-III.B.

Determining Parental Income Eligibility

IHCDA Policy

For any student who is subject to the 5.612 restrictions and who does not satisfy the definition of *independent student* in this section, IHCDA will determine the income eligibility of the student's parents as follows:

If the student's parents are married and living together, IHCDA will obtain a joint income declaration and certification of joint income from the parents.

If the student's parent is widowed or single, IHCDA will obtain an income declaration and certification of income from that parent.

If the student's parents are divorced or separated, IHCDA will obtain an income declaration and certification of income from each parent.

If the student has been living with one of his/her parents and has not had contact with or does not know where to contact his/her other parent, IHCDA will require the student to submit a certification under penalty of perjury describing the circumstances and stating that the student does not receive financial assistance from the other parent. IHCDA will then obtain an income declaration and certification of income from the parent with whom the student has been living or had contact.

In determining the income eligibility of the student's parents, IHCDA will use the income limits for the jurisdiction in which the parents live.

PART III: DENIAL OF ASSISTANCE

3-III.A. OVERVIEW

A family that does not meet the eligibility criteria discussed in Parts I and II, must be denied assistance.

In addition, HUD requires or permits the PHA to deny assistance based on certain types of current or past behaviors of family members.

Forms of Denial [24 CFR 982.552(a)(2); HCV GB, p. 5-35]

Denial of assistance includes any of the following:

Not placing the family's name on the waiting list

Denying or withdrawing a voucher

Not approving a request for tenancy or refusing to enter into a HAP contract

Refusing to process a request for or to provide assistance under portability procedures

Prohibited Reasons for Denial of Program Assistance [24 CFR 982.202(b), Pub.L. 109-162]

HUD rules prohibit denial of program assistance to the program based on any of the following criteria:

Age, disability, race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. (See Chapter 2 for additional information about fair housing and equal opportunity requirements.)

Where a family lives prior to admission to the program

Where the family will live with assistance under the program. Although eligibility is not affected by where the family will live, there may be restrictions on the family's ability to move outside the PHA's jurisdiction (See Chapter 10, Portability.)

Whether members of the family are unwed parents, recipients of public assistance, or children born out of wedlock

Whether the family includes children

Whether a family decides to participate in a family self-sufficiency program

Whether or not a qualified applicant has been a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking

3-III.B. MANDATORY DENIAL OF ASSISTANCE [24 CFR 982.553(a)]

HUD requires the PHA to deny assistance in the following cases:

Any member of the household has been evicted from federally-assisted housing in the last 3 years for drug-related criminal activity. HUD permits, but does not require, the PHA to admit an otherwise-eligible family if the household member has completed a PHA-approved drug rehabilitation program or the circumstances which led to eviction no longer exist (e.g., the person involved in the criminal activity no longer lives in the household).

IHCDA Policy

IHCDA will not admit an otherwise-eligible family who was evicted from federally-assisted housing within the past 5 years for drug-related criminal activity. However, if IHCDA is able to verify that the household member who engaged in the criminal activity has completed a supervised drug rehabilitation program approved by IHCDA, or the person who committed the crime, is no longer living in the household, IHCDA will admit such a family.

The PHA determines that any household member is currently engaged in the use of illegal drugs.

IHCDA Policy

*Currently engaged in* is defined as any use of illegal drugs during the previous six months, unless the applicant is currently enrolled in and fully compliant with treatment.

The PHA has reasonable cause to believe that any household member's current use or pattern of use of illegal drugs, or current abuse or pattern of abuse of alcohol, may threaten the health, safety, or right to peaceful enjoyment of the premises by other residents.

IHCDA Policy

In determining reasonable cause, IHCDA will consider all credible evidence, including but not limited to, any record of convictions, arrests, or evictions of household members related to the use of illegal drugs or the abuse of alcohol. A conviction will be given more weight than an arrest. IHCDA will also consider evidence from treatment providers or community-based organizations providing services to household members.

Any household member has ever been convicted of drug-related criminal activity for the production or manufacture of methamphetamine on the premises of federally assisted housing

Any household member is subject to a lifetime registration requirement under a state sex offender registration program

IHCDA Policy

IHCDA will also deny if any household member is subject to any current registration requirement under any Indiana state sex offender registration program

## 3-III.C. OTHER PERMITTED REASONS FOR DENIAL OF ASSISTANCE

HUD permits, but does not require, the PHA to deny assistance for the reasons discussed in this section.

### Criminal Activity [24 CFR 982.553]

HUD permits, but does not require, the PHA to deny assistance if the PHA determines that any household member is currently engaged in, or has engaged in during a reasonable time before the family would receive assistance, certain types of criminal activity.

IHCDA Policy

If any household member is currently engaged in, or has engaged in any of the following criminal activities, within the past five years, the family will be denied assistance.

*Drug-related criminal activity*, defined by HUD as the illegal manufacture, sale, distribution, or use of a drug, or the possession of a drug with intent to manufacture, sell, distribute or use the drug [24 CFR 5.100].

*Violent criminal activity*, defined by HUD as any criminal activity that has as one of its elements the use, attempted use, or threatened use of physical force substantial enough to cause, or be reasonably likely to cause, serious bodily injury or property damage [24 CFR 5.100].

Criminal activity that may threaten the health, safety, or right to peaceful enjoyment of the premises by other residents or persons residing in the immediate vicinity; or

Criminal activity that may threaten the health or safety of property owners and management staff, and persons performing contract administration functions or other responsibilities on behalf of IHCDA (including an IHCDA employee or an IHCDA contractor, subcontractor, or agent).

*Immediate vicinity* means within a three-block radius of the premises.

Evidence of such criminal activity includes, but is not limited to:

Any conviction for drug-related or violent criminal activity within the past 5 years.

Any arrests for drug-related or violent criminal activity within the past 5 years.

Any record of eviction from public or privately-owned housing as a result of criminal activity within the past 5 years.

A conviction for drug-related or violent criminal activity will be given more weight than an arrest for such activity.

In making its decision to deny assistance, IHCDA will consider the factors discussed in Section

3-III.E. Upon consideration of such factors, IHCDA may, on a case-by-case basis, decide not to deny assistance.

Previous Behavior in Assisted Housing [24 CFR 982.552(c)]

HUD authorizes the PHA to deny assistance based on the family's previous behavior in assisted housing:

IHCDA Policy

IHCDA **will not** deny assistance to an otherwise eligible family because the family previously failed to meet its obligations under the Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) program.

IHCDA **will** deny assistance to an applicant family if:

The family does not provide information that IHCDA or HUD determines is necessary in the administration of the program.

The family does not provide complete and true information to IHCDA.

Any family member has been evicted from federally-assisted housing in the last five years.

Any PHA has ever terminated assistance under the program for any member of the family.

Any family member has committed fraud, bribery, or any other corrupt or criminal act in connection with any federal housing program.

The family owes rent or other amounts to any PHA in connection with the HCV, Certificate, Moderate Rehabilitation or public housing programs, unless the family repays the full amount of the debt prior to being selected from the waiting list.

If the family has not reimbursed any PHA for amounts the PHA paid to an owner under a HAP contract for rent, damages to the unit, or other amounts owed by the family under the lease, unless the family repays the full amount of the debt prior to being selected from the waiting list.

The family has breached the terms of a repayment agreement entered into with IHCDA, unless the family repays the full amount of the debt covered in the repayment agreement prior to being selected from the waiting list.

A family member has engaged in or threatened violent or abusive behavior toward IHCDA personnel.

*Abusive or violent behavior towards IHCDA personnel* includes verbal as well as physical abuse or violence. Use of racial epithets, or other language, written or oral, that is customarily used to intimidate may be considered abusive or violent behavior.

*Threatening* refers to oral or written threats or physical gestures that communicate intent to abuse or commit violence.

In making its decision to deny assistance, IHCDA will consider the factors discussed in Section 3-III.E. Upon consideration of such factors, IHCDA may, on a case-by-case basis, decide not to deny assistance.

3-III.D. SCREENING

Screening for Eligibility

PHAs are authorized to obtain criminal conviction records from law enforcement agencies to screen applicants for admission to the HCV program. This authority assists the PHA in complying with HUD requirements and PHA policies to deny assistance to applicants who are engaging in or have engaged in certain criminal activities. In order to obtain access to the records the PHA must require every applicant family to submit a consent form signed by each adult household member [24 CFR 5.903].

IHCDA Policy

IHCDA will perform a criminal background check through local law enforcement for every adult household member.

PHAs are required to perform criminal background checks necessary to determine whether any household member is subject to a lifetime registration requirement under a state sex offender program in the state where the housing is located, as well as in any other state where a household member is known to have resided [24 CFR 982.553(a)(2)(i)].

If the PHA proposes to deny assistance based on a criminal record or on lifetime sex offender registration information, the PHA must notify the household of the proposed action and must provide the subject of the record and the applicant a copy of the record and an opportunity to dispute the accuracy and relevance of the information prior to a denial of admission. [24 CFR 5.903(f) and 5.905(d)].

Screening for Suitability as a Tenant [24 CFR 982.307]

The PHA has no liability or responsibility to the owner for the family's behavior or suitability for tenancy. The PHA may opt to conduct additional screening to determine whether an applicant is likely to be a suitable tenant.

IHCDA Policy

IHCDA will not conduct additional screening to determine an applicant family's suitability for tenancy.

The owner is responsible for screening and selection of the family to occupy the owner's unit. The PHA must inform the owner that screening and selection for tenancy is the responsibility of the owner. An owner may consider a family's history with respect to factors such as: payment of rent and utilities, caring for a unit and premises, respecting the rights of other residents to the peaceful enjoyment of their housing, criminal activity that is a threat to the health, safety or property of others, and compliance with other essential conditions of tenancy.

HUD requires the PHA to provide prospective owners with the family's current and prior address (as shown in PHA records) and the name and address (if known) of the owner at the family's current and prior addresses. HUD permits the PHA to provide owners with additional information, as long as families are notified that the information will be provided, and the same type of information is provided to all owners.

IHCDA Policy

IHCDA will inform owners of their responsibility to screen prospective tenants, and will provide owners with the required known name and address information upon request.

IHCDA will not provide any additional information to the owner, such as tenancy history, criminal history, etc.

3-III.E. CRITERIA FOR DECIDING TO DENY ASSISTANCE

Evidence [24 CFR 982.553(c)]

IHCDA Policy

IHCDA will use the concept of the preponderance of the evidence as the standard for making all admission decisions.

*Preponderance of the evidence* is defined as evidence which is of greater weight or more convincing than the evidence which is offered in opposition to it; that is, evidence which as a whole shows that the fact sought to be proved is more probable than not.

Preponderance of the evidence may not be determined by the number of witnesses, but by the greater weight of all evidence.

Consideration of Circumstances [24 CFR 982.552(c)(2)]

HUD authorizes the PHA to consider all relevant circumstances when deciding whether to deny assistance based on a family's past history except in the situations for which denial of assistance is mandated (see Section 3-III.B).

IHCDA Policy

IHCDA will consider the following factors prior to making its decision:

The seriousness of the case, especially with respect to how it would affect other residents

The effects that denial of assistance may have on other members of the family who were not involved in the action or failure

The extent of participation or culpability of individual family members, including whether the culpable family member is a minor or a person with disabilities, or (as discussed further in section 3-III.G) a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking

The length of time since the violation occurred, the family's recent history and the likelihood of favorable conduct in the future

In the case of drug or alcohol abuse, whether the culpable household member is participating in or has successfully completed a supervised drug or alcohol rehabilitation program or has otherwise been rehabilitated successfully

IHCDA will require the applicant to submit evidence of the household member's current participation in or successful completion of a supervised drug or alcohol rehabilitation program, or evidence of otherwise having been rehabilitated successfully.

Removal of a Family Member's Name from the Application [24 CFR 982.552(c)(2)(ii)]

HUD permits PHAs to impose as a condition of admission, a requirement that family members who participated in or were culpable for an action or failure to act which results in the denial of assistance, to not reside in the unit.

IHCDA Policy

As a condition of receiving assistance, a family may agree to remove the culpable family member from the application. In such instances, the head of household must certify that the family member will not be permitted to visit or to stay as a guest in the assisted unit.

After admission to the program, the family must present evidence of the former family member's current address upon IHCDA request.

Reasonable Accommodation [24 CFR 982.552(c)(2)(iv)]

If the family includes a person with disabilities, the PHA's decision concerning denial of admission is subject to consideration of reasonable accommodation in accordance with 24 CFR Part 8.

IHCDA Policy

If the family indicates that the behavior of a family member with a disability is the reason for the proposed denial of assistance, IHCDA will determine whether the behavior is related to the disability. If so, upon the family's request, IHCDA will determine whether alternative measures are appropriate as a reasonable accommodation. IHCDA will only consider accommodations that can reasonably be expected to address the behavior that is the basis of the proposed denial of assistance. See Chapter 2 for a discussion of reasonable accommodation.

3-III.F. NOTICE OF ELIGIBILITY OR DENIAL

If the family is eligible for assistance, the PHA will notify the family when it extends the invitation to attend the voucher briefing appointment, as discussed in Chapter 5.

If the PHA determines that a family is not eligible for the program for any reason, the family must be notified promptly. The notice must describe: (1) the reasons for which assistance has been denied, (2) the family's right to an informal review, and (3) the process for obtaining the informal review [24 CFR 982.554 (a)]. See Chapter 16, for informal review policies and procedures.

IHCDA Policy

The family will be notified of a decision to deny assistance in writing within 10 business days of the determination.

If a PHA uses a criminal record or sex offender registration information obtained under 24 CFR 5, Subpart J, as the basis of a denial, a copy of the record must precede the notice to deny, with an opportunity for the applicant to dispute the accuracy and relevance of the information before the PHA can move to deny the

application. In addition, a copy of the record must be provided to the subject of the record [24 CFR 5.903(f) and 5.905(d)]. The PHA must give the family an opportunity to dispute the accuracy and relevance of that record, in the informal review process in accordance with program requirements [24 CFR 982.553(d)].

IHCDA Policy

If based on a criminal record or sex offender registration information, an applicant family appears to be ineligible IHCDA will notify the family in writing of the proposed denial and provide a copy of the record to the applicant and to the subject of the record. The family will be given 15 business days to dispute the accuracy and relevance of the information. If the family does not contact IHCDA to dispute the information within that 15-day period, IHCDA will proceed with issuing the notice of denial of admission. A family that does not exercise their right to dispute the accuracy of the information prior to issuance of the official denial letter will still be given the opportunity to do so as part of the informal review process.

Notice requirements related to denying assistance to noncitizens are contained in Section 3-II.B.

Notice policies related to denying admission to applicants who may be victims of domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking are contained in Section 3-III.G.

3-III.G. PROHIBITION AGAINST DENIAL OF ASSISTANCE TO VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, DATING VIOLENCE, AND STALKING [24 CFR Part 5, Subpart L]

The Violence against Women Reauthorization Act of 2005 (VAWA) prohibits denial of admission to an otherwise qualified applicant on the basis that the applicant is or has been a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking. Specifically, Section 606(4)(A) of VAWA adds the following provision to Section 8 of the U.S. Housing Act of 1937, which lists contract provisions and requirements for the housing choice voucher program:

That an applicant or participant is or has been a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking is not an appropriate reason for denial of program assistance or for denial of admission, if the applicant otherwise qualifies for assistance or admission [24 CFR 5.2005].

Definitions [24 CFR 5.2003]

As used in VAWA:

The term *bifurcate* means, with respect to a public housing or Section 8 lease, to divide a lease as a matter of law such that certain tenants can be evicted or removed while the remaining family members' lease and occupancy rights are allowed to remain intact.

The term *domestic violence* includes felony or misdemeanor crimes of violence committed by a current or former spouse of the victim, by a person with whom the victim shares a child in common, by a person who is cohabitating with or has cohabitated with the victim as a spouse, by a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction receiving grant monies, or by any other person against an adult or youth victim who is protected from that person's acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction.

The term *dating violence* means violence committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim; and where the existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on a consideration of the following factors:

The length of the relationship

The type of relationship

The frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship

The term *stalking* means:

To follow, pursue, or repeatedly commit acts with the intent to kill, injure, harass, or intimidate; or

To place under surveillance with the intent to kill, injure, harass, or intimidate another person; and

In the course of, or as a result of, such following, pursuit, surveillance, or repeatedly committed acts, to place a person in reasonable fear of the death of, or serious bodily injury to, or to cause substantial emotional harm to (1) that person, (2) a member of the immediate family of that person, or (3) the spouse or intimate partner of that person.

The term *immediate family member* means, with respect to a person:

A spouse, parent, brother or sister, or child of that person, or an individual to whom that person stands in the position or place of a parent; or

Any other person living in the household of that person and related to that person by blood and marriage.

Notification

IHCDA Policy

IHCDA acknowledges that a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking may have an unfavorable history (e.g., a poor credit history, a record of previous damage to an apartment, a prior arrest record) that would warrant denial under IHCDA's policies. Therefore, if IHCDA makes a determination to deny admission to an applicant family, IHCDA will include in its notice of denial:

A statement of the protection against denial provided by VAWA

A description of IHCDA confidentiality requirements

A request that an applicant wishing to claim this protection submit to IHCDA documentation meeting the specifications below with her or his request for an informal review (see section 16-III.D)

Documentation

Victim Documentation

IHCDA Policy

An applicant claiming that the cause of an unfavorable history is that a member of the applicant family is or has been a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking must provide documentation (1) demonstrating the connection between the abuse and the unfavorable history and (2) naming the perpetrator of the abuse. The documentation may consist of any of the following:

A statement signed by the victim certifying that the information provided is true and correct and that it describes bona fide incident(s) of actual or threatened domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking

A police or court record documenting the domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking

Documentation signed by a person who has assisted the victim in addressing domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking, or the effects of such abuse. This person may be an employee, agent, or volunteer of a victim service provider; an attorney; or a medical or other knowledgeable professional. The person signing the documentation must attest under penalty of perjury to the person's belief that the incidents in question are bona fide incidents of abuse. The victim must also sign the documentation.

- Perpetrator Documentation

IHCDA Policy

If the perpetrator of the abuse is a member of the applicant family, the applicant must provide additional documentation consisting of one of the following:

A signed statement (1) requesting that the perpetrator be removed from the application and (2) certifying that the perpetrator will not be permitted to visit or to stay as a guest in the assisted unit

Documentation that the perpetrator has successfully completed, or is successfully undergoing, rehabilitation or treatment. The documentation must be signed by an employee or agent of a domestic violence service provider or by a medical or other knowledgeable professional from whom the perpetrator has sought or is receiving assistance in addressing the abuse. The signer must attest under penalty of perjury to his or her belief that the rehabilitation was successfully completed or is progressing successfully. The victim and perpetrator must also sign or attest to the documentation.

Time Frame for Submitting Documentation

IHCDA Policy

The applicant must submit the required documentation with her or his request for an informal review (see section 16-III.D) or must request an extension in writing at that time. If the applicant so requests, IHCDA will grant an extension of 10 business days, and will postpone scheduling the applicant's informal review until after it has received the documentation or the extension period has elapsed. If after reviewing the documentation provided by the applicant IHCDA determines that the family is eligible for assistance, no informal review will be scheduled and the IHCDA will proceed with admission of the applicant family.

PHA Confidentiality Requirements [24 CFR 5.2007(a)(1)(v)]

All information provided to the PHA regarding domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking, including the fact that an individual is a victim of such violence or stalking, must be retained in confidence and may neither be entered into any shared database nor provided to any related entity, except to the extent that the disclosure (a) is requested or consented to by the individual in writing, (b) is required for use in an eviction proceeding, or (c) is otherwise required by applicable law.

IHCDA Policy

If disclosure is required for use in an eviction proceeding or is otherwise required by applicable law, IHCDA will inform the victim before disclosure occurs so that safety risks can be identified and addressed.

EXHIBIT 3-1: DETAILED DEFINITIONS RELATED TO DISABILITIES

Person with Disabilities [24 CFR 5.403]

The term *person with disabilities* means a person who has any of the following types of conditions:

Has a disability, as defined in 42 U.S.C. Section 423(d)(1)(A), which reads:

Inability to engage in any substantial gainful activity by reason of any medically determinable physical or mental impairment which can be expected to result in death or which has lasted or can be expected to last for a continuous period of not less than 12 months; *or*

In the case of an individual who has attained the age of 55 and is blind (within the meaning of "blindness" as defined in section 416(i)(1) of this title), inability by reason of such blindness to engage in substantial gainful activity, requiring skills or ability comparable to those of any gainful activity in which he has previously engaged with some regularity and over a substantial period of time.

Has a developmental disability as defined in the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 [42 U.S.C.15002(8)], which defines developmental disability in functional terms as follows:

(A) In General

The term "developmental disability" means a severe, chronic disability of an individual that:

(i) is attributable to a mental or physical impairment or combination of mental and physical impairments;

(ii) is manifested before the individual attains age 22;

(iii) is likely to continue indefinitely;

(iv) results in substantial functional limitations in 3 or more of the following areas of major life activity: (I) Self-care, (II) Receptive and expressive language, (III) Learning, (IV) Mobility, (V) Self-direction, (VI) Capacity for independent living, (VII) Economic self-sufficiency; and

(v) reflects the individual's need for a combination and sequence of special, interdisciplinary, or generic services, individualized supports, or other forms of assistance that are of lifelong or extended duration and are individually planned and coordinated.

(B) Infants and Young Children

An individual from birth to age 9, inclusive, who has a substantial developmental delay or specific congenital or acquired condition, may be considered to have a developmental disability without meeting 3 or more of the criteria described in clauses (i) through (v) of subparagraph (A) if the individual, without services and supports, has a high probability of meeting those criteria later in life.

Has a physical, mental, or emotional impairment that is expected to be of long-continued and indefinite duration; substantially impedes his or her ability to live independently, and is of such a nature that the ability to live independently could be improved by more suitable housing conditions.

People with the acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) or any conditions arising from the etiologic agent for AIDS are not excluded from this definition.

A person whose disability is based solely on any drug or alcohol dependence does not qualify as a person with disabilities for the purposes of this program.

For purposes of reasonable accommodation and program accessibility for persons with disabilities, the term person with disabilities refers to an individual with handicaps.

- Individual with Handicaps [24 CFR 8.3]

*Individual with handicaps* means any person who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities; has a record of such an impairment; or is regarded as having such an

impairment. The term does not include any individual who is an alcoholic or drug abuser whose current use of alcohol or drugs prevents the individual from participating in the program or activity in question, or whose participation, by reason of such current alcohol or drug abuse, would constitute a direct threat to property or the safety of others. As used in this definition, the phrase:

(1) Physical or mental impairment includes:

(a) Any physiological disorder or condition, cosmetic disfigurement, or anatomical loss affecting one or more of the following body systems: neurological; musculoskeletal; special sense organs; respiratory, including speech organs; cardiovascular; reproductive; digestive; genito-urinary; hemic and lymphatic; skin; and endocrine; or

(b) Any mental or psychological disorder, such as mental retardation, organic brain syndrome, emotional or mental illness, and specific learning disabilities. The term physical or mental impairment includes, but is not limited to, such diseases and conditions as orthopedic, visual, speech and hearing impairments, cerebral palsy, autism, epilepsy, muscular dystrophy, multiple sclerosis, cancer, heart disease, diabetes, mental retardation, emotional illness, drug addiction and alcoholism.

(2) *Major life activities* means functions such as caring for one's self, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning and working.

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

(4) Is regarded as having an impairment means:

(a) Has a physical or mental impairment that does not substantially limit one or more major life activities but that is treated by a recipient as constituting such a limitation;

(b) Has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities only as a result of the attitudes of others toward such impairment; or

(c) Has none of the impairments defined in paragraph (1) of this section but is treated by a recipient as having such an impairment.

EXHIBIT 3-2: DEFINITION OF INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION
[20 U.S.C. 1001 and 1002]

Eligibility of Students for Assisted Housing Under Section 8 of the U.S. Housing Act of 1937; Supplementary Guidance; Notice [Federal Register, April 10, 2006]

*Institution of Higher Education* shall have the meaning given this term in the Higher Education Act of 1965 in 20 U.S.C. 1001 and 1002.

Definition of "Institution of Higher Education" From 20 U.S.C. 1001

(a) Institution of higher education. For purposes of this chapter, other than subchapter IV and part C of subchapter I of chapter 34 of Title 42, the term "institution of higher education" means an educational institution in any State that

(1) Admits as regular students only persons having a certificate of graduation from a school providing secondary education, or the recognized equivalent of such a certificate;

(2) Is legally authorized within such State to provide a program of education beyond secondary education;

(3) Provides an educational program for which the institution awards a bachelor's degree or provides not less than a 2-year program that is acceptable for full credit toward such a degree;

(4) Is a public or other nonprofit institution; and

(5) Is accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting agency or association, or if not so accredited, is an institution that has been granted preaccreditation status by such an agency or association that has been recognized by the Secretary for the granting of preaccreditation status, and the Secretary has determined

that there is satisfactory assurance that the institution will meet the accreditation standards of such an agency or association within a reasonable time.

(b) Additional institutions included. For purposes of this chapter, other than subchapter IV and part C of subchapter I of chapter 34 of Title 42, the term "institution of higher education" also includes—

(1) Any school that provides not less than a 1-year program of training to prepare students for gainful employment in a recognized occupation and that meets the provision of paragraphs (1), (2), (4), and (5) of subsection (a) of this section; and

(2) A public or nonprofit private educational institution in any State that, in lieu of the requirement in subsection (a)(1) of this section, admits as regular students persons who are beyond the age of compulsory school attendance in the State in which the institution is located.

(c) List of accrediting agencies. For purposes of this section and section 1002 of this title, the Secretary shall publish a list of nationally recognized accrediting agencies or associations that the Secretary determines, pursuant to subpart 2 of part G of subchapter IV of this chapter, to be reliable authority as to the quality of the education or training offered.

Definition of "Institution of Higher Education" From 20 U.S.C. 1002

(a) Definition of institution of higher education for purposes of student assistance programs

(1) Inclusion of additional institutions. Subject to paragraphs (2) through (4) of this subsection, the term "institution of higher education" for purposes of subchapter IV of this chapter and part C of subchapter I of chapter 34 of title 42 includes, in addition to the institutions covered by the definition in section 1001 of this title—

(A) A proprietary institution of higher education (as defined in subsection (b) of this section);

(B) A postsecondary vocational institution (as defined in subsection (c) of this section); and

(C) Only for the purposes of part B of subchapter IV of this chapter, an institution outside the United States that is comparable to an institution of higher education as defined in section 1001 of this title and that has been approved by the Secretary for the purpose of part B of subchapter IV of this chapter.

(2) Institutions outside the United States

(A) In general. For the purpose of qualifying as an institution under paragraph (1)(C), the Secretary shall establish criteria by regulation for the approval of institutions outside the United States and for the determination that such institutions are comparable to an institution of higher education as defined in section 1001 of this title (except that a graduate medical school, or a veterinary school, located outside the United States shall not be required to meet the requirements of section 1001 (a)(4) of this title). Such criteria shall include a requirement that a student attending such school outside the United States is ineligible for loans made, insured, or guaranteed under part B of subchapter IV of this chapter unless—

(i) In the case of a graduate medical school located outside the United States—

(I)(aa) At least 60 percent of those enrolled in, and at least 60 percent of the graduates of, the graduate medical school outside the United States were not persons described in section 1091(a)(5) of this title in the year preceding the year for which a student is seeking a loan under part B of subchapter IV of this chapter; and

(bb) At least 60 percent of the individuals who were students or graduates of the graduate medical school outside the United States or Canada (both nationals of the United States and others) taking the examinations administered by the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates received a passing score in the year preceding the year for which a student is seeking a loan under part B of subchapter IV of this chapter; or

(II) The institution has a clinical training program that was approved by a State as of January 1, 1992; or

(ii) In the case of a veterinary school located outside the United States that does not meet the requirements of section 1001(a)(4) of this title, the institution's students complete their clinical training at an approved veterinary school located in the United States.

(B) Advisory panel

(i) In general. For the purpose of qualifying as an institution under paragraph (1)(C) of this subsection, the Secretary shall establish an advisory panel of medical experts that shall—

(I) Evaluate the standards of accreditation applied to applicant foreign medical schools; and

(II) Determine the comparability of those standards to standards for accreditation applied to United States medical schools.

(ii) Special rule if the accreditation standards described in clause (i) are determined not to be comparable, the foreign medical school shall be required to meet the requirements of section 1001 of this title.

(C) Failure to release information. The failure of an institution outside the United States to provide, release, or authorize release to the Secretary of such information as may be required by subparagraph (A) shall render such institution ineligible for the purpose of part B of subchapter IV of this chapter.

(D) Special rule. If, pursuant to this paragraph, an institution loses eligibility to participate in the programs under subchapter IV of this chapter and part C of subchapter I of chapter 34 of title 42, then a student enrolled at such institution may, notwithstanding such loss of eligibility, continue to be eligible to receive a loan under part B while attending such institution for the academic year succeeding the academic year in which such loss of eligibility occurred.

(3) Limitations based on course of study or enrollment. An institution shall not be considered to meet the definition of an institution of higher education in paragraph (1) if such institution—

(A) Offers more than 50 percent of such institution's courses by correspondence, unless the institution is an institution that meets the definition in section 2471 (4)(C) of this title;

(B) Enrolls 50 percent or more of the institution's students in correspondence courses, unless the institution is an institution that meets the definition in such section, except that the Secretary, at the request of such institution, may waive the applicability of this subparagraph to such institution for good cause, as

determined by the Secretary in the case of an institution of higher education that provides a 2-or 4-year program of instruction (or both) for which the institution awards an associate or baccalaureate degree, respectively;

(C) Has a student enrollment in which more than 25 percent of the students are incarcerated, except that the Secretary may waive the limitation contained in this subparagraph for a nonprofit institution that provides a 2-or 4-year program of instruction (or both) for which the institution awards a bachelor's degree, or an associate's degree or a postsecondary diploma, respectively; or

(D) Has a student enrollment in which more than 50 percent of the students do not have a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent, and does not provide a 2-or 4-year program of instruction (or both) for which the institution awards a bachelor's degree or an associate's degree, respectively, except that the Secretary may waive the limitation contained in this subparagraph if a nonprofit institution demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Secretary that the institution exceeds such limitation because the institution serves, through contracts with Federal, State, or local government agencies, significant numbers of students who do not have a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent.

(4) Limitations based on management. An institution shall not be considered to meet the definition of an institution of higher education in paragraph (1) if—

(A) The institution, or an affiliate of the institution that has the power, by contract or ownership interest, to direct or cause the direction of the management or policies of the institution, has filed for bankruptcy, except that this paragraph shall not apply to a nonprofit institution, the primary function of which is to provide health care educational services (or an affiliate of such an institution that has the power, by contract or ownership interest, to direct or cause the direction of the institution's management or policies) that files for bankruptcy under chapter 11 of title 11 between July 1, 1998, and December 1, 1998; or

(B) The institution, the institution's owner, or the institution's chief executive officer has been convicted of, or has pled nolo contendere or guilty to, a crime involving the acquisition, use, or expenditure of funds under subchapter IV of this chapter and part C of subchapter I of chapter 34 of title 42, or has been judicially

determined to have committed fraud involving funds under subchapter IV of this chapter and part C of subchapter I of chapter 34 of title 42.

(5) Certification. The Secretary shall certify an institution's qualification as an institution of higher education in accordance with the requirements of subpart 3 of part G of subchapter IV of this chapter.

(6) Loss of eligibility. An institution of higher education shall not be considered to meet the definition of an institution of higher education in paragraph (1) if such institution is removed from eligibility for funds under subchapter IV of this chapter and part C of subchapter I of chapter 34 of title 42 as a result of an action pursuant to part G of subchapter IV of this chapter.

(b) Proprietary institution of higher education

(1) Principal criteria. For the purpose of this section, the term "proprietary institution of higher education" means a school that—

(A) Provides an eligible program of training to prepare students for gainful employment in a recognized occupation;

(B) Meets the requirements of paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 1001 (a) of this title;

(C) Does not meet the requirement of paragraph (4) of section 1001 (a) of this title;

(D) Is accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting agency or association recognized by the Secretary pursuant to part G of subchapter IV of this chapter;

(E) Has been in existence for at least 2 years; and

(F) Has at least 10 percent of the school's revenues from sources that are not derived from funds provided under subchapter IV of this chapter and part C of subchapter I of chapter 34 of title 42, as determined in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Secretary.

(2) Additional institutions. The term "proprietary institution of higher education" also includes a proprietary educational institution in any State that, in lieu of the requirement in paragraph (1) of section 1001 (a) of this title, admits as regular students persons who are beyond the age of compulsory school attendance in the State in which the institution is located.

(c) Postsecondary vocational institution.

(1) Principal criteria. For the purpose of this section, the term "postsecondary vocational institution" means a school that—

(A) Provides an eligible program of training to prepare students for gainful employment in a recognized occupation;

(B) Meets the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), (4), and (5) of section 1001 (a) of this title; and

(C) Has been in existence for at least 2 years.

(2) Additional institutions. The term "postsecondary vocational institution" also includes an educational institution in any State that, in lieu of the requirement in paragraph (1) of section 1001 (a) of this title, admits as regular students persons who are beyond the age of compulsory school attendance in the State in which the institution is located.

*B. SELECTION and ADMISSIONS PROCEDURES (including DECONCENTRATION and WAITING LIST)*

IHCDA HCVP Administrative Plan:
Chapter 4: APPLICATIONS, WAITING LIST AND TENANT
SELECTION

INTRODUCTION

When a family wishes to receive Section 8 HCV assistance, the family must submit an application that provides the PHA with the information needed to determine the family's eligibility. HUD requires the PHA to place all families that apply for assistance on a waiting list. When HCV assistance becomes available, the PHA must select families from the waiting list in accordance with HUD requirements and PHA policies as stated in the administrative plan and the annual plan.

The PHA is required to adopt a clear approach to accepting applications, placing families on the waiting list, selecting families from the waiting list and must follow this approach consistently. The actual order in which families are selected from the waiting list can be affected if a family has certain characteristics designated by HUD or the PHA to receive preferential treatment. Funding earmarked exclusively for families with particular characteristics may also alter the order in which families are served.

HUD regulations require that all families have an equal opportunity to apply for and receive housing assistance, and that the PHA affirmatively further fair housing goals in the administration of the program [24 CFR 982.53, HCV GB p. 4-1]. Adherence to the selection policies described in this chapter ensures that the PHA will be in compliance with all relevant fair housing requirements, as described in Chapter 2.

This chapter describes HUD and PHA policies for taking applications, managing the waiting list and selecting families for HCV assistance. The policies outlined in this chapter are organized into three sections, as follows:

Part I: The Application Process. This part provides an overview of the application process, and discusses how applicants can obtain and submit applications. It also specifies how the PHA will handle the applications it receives.

Part II: Managing the Waiting List. This part presents the policies that govern how the PHA's waiting list is structured, when it is opened and closed, and how the public is notified of the opportunity to apply for assistance. It also discusses the process the PHA will use to keep the waiting list current.

Part III: Selection for HCV Assistance. This part describes the policies that guide the PHA in selecting families for HCV assistance as such assistance becomes available. It also specifies how in-person interviews will be used to ensure that the PHA has the information needed to make a final eligibility determination.

PART I: THE APPLICATION PROCESS

4-I.A. OVERVIEW

This part describes the policies that guide the PHA's efforts to distribute and accept applications, and to make preliminary determinations of applicant family eligibility that affect placement of the family on the waiting list. This part also describes the PHA's obligation to ensure the accessibility of the application process to elderly persons, people with disabilities, and people with limited English proficiency (LEP).

4-I.B. APPLYING FOR ASSISTANCE [HCV GB, pp. 4-11 – 4-16, Notice PIH 2009-36]

Any family that wishes to receive HCV assistance must apply for admission to the program. HUD permits the PHA to determine the format and content of HCV applications, as well how such applications will be made available to interested families and how applications will be accepted by the PHA. However, the PHA must include Form HUD-92006, Supplement to Application for Federally Assisted Housing, as part of the PHA's application.

IHCDA Policy

IHCDA will initially require families to provide only the information needed to make an initial assessment of the family's eligibility, and to determine the family's placement on the waiting list. The family will be required to provide all of the information necessary to establish family eligibility and level of assistance when the family is selected from the waiting list.

Families should contact the local sub-contracting agency which serves the appropriate jurisdiction to apply for specific application requirements and procedures.

Applications must be complete in order to be accepted by IHCDA for processing. If an application is incomplete, IHCDA will notify the family of the additional information required.

## 4-I.C. ACCESSIBILITY OF THE APPLICATION PROCESS

### Elderly and Disabled Populations [24 CFR 8 and HCV GB, pp. 4-11 – 4-13]

The PHA must take a variety of steps to ensure that the application process is accessible to those people who might have difficulty complying with the normal, standard PHA application process. This could include people with disabilities, certain elderly individuals, as well as persons with limited English proficiency (LEP). The PHA must provide reasonable accommodation to the needs of individuals with disabilities. The application-taking facility and the application process must be fully accessible, or the PHA must provide an alternate approach that provides full access to the application process. Chapter 2 provides a full discussion of the PHA's policies related to providing reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities.

### Limited English Proficiency

PHAs are required to take reasonable steps to ensure meaningful access to their programs and activities by persons with limited English proficiency [24 CFR 1]. Chapter 2 provides a full discussion on the PHA's policies related to ensuring access to people with limited English proficiency (LEP).

## 4-I.D. PLACEMENT ON THE WAITING LIST

The PHA must review each complete application received and make a preliminary assessment of the family's eligibility. The PHA must accept applications from families for whom the list is open unless there is good cause for not accepting the application (such as denial of assistance) for the grounds stated in the regulations [24 CFR 982.206(b)(2)]. Where the family is determined to be ineligible, the PHA must notify the family in

writing [24 CFR 982.201(f)]. Where the family is not determined to be ineligible, the family will be placed on a waiting list of applicants.

No applicant has a right or entitlement to be listed on the waiting list, or to any particular position on the waiting list [24 CFR 982.202(c)].

Placement on the Waiting List

IHCDA Policy

IHCDA will send written notification of placement on the waiting list within 10 business days of receiving a complete application.

Placement on the waiting list does not indicate that the family is, in fact, eligible for assistance. A final determination of eligibility will be made when the family is selected from the waiting list.

Applicants will be placed on the waiting list according to any preference(s) for which they qualify, and the date and time their complete application is received by the IHCDA.

PART II: MANAGING THE WAITING LIST

4-II.A. OVERVIEW

The PHA must have policies regarding various aspects of organizing and managing the waiting list of applicant families. This includes opening the list to new applicants, closing the list to new applicants, notifying the public of waiting list openings and closings, updating waiting list information, purging the list of families that are no longer interested in or eligible for assistance, as well as conducting outreach to ensure a sufficient number of applicants.

In addition, HUD imposes requirements on how a PHA may structure its waiting list and how families must be treated if they apply for assistance from a PHA that administers more than one assisted housing program.

4-II.B. ORGANIZATION OF THE WAITING LIST [24 CFR 982.204 and 205]

The PHA's HCV waiting list must be organized in such a manner to allow the PHA to accurately identify and select families for assistance in the proper order, according to the admissions policies described in this plan.

The waiting list must contain the following information for each applicant listed:

Applicant name;

Family unit size;

Date and time of application;

Qualification for any local preference;

Racial or ethnic designation of the head of household.

HUD requires the PHA to maintain a single waiting list for the HCV program unless it serves more than one county or municipality. Such PHAs are permitted, but not required, to maintain a separate waiting list for each county or municipality served.

IHCDA Policy

IHCDA will maintain a separate waiting list for each county served.

HUD directs that a family that applies for assistance from the HCV program must be offered the opportunity to be placed on the waiting list for any public housing, project-based voucher or moderate rehabilitation program the PHA operates if 1) the other programs' waiting lists are open, and 2) the family is qualified for the other programs.

HUD permits, but does not require, that PHAs maintain a single merged waiting list for their public housing, Section 8, and other subsidized housing programs.

A family's decision to apply for, receive, or refuse other housing assistance must not affect the family's placement on the HCV waiting list, or any preferences for which the family may qualify.

IHCDA Policy

IHCDA will not merge the HCV waiting list with the waiting list for any other program IHCDA operates.

4-II.C. OPENING AND CLOSING THE WAITING LIST [24 CFR 982.206]

Closing the Waiting List

A PHA is permitted to close the waiting list if it has an adequate pool of families to use its available HCV assistance. Alternatively, the PHA may elect to continue to accept applications only from certain categories of families that meet particular preferences or funding criteria.

IHCDA Policy

IHCDA will close the waiting list when the estimated waiting period for housing assistance for applicants on the list reaches 24 months for the most current applicants. Where IHCDA has particular preferences or funding criteria that require a specific category of family, IHCDA may elect to continue to accept applications from these applicants while closing the waiting list to others.

Reopening the Waiting List

If the waiting list has been closed, it cannot be reopened until the PHA publishes a notice in local newspapers of general circulation, minority media, and other suitable media outlets. The notice must comply with HUD fair housing requirements and must specify who may apply, and where and when applications will be received.

IHCDA Policy

IHCDA will announce the reopening of the waiting list at least 5 business days prior to the date applications will first be accepted. If the list is only being reopened for certain categories of families, this information will be contained in the notice.

IHCDA will give public notice by publishing the relevant information in suitable media outlets including:

Primary newsletters in the Legal notice section of the primary newspaper(s) in the county where the Waiting List is to be opened.

Minority-owned newspapers (if published in the county).

Foreign language newspapers (if published in the county).

Notices circulated for posting at social service agencies, community centers and. local Housing Agency offices.

Lobby of the main office of the Local Subcontracting Agency.

4-II.D. FAMILY OUTREACH [HCV GB, pp. 4-2 to 4-4]

The PHA must conduct outreach as necessary to ensure that the PHA has a sufficient number of applicants on the waiting list to use the HCV resources it has been allotted.

Because HUD requires the PHA to serve a specified percentage of extremely low income families (see Chapter 4, Part III), the PHA may need to conduct special outreach to ensure that an adequate number of such families apply for assistance [HCV GB, p. 4-20 to 4-21].

- PHA outreach efforts must comply with fair housing requirements. This includes:
- Analyzing the housing market area and the populations currently being served to identify underserved populations

- Ensuring that outreach efforts are targeted to media outlets that reach eligible populations that are underrepresented in the program

- Avoiding outreach efforts that prefer or exclude people who are members of a protected class

PHA outreach efforts must be designed to inform qualified families about the availability of assistance under the program. These efforts may include, as needed, any of the following activities:

- Submitting press releases to local newspapers, including minority newspapers

- Developing informational materials and flyers to distribute to other agencies

- Providing application forms to other public and private agencies that serve the low income population

- Developing partnerships with other organizations that serve similar populations, including agencies that provide services for persons with disabilities

IHCDA Policy

IHCDA will monitor the characteristics of the population being served and the characteristics of the population as a whole in IHCDA's jurisdiction. Targeted outreach efforts will be undertaken if a comparison suggests that certain populations are being underserved.

## 4-II.E. REPORTING CHANGES IN FAMILY CIRCUMSTANCES

IHCDA Policy

While the family is on the waiting list, the family must immediately inform IHCDA of changes in contact information, including current residence, mailing address, and phone number. The changes must be submitted in writing.

## 4-II.F. UPDATING THE WAITING LIST [24 CFR 982.204]

HUD requires the PHA to establish policies to use when removing applicant names from the waiting list.

Purging the Waiting List

The decision to withdraw an applicant family that includes a person with disabilities from the waiting list is subject to reasonable accommodation. If the applicant did not respond to a PHA request for information or updates because of the family member's disability, the PHA must reinstate the applicant family to their former position on the waiting list [24 CFR 982.204(c)(2)].

IHCDA Policy

The waiting list will be updated annually to ensure that all applicants and applicant information is current and timely.

To update the waiting list, IHCDA will send an update request via first class mail to each family on the waiting list to determine whether the family continues to be interested in, and to qualify for, the program. This update request will be sent to the last address that IHCDA has on record for the family. The update request will provide a deadline by which the family must respond and will state that failure to respond will result in the applicant's name being removed from the waiting list.

The family's response must be in writing and may be delivered in person, by mail, or by fax. Responses should be postmarked or received by IHCDA not later than 15 business days from the date of IHCDA's letter.

If the family fails to respond within 15 business days, the family will be removed from the waiting list without further notice.

If the notice is returned by the post office with no forwarding address, the applicant will be removed from the waiting list without further notice.

If the notice is returned by the post office with a forwarding address, the notice will be re-sent to the address indicated. The family will have 15 business days to respond from the date the letter was re-sent.

If a family is removed from the waiting list for failure to respond, the Section 8 HCVP Manager may reinstate the family if s/he determines the lack of response was due to IHCDA error, or to circumstances beyond the family's control.

- Removal from the Waiting List
- IHCDA Policy

  If a family is removed from the waiting list because IHCDA has determined the family is not eligible for assistance, a notice will be sent to the family's address of record. If the initial notice is returned with a forwarding address, the Local Subcontracting Agency should make one additional attempt to contact the applicant, at the new address, before denying/ inactivating the application.

- The notice will state the reasons the family was removed from the waiting list and will inform the family how to request an informal review regarding IHCDA's decision (see Chapter 16) [24 CFR 982.201(f)].

PART III: SELECTION FOR HCV ASSISTANCE

4-III.A. OVERVIEW

As vouchers become available, families on the waiting list must be selected for assistance in accordance with the policies described in this part.

The order in which families receive assistance from the waiting list depends on the selection method chosen by the PHA and is impacted in part by any selection preferences that the family qualifies for. The source of HCV funding also may affect the order in which families are selected from the waiting list.

The PHA must maintain a clear record of all information required to verify that the family is selected from the waiting list according to the PHA's selection policies [24 CFR 982.204(b) and 982.207(e)].

4-III.B. SELECTION AND HCV FUNDING SOURCES

Special Admissions [24 CFR 982.203]

HUD may award funding for specifically-named families living in specified types of units (e.g., a family that is displaced by demolition of public housing; a non-purchasing family residing in a HOPE 1 or 2 projects). In these cases, the PHA may admit families that are not on the waiting list, or without considering the family's position on the waiting list. The PHA must maintain records showing that such families were admitted with special program funding.

Targeted Funding [24 CFR 982.204(e)]

HUD may award a PHA funding for a specified category of families on the waiting list. The PHA must use this funding only to assist the families within the specified category. Within this category of families, the order in which such families are assisted is determined according to the policies provided in Section 4-III.C.

IHCDA Policy

IHCDA administers the following types of targeted funding:

Mainstream vouchers

IHCDA may be awarded other targeted funding by HUD, including for the Family Unification Program (FUP) and/or VASH vouchers, as well as Non-Elderly Disabled Vouchers (NEDs).

Regular HCV Funding

Regular HCV funding may be used to assist any eligible family on the waiting list. Families are selected from the waiting list according to the policies provided in Section 4-III.C.

4-III.C. SELECTION METHOD

PHAs must describe the method for selecting applicant families from the waiting list, including the system of admission preferences that the PHA will use [24 CFR 982.202(d)].

Local Preferences [24 CFR 982.207; HCV p. 4-16]

PHAs are permitted to establish local preferences, and to give priority to serving families that meet those criteria. HUD specifically authorizes and places restrictions on certain types of local preferences. HUD also permits the PHA to establish other local preferences, at its discretion. Any local preferences established must be consistent with the PHA plan and the consolidated plan, and must be based on local housing needs and priorities that can be documented by generally accepted data sources.

IHCDA Policy: IHCDA will offer preferences to any families that qualify as listed below.

| PREFERENCE | DEFINITION | POINTS |
|---|---|---|
| Insufficient Funding | Former participant terminated due to insufficient funding | 900 |
| Existing Applicant | Applicant was on the waiting list prior to June 1, 2007 | 400 |
| Residency | Applicant is a legal resident of the state of Indiana | 200 |
| Homelessness | Applicant is currently homeless | 50 |
| Working Families | Applicants are working or enrolled in an educational or training program | 50 |
| Elderly | Applicant is age 62 or older | 50 |
| Non-Elderly Disabled Family | Non-elderly (61 years or younger) family head of household, spouse, or sole member meets HUD's definition disabled | 50 |
| Person at risk of Institutionalization | Institutionalized, or at risk of institutionalization, is living in or at risk of being placed in a nursing facility, long term rehabilitation center or hospital | 50 |
| Disabled Family Member | Member of the family meets HUD's definition of being disabled | 50 |

Information on verifying preferences along with expanded definitions are included in Chapter 7

Income Targeting Requirement [24 CFR 982.201(b)(2)]

HUD requires that extremely low-income (ELI) families make up at least 75% of the families admitted to the HCV program during the PHA's fiscal year. ELI families are those with annual incomes at or below 30% of the area median income. To ensure this requirement is met, a PHA may skip non-ELI families on the waiting list in order to select an ELI family.

Low income families admitted to the program that are "continuously assisted" under the 1937 Housing Act [24 CFR 982.4(b)], as well as low-income or moderate-income families admitted to the program that are displaced as a result of the prepayment of the mortgage or voluntary termination of an insurance contract on eligible low-income housing, are not counted for income targeting purposes [24 CFR 982.201(b)(2)(v)].

IHCDA Policy

IHCDA will monitor progress in meeting the ELI requirement throughout the fiscal year. Extremely low-income families will be selected ahead of other eligible families on an as-needed basis to ensure the income targeting requirement is met.

Order of Selection

The PHA system of preferences may select families either according to the date and time of application, or by a random selection process [24 CFR 982.207(c)]. When selecting families from the waiting list PHAs are required to use targeted funding to assist only those families who meet the specified criteria, and PHAs are not permitted to skip down the waiting list to a family that it can afford to subsidize when there are not sufficient funds to subsidize the family at the top of the waiting list [24 CFR 982.204(d) and (e)].

IHCDA Policy

Applicants will be placed on the waiting list according to weighted preference(s) for which they qualify, and then by the date and time their complete application is received by the IHCDA.

Within each targeted funding category, families will be selected on a first-come, first-served basis according to the date and time their complete application is received by the IHCDA. Documentation will be maintained by IHCDA as to whether families on the list qualify for and are interested in targeted funding.

4-III.D. NOTIFICATION OF SELECTION

When a family has been selected from the waiting list, the PHA must notify the family.

IHCDA Policy

IHCDA will notify the family by first class mail when it is selected from the waiting list. The notice will inform the family of the following:

- Date, time, and location of the scheduled application interview, including any procedures for rescheduling the interview
- Who is required to attend the interview
- Documents that must be provided at the interview to document the legal identity of household members, including information about what constitutes acceptable documentation
- Other documents and information that should be brought to the interview

If a notification letter is returned to IHCDA with no forwarding address, the family will be removed from the waiting list. A notice of denial (see Chapter 3) will be sent to the family's address of record.

4-III.E. THE APPLICATION INTERVIEW

HUD recommends that the PHA obtain the information and documentation needed to make an eligibility determination though a private interview [HCV GB, pg. 4-16]. Being invited to attend an interview does not constitute admission to the program.

Assistance cannot be provided to the family until all SSN documentation requirements are met. However, if the PHA determines that an applicant family is otherwise eligible to participate in the program, the family may retain its place on the waiting list for a period of time determined by the PHA [Notice PIH 2010-3].

Reasonable accommodation must be made for persons with disabilities who are unable to attend an interview due to their disability.

IHCDA Policy

Families selected from the waiting list are required to participate in an eligibility interview.

All adults are required to attend the interview together. The interview will be conducted only if the head of household or spouse/cohead provides appropriate documentation of legal identity. (Chapter 7 provides a discussion of proper documentation of legal identity). If the required documentation is not provided, the appointment may be rescheduled when the proper documents have been obtained.

Pending disclosure and documentation of social security numbers, IHCDA will allow the family to retain its place on the waiting list for 90 calendar days. If not all household members have disclosed their SSNs at the next time IHCDA is issuing vouchers, IHCDA will issue a voucher to the next eligible applicant family on the waiting list.

The family must provide the information necessary to establish the family's eligibility and determine the appropriate level of assistance, as well as completing required forms, providing required signatures, and

submitting required documentation. If any materials are missing, IHCDA will provide the family with a written list of items that must be submitted.

Any required documents or information that the family is unable to provide at the interview must be provided within 10 business days of the interview (Chapter 7 provides details about longer submission deadlines for particular items, including documentation of Social Security numbers and eligible noncitizen status). If the family is unable to obtain the information or materials within the required time frame, the family may request an extension. If the required documents and information are not provided within the required time frame (plus any extensions), the family will be sent a notice of denial (See Chapter 3).

An advocate, interpreter, or other assistant may assist the family with the application and the interview process.

Interviews will be conducted in English. For limited English proficient (LEP) applicants, IHCDA will provide translation services in accordance with IHCDA's LEP plan.

If the family is unable to attend a scheduled interview, the family should contact IHCDA in advance of the interview to schedule a new appointment. In all circumstances, if a family does not attend a scheduled interview, IHCDA will send another notification letter with a new interview appointment time. Applicants who fail to attend two scheduled interviews will be denied assistance based on the family's failure to supply information needed to determine eligibility. A notice of denial will be issued in accordance with policies contained in Chapter 3.

4-III.F. COMPLETING THE APPLICATION PROCESS

The PHA must verify all information provided by the family (see Chapter 7). Based on verified information, the PHA must make a final determination of eligibility (see Chapter 3) and must confirm that the family qualified for any special admission, targeted admission, or selection preference that affected the order in which the family was selected from the waiting list.

IHCDA Policy

If IHCDA determines that the family is ineligible, IHCDA will send written notification of the ineligibility determination within 10 business days of the determination. The notice will specify the reasons for ineligibility, and will inform the family of its right to request an informal review (Chapter 16).

If a family fails to qualify for any criteria that affected the order in which it was selected from the waiting list (e.g. targeted funding, extremely low-income), the family will be returned to its original position on the waiting list. IHCDA will notify the family in writing that it has been returned to the waiting list, and will specify the reasons for it.

If IHCDA determines that the family is eligible to receive assistance, IHCDA will invite the family to attend a briefing in accordance with the policies in Chapter 5.

*2. Financial Resources*

Statement of anticipated annual resources:

| IHCDA HCVP | Anticipated Budget Authority |
|---|---|
| HAP | $20, 632,721 |
| VASH (FY2011Award) | $127,419 |
| VASH (FY2010 Award) | $127,047 |
| Annual Resources Anticipated | $20,884,187 |

*3. RENT DETERMINATIONS*

IHCDA HCVP Administrative Plan: Chapter 6: INCOME AND SUBSIDY DETERMINATIONS

[24 CFR Part 5, Subparts E and F; 24 CFR 982]

INTRODUCTION

A family's income determines eligibility for assistance and is also used to calculate the family's payment and the PHA's subsidy. The PHA will use the policies and methods described in this chapter to ensure that only eligible families receive assistance and that no family pays more or less than its obligation under the regulations. This chapter describes HUD regulations and PHA policies related to these topics in three parts as follows:

Part I: Annual Income. HUD regulations specify the sources of income to include and exclude to arrive at a family's annual income. These requirements and PHA policies for calculating annual income are found in Part I.

Part II: Adjusted Income. Once annual income has been established HUD regulations require the PHA to subtract from annual income any of five mandatory deductions for which a family qualifies. These requirements and PHA policies for calculating adjusted income are found in Part II.

Part III: Calculating Family Share and PHA Subsidy. This part describes the statutory formula for calculating total tenant payment (TTP), the use of utility allowances, and the methodology for determining PHA subsidy and required family payment.

PART III: CALCULATING FAMILY SHARE AND PHA SUBSIDY

6-III.A. OVERVIEW OF RENT AND SUBSIDY CALCULATIONS

TTP Formula [24 CFR 5.628]

HUD regulations specify the formula for calculating the total tenant payment (TTP) for an assisted family. TTP is the highest of the following amounts, rounded to the nearest dollar:

30 percent of the family's monthly adjusted income (adjusted income is defined in Part II)

10 percent of the family's monthly gross income (annual income, as defined in Part I, divided by 12)

The welfare rent (in as-paid states only)

A minimum rent between $0 and $50 that is established by the PHA

The PHA has authority to suspend and exempt families from minimum rent when a financial hardship exists, as defined in section 6-III.B.

The amount that a family pays for rent and utilities (the family share) will never be less than the family's TTP but may be greater than the TTP depending on the rent charged for the unit the family selects.

Welfare Rent [24 CFR 5.628]

IHCDA Policy

Welfare rent does not apply in this locality.

Minimum Rent [24 CFR 5.630]

IHCDA Policy

The minimum rent for this locality is $50.

Family Share [24 CFR 982.305(a)(5)]

If a family chooses a unit with a gross rent (rent to owner plus an allowance for tenant-paid utilities) that exceeds the PHA's applicable payment standard: (1) the family will pay more than the TTP, and (2) at initial occupancy the PHA may not approve the tenancy if it would require the family share to exceed 40 percent of the family's monthly adjusted income. The income used for this determination must have been verified no earlier than 60 days before the family's voucher was issued. (For a discussion of the application of payment standards, see section 6-III.C.)

PHA Subsidy [24 CFR 982.505(b)]

The PHA will pay a monthly housing assistance payment (HAP) for a family that is equal to the lower of (1) the applicable payment standard for the family minus the family's TTP or (2) the gross rent for the family's unit minus the TTP. (For a discussion of the application of payment standards, see section 6-III.C.)

Utility Reimbursement [24 CFR 982.514(b)]

When the PHA subsidy for a family exceeds the rent to owner, the family is due a utility reimbursement. HUD permits the PHA to pay the reimbursement to the family or directly to the utility provider.

IHCDA Policy

IHCDA will make utility reimbursements to the family.

## 6-III.B. FINANCIAL HARDSHIPS AFFECTING MINIMUM RENT [24 CFR 5.630]

### Overview

If the PHA establishes a minimum rent greater than zero, the PHA must grant an exemption from the minimum rent if a family is unable to pay the minimum rent because of financial hardship.

The financial hardship exemption applies only to families required to pay the minimum rent. If a family's TTP is higher than the minimum rent, the family is not eligible for a hardship exemption. If the PHA determines that a hardship exists, the family share is the highest of the remaining components of the family's calculated TTP.

### HUD-Defined Financial Hardship

Financial hardship includes the following situations:

(1) The family has lost eligibility for or is awaiting an eligibility determination for a federal, state, or local assistance program. This includes a family member who is a noncitizen lawfully admitted for permanent residence under the Immigration and Nationality Act who would be entitled to public benefits but for Title IV of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act of 1996.

### IHCDA Policy

A hardship will be considered to exist only if the loss of eligibility has an impact on the family's ability to pay the minimum rent.

For a family waiting for a determination of eligibility, the hardship period will end as of the first of the month following: (1) implementation of assistance, if approved, or (2) the decision to deny assistance. A family whose request for assistance is denied may request a hardship exemption based upon one of the other allowable hardship circumstances.

(2) The family would be evicted because it is unable to pay the minimum rent.

IHCDA Policy

For a family to qualify under this provision, the cause of the potential eviction must be the family's failure to pay rent to the owner or tenant-paid utilities.

(3) Family income has decreased because of changed family circumstances, including the loss of employment.

(4) A death has occurred in the family.

IHCDA Policy

In order to qualify under this provision, a family must describe how the death has created a financial hardship (e.g., because of funeral-related expenses or the loss of the family member's income).

(5) The family has experienced other circumstances determined by IHCDA.

IHCDA Policy

IHCDA has not established any additional hardship criteria.

Implementation of Hardship Exemption

Determination of Hardship

When a family requests a financial hardship exemption, the PHA must suspend the minimum rent requirement beginning the first of the month following the family's request.

The PHA then determines whether the financial hardship exists and whether the hardship is temporary or long-term.

IHCDA Policy

IHCDA defines temporary hardship as a hardship expected to last 90 days or less. Long-term hardship is defined as a hardship expected to last more than 90 days.

When the minimum rent is suspended, the family share reverts to the highest of the remaining components of the calculated TTP. The example below demonstrates the effect of the minimum rent exemption.

| Example: Impact of Minimum Rent Exemption<br>Assume the PHA has established a minimum rent of $35. | |
|---|---|
| Family Share – No Hardship | Family Share – With Hardship |
| $0 30% of monthly adjusted income | $0 30% of monthly adjusted income |
| $15 10% of monthly gross income | $15 10% of monthly gross income |
| N/A Welfare rent | N/A Welfare rent |
| $35 Minimum rent | $35 Minimum rent |
| Minimum rent applies.<br>TTP = $35 | Hardship exemption granted.<br>TTP = $15 |

IHCDA Policy

To qualify for a hardship exemption, a family must submit a request for a hardship exemption in writing. The request must explain the nature of the hardship and how the hardship has affected the family's ability to pay the minimum rent.

IHCDA will make the determination of hardship within 30 calendar days.

No Financial Hardship

If the PHA determines there is no financial hardship, the PHA will reinstate the minimum rent and require the family to repay the amounts suspended.

IHCDA Policy

IHCDA will require the family to repay the suspended amount within 30 calendar days of IHCDA's notice that a hardship exemption has not been granted.

Temporary Hardship

If the PHA determines that a qualifying financial hardship is temporary, the PHA must suspend the minimum rent for the 90-day period beginning the first of the month following the date of the family's request for a hardship exemption.

At the end of the 90-day suspension period, the family must resume payment of the minimum rent and must repay the PHA the amounts suspended. HUD requires the PHA to offer a reasonable repayment agreement, on terms and conditions established by the PHA. The PHA also may determine that circumstances have changed and the hardship is now a long-term hardship.

IHCDA Policy

IHCDA will enter into a repayment agreement in accordance with the procedures found in Chapter 16 of this plan.

Long-Term Hardship

If the PHA determines that the financial hardship is long-term, the PHA must exempt the family from the minimum rent requirement for so long as the hardship continues. The exemption will apply from the first of

the month following the family's request until the end of the qualifying hardship. When the financial hardship has been determined to be long-term, the family is not required to repay the minimum rent.

IHCDA Policy

The hardship period ends when any of the following circumstances apply:

(1) At an interim or annual reexamination, the family's calculated TTP is greater than the minimum rent.

(2) For hardship conditions based on loss of income, the hardship condition will continue to be recognized until new sources of income are received that are at least equal to the amount lost. For example, if a hardship is approved because a family no longer receives a $60/month child support payment, the hardship will continue to exist until the family receives at least $60/month in income from another source or once again begins to receive the child support.

(3) For hardship conditions based upon hardship-related expenses, the minimum rent exemption will continue to be recognized until the cumulative amount exempted is equal to the expense incurred.

6-III.C. APPLYING PAYMENT STANDARDS [24 CFR 982.505]

Overview

The PHA's schedule of payment standards is used to calculate housing assistance payments for HCV families. This section covers the application of the PHA's payment standards. The establishment and revision of the PHA's payment standard schedule are covered in Chapter 16.

*Payment standard* is defined as "the maximum monthly assistance payment for a family assisted in the voucher program (before deducting the total tenant payment by the family)" [24 CFR 982.4(b)].

The payment standard for a family is the lower of (1) the payment standard for the family unit size, which is defined as the appropriate number of bedrooms for the family under the PHA's subsidy standards [24 CFR 982.4(b)], or (2) the payment standard for the size of the dwelling unit rented by the family.

If the PHA has established an exception payment standard for a designated part of an FMR area and a family's unit is located in the exception area, the PHA must use the appropriate payment standard for the exception area.

The PHA is required to pay a monthly housing assistance payment (HAP) for a family that is the lower of (1) the payment standard for the family minus the family's TTP or (2) the gross rent for the family's unit minus the TTP.

If during the term of the HAP contract for a family's unit, the owner lowers the rent, the PHA will recalculate the HAP using the lower of the initial payment standard or the gross rent for the unit [HCV GB, p. 7-8].

Changes in Payment Standards

When the PHA revises its payment standards during the term of the HAP contract for a family's unit, it will apply the new payment standards in accordance with HUD regulations.

Decreases

If the amount on the payment standard schedule is decreased during the term of the HAP contract, the lower payment standard generally will be used beginning at the effective date of the family's second regular reexamination following the effective date of the decrease in the payment standard. The PHA will determine the payment standard for the family as follows:

**Step 1:** At the first regular reexamination following the decrease in the payment standard, the PHA will determine the payment standard for the family using the lower of the payment standard for the family unit size or the size of the dwelling unit rented by the family.

**Step 2:** The PHA will compare the payment standard from step 1 to the payment standard last used to calculate the monthly housing assistance payment for the family. The payment standard used by the PHA at the first regular reexamination following the decrease in the payment standard will be the higher of these two payment standards. The PHA will advise the family that the application of the lower payment standard

will be deferred until the second regular reexamination following the effective date of the decrease in the payment standard.

**Step 3:** At the second regular reexamination following the decrease in the payment standard, the lower payment standard will be used to calculate the monthly housing assistance payment for the family unless the PHA has subsequently increased the payment standard, in which case the payment standard will be determined in accordance with procedures for increases in payment standards described below.

Increases

If the payment standard is increased during the term of the HAP contract, the increased payment standard will be used to calculate the monthly housing assistance payment for the family beginning on the effective date of the family's first regular reexamination on or after the effective date of the increase in the payment standard.

Families requiring or requesting interim reexaminations will not have their HAP payments calculated using the higher payment standard until their next annual reexamination [HCV GB, p. 7-8].

Changes in Family Unit Size

Irrespective of any increase or decrease in the payment standard, if the family unit size increases or decreases during the HAP contract term, the new family unit size must be used to determine the payment standard for the family beginning at the family's first regular reexamination following the change in family unit size.

Reasonable Accommodation

If a family requires a higher payment standard as a reasonable accommodation for a family member who is a person with disabilities, the PHA is allowed to establish a higher payment standard for the family within the basic range.

## 6-III.D. APPLYING UTILITY ALLOWANCES [24 CFR 982.517]

### Overview

A PHA-established utility allowance schedule is used in determining family share and PHA subsidy. The PHA must use the appropriate utility allowance for the size of dwelling unit actually leased by a family rather than the voucher unit size for which the family qualifies using PHA subsidy standards. See Chapter 5 for information on the PHA's subsidy standards.

For policies on establishing and updating utility allowances, see Chapter 16.

### Reasonable Accommodation

HCV program regulations require a PHA to approve a utility allowance amount higher than shown on the PHA's schedule if a higher allowance is needed as a reasonable accommodation for a family member with a disability. For example, if a family member with a disability requires such an accommodation, the PHA will approve an allowance for air-conditioning, even if the PHA has determined that an allowance for air-conditioning generally is not needed.

The family must request the higher allowance and provide the PHA with an explanation of the need for the reasonable accommodation and information about the amount of additional allowance required [HCV GB, p. 18-8].

### Utility Allowance Revisions

At reexamination, the PHA must use the PHA current utility allowance schedule [24 CFR 982.517(d)(2)].

### IHCDA Policy

Revised utility allowances will be applied to a family's rent and subsidy calculations at the first annual reexamination that is effective after the allowance is adopted.

6-III.E. PRORATED ASSISTANCE FOR MIXED FAMILIES [24 CFR 5.520]

HUD regulations prohibit assistance to ineligible family members. A *mixed family* is one that includes at least one U.S. citizen or eligible immigrant and any number of ineligible family members. The PHA must prorate the assistance provided to a mixed family. The PHA will first determine assistance as if all family members were eligible and then prorate the assistance based upon the percentage of family members that actually are eligible. For example, if the PHA subsidy for a family is calculated at $500 and two of four family members are ineligible, the PHA subsidy would be reduced to $250.

*4. OPERATION AND MANAGEMENT*

IHCDA HCVP Administrative Plan: Chapter 1: OVERVIEW OF THE PROGRAM AND PLAN

INTRODUCTION

The PHA receives its funding for the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program from the Department of Housing and Urban Development. The PHA is not a federal department or agency. A public housing agency (PHA) is a governmental or public body, created and authorized by state law to develop and operate housing and housing programs for low-income families. The PHA enters into an Annual Contributions Contract with HUD to administer the program requirements on behalf of HUD. The PHA must ensure compliance with federal laws, regulations and notices and must establish policy and procedures to clarify federal requirements and to ensure consistency in program operation. This chapter contains information about the PHA and its programs with emphasis on the HCV program. It so contains information about the purpose, intent and use of the plan and guide.There are three parts to this chapter:

Part I: The Public Housing Agency (PHA). This part includes a description of the PHA, its jurisdiction, its programs, and its mission and intent.

Part II: The HCV Program. This part contains information about the Housing Choice Voucher program operation, roles and responsibilities, and partnerships.

Part III: The HCV Administrative Plan. This part discusses the purpose and organization of the plan and its revision requirements.

PART I: THE PHA

## 1-I.A. OVERVIEW

This part explains the origin of the PHA's creation and authorization, the general structure of the organization, and the relationship between the PHA Board and staff.

## 1-I.B. ORGANIZATION AND STRUCTURE OF THE PHA

The Section 8 tenant-based Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) assistance program is funded by the federal government and administered by the PHA for the jurisdiction as outlined below

The officials of a PHA are known as commissioners or, collectively, as the board of directors. Directors are appointed in accordance with state law and generally serve in the same capacity as the directors of a corporation, establishing policies under which the PHA conducts business, ensuring that policies are followed by PHA staff and ensuring that the PHA is successful in its mission. The board is responsible for preserving and expanding the agency's resources and assuring the agency's continued viability.

Formal actions of the PHA are taken through written resolutions, adopted by the board of directors and entered into the official records of the PHA.

The principal staff member of the PHA is the executive director (ED). The executive director is directly responsible for carrying out the policies established by the directors and is delegated the responsibility for hiring, training and supervising the remainder of the PHA's staff in order to manage the day-to-day operations of the PHA to ensure compliance with federal and state laws and directives for the programs managed.. In addition, the executive director's duties include budgeting and financial planning for the agency.

IHCDA Organization

IHCDA's jurisdiction lies in the geographical areas of the state that are not covered by a municipal or a county housing agency, which includes part or all of 80 counties in Indiana.

Through the Community Services Department, a department of the IHCDA, the agency contracts with Local Subcontracting Agencies (LSAs) to dispense program services which act as the IHCDA's Representatives.

In addition, the IHCDA may also have memoranda of agreement with any of the other 63 municipal and county PHAs across the State in order to provide better continuity of local service for the families it serves.

The IHCDA operates the Housing Choice Voucher Program under state authority granted in Indiana Code at I.C. § 4-4-33-1, 5-20-1, et. seq.

The IHCDA is a Public Housing Authority (PHA) and satisfies the statutory definition of a PHA that has been set forth in 24 CFR 982.51. The HCVP legal jurisdiction of the IHCDA is all areas in the State of Indiana not under the jurisdiction of another PHA. As a matter of policy and recognizing the need for housing of very low-income families throughout the state, IHCDA may enter cooperation agreements, as authorized under I.C. § 36-7-18-42, with other PHAs to share all or part of the other PHA's jurisdiction.

To make sure these vouchers are fully utilized throughout the state of Indiana, IHCDA enters a memorandum of understanding with the public housing authority (PHA) when Mainstream eligible families seek to reside within the jurisdiction of another PHA. By this means, IHCDA shares jurisdiction with the other for purposes of the Mainstream Voucher Program.

Under the direction of the IHCDA Board of Directors and the Executive Director of the IHCDA, the Community Services Department's Section 8 staff administers the HCVP's day-to-day operations through LSA's contracted to implement the program. The staffing information contained in this section includes only those positions directly responsible for the HCVP on a state level.

IHCDA Staff:

**Executive Director**

The Executive Director of the IHCDA serves as the director of the HCVP.

**Community Services Director**

The Community Services Director (CSD) is responsible for contracting with the Local Subcontracting Agencies for delivery of the program services and fiscal year accountability. The CSD is also responsible for the overall coordination of the HCVP and the development of necessary agreements between participating local agencies and for other professional services. In addition, the CSD will establish and maintain effective contact with groups or individuals representing program-related interests, is responsible for the general program management and developing policy and procedures under the direction of the Executive Director.

The CSD is to ensure that the HCVP meets all federal regulatory requirements.

**Section 8 HCVP Manager**

The Section 8 HCVP Manager monitors the overall day to day operations of the HCVP. The Manager develops and implements program materials and systems and disseminates information to the LSAs and HCVP staff, supervises IHCDA Section 8 Representatives and other HCVP staff, and develops training sessions for the LSAs in the regulatory requirements that accompany agency responsibilities. The Section 8 HCVP Manager is responsible for programmatic monitoring of the LSAs in HCVP compliance and Housing Quality Standards. The Section 8 HCVP Manager is responsible for the quality of Form HUD-50058 submission and filing monthly Voucher Management System (VMS) reports and other required reports. Finally, the Section 8 HCVP Manager is responsible for approving all HAP and HCVP claims submitted by the Local Subcontracting Agencies to IHCDA and monitoring the program funding.

## Section 8 Representatives

Section 8 Representatives (S8R) perform the day-to-day operations for areas not covered by a LSA, provide technical assistance, manage all portability functions, monitor ACC funds and disbursements to the Local Subcontracting Agencies for payment of HAP and UAP to appropriate landlords and participants of the program.

Local Subcontracting Agencies (LSAs)

IHCDA contracts local subcontracting agencies to dispense HCVP program services on its behalf. LSAs must comply with the IHCDA Administrative Plan, policies, notices, guidance, performance standards, and direction set forth by IHCDA for the purposes of administering the HCVP.

LSA activities include (but are not limited to):

Maintaining waiting lists for designated counties

Proper selection from the waiting list

Initial certification for program eligibility

Conducting client and landlord briefings

Issuing vouchers

All lease up activities (including rent reasonableness)

Conducting HQS Inspections (including follow up, abatement, and termination)

Annual and interim recertifications

Conducting informal reviews and hearings

Providing notifications to applicants, participants, landlords, IHCDA

Maintaining applicant and participant files (active and inactive)

Submitting Quarterly Quality Review Reports

Submitting all other relevant and required reports

Program compliance
Promoting landlord outreach

IHCDA retains responsibility for all activities regarding the overall program funding activities, reporting, determining payment standards and utility allowances, setting policy and procedures, PIC submissions, overall program monitoring, etc.

1-I.C. PHA MISSION

The purpose of a mission statement is to communicate the purpose of the agency to people inside and outside of the agency. It provides guiding direction for developing strategy, defining critical success factors, searching out key opportunities, making resource allocation choices, satisfying clients and stakeholders, and making decisions.

IHCDA Policy

All Hoosiers should have the opportunity to live in safe, decent, affordable housing in economically stable communities. IHCDA helps build strong communities by providing financial resources and assistance to qualified partners throughout the State of Indiana in their development efforts. A primary focus of IHCDA is providing a continuum of housing from homelessness to homeownership, with a focus on low to moderate income Hoosiers..

1-I.D. THE PHA'S PROGRAMS

The following programs are included under this administrative plan:

IHCDA Policy

The IHCDA's administrative plan is applicable to the operation of the Housing Choice Voucher program, including HCV funded project-based vouchers.

Upon implementation of the HCV homeownership program, these policies will also apply.

Upon award of VASH vouchers or other targeted funding, these policies will also apply.

1-I.E. THE PHA'S COMMITMENT TO ETHICS AND SERVICE

As a public service agency, the PHA is committed to providing excellent service to HCV program participants – families and owners – in the community. The PHA's standards include:

Administer applicable federal and state laws and regulations to achieve high ratings in compliance measurement indicators while maintaining efficiency in program operation to ensure fair and consistent treatment of clients served.

Provide decent, safe, and sanitary housing – in compliance with program housing quality standards – for very low income families while ensuring that family rents are fair, reasonable, and affordable.

Encourage self sufficiency of participant families and assist in the expansion of family opportunities which address educational, socio-economic, recreational and other human services needs.

Promote fair housing and the opportunity for very low-income families of all ethnic backgrounds to experience freedom of housing choice.

Promote a housing program which maintains quality service and integrity while providing an incentive to private property owners to rent to very low-income families.

Promote a market-driven housing program that will help qualified low-income families be successful in obtaining affordable housing and increase the supply of housing choices for such families.

Create positive public awareness and expand the level of family, owner, and community support in accomplishing the PHA's mission.

Attain and maintain a high level of standards and professionalism in day-to-day management of all program components.

Administer an efficient, high-performing agency through continuous improvement of the PHA's support systems and commitment to our employees and their development.

The PHA will make every effort to keep program participants informed of HCV program rules and regulations, and to advise participants of how the program rules affect them.

IHCDA HCVP Administrative Plan: Chapter 16: PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## PART II: SETTING PROGRAM STANDARDS AND SCHEDULES

### 16-II.A. OVERVIEW

Although many of the program's requirements are established centrally by HUD, the HCV program's regulations recognize that some flexibility is required to allow the PHA to adapt the program to local conditions. This part discusses how the PHA establishes and updates certain schedules and standards that are used to administer the program locally. Details about how these schedules are applied to individual families are provided in other chapters. The schedules and standards discussed here include:

*Payment Standards*, which dictate the maximum subsidy a family can receive (application of the payment standards is discussed in Chapter 6); and

*Utility Allowances*, which specify how a family's payment should be adjusted to account for tenant-paid utilities (application of utility allowances is discussed in Chapter 6).

IHCDA Policy

Copies of the payment standard and utility allowance schedules are available for review on IHCDA's website.

IHCDA will maintain documentation to support its annual review of payment standards and utility allowance schedules. This documentation will be retained for at least 10 years.

Updating Payment Standards

When HUD updates its FMRs, the PHA must update its payment standards if the standards are no longer within the basic range [24 CFR 982.503(b)]. HUD may require the PHA to make further adjustments if it determines that rent burdens for assisted families in the PHA's jurisdiction are unacceptably high 24 CFR 982.503(g)].

IHCDA Policy

IHCDA will review the appropriateness of the payment standards on an annual basis when the new FMR is published. In addition to ensuring the payment standards are always within the "basic range" IHCDA may consider the following factors when determining whether an adjustment should be made to the payment standard schedule:

Funding Availability: IHCDA will review the budget to determine the impact projected subsidy adjustments will have on funding available for the program and the number of families served. IHCDA will compare the number of families who could be served under revised payment standard amounts with the number assisted under current payment standard amounts.

Rent Burden of Participating Families: Rent burden will be determined by identifying the percentage of families, for each unit size, that are paying more than 30 percent of their monthly adjusted income as the family share. When 40 percent or more of families, for any given unit size, are paying more than 30 percent of

adjusted monthly income as the family share, IHCDA will consider increasing the payment standard. In evaluating rent burdens, IHCDA will not include families renting a larger unit than their family unit size.

Quality of Units Selected: IHCDA may review the quality of units selected by participant families when making the determination of the percent of income families are paying for housing, to ensure that payment standard increases are only made when needed to reach the mid-range of the market.

Changes in Rent to Owner: IHCDA may review a sample of the units to determine how often owners are increasing or decreasing rents and the average percent of increases/decreases by bedroom size.

Unit Availability: IHCDA may review the availability of units for each unit size, particularly in areas with low concentrations of poor and minority families.

Lease-up Time and Success Rate: IHCDA may consider the percentage of families that are unable to locate suitable housing before the voucher expires and whether families are leaving the jurisdiction to find affordable housing.

Changes to payment standard amounts will typically be effective on November 1st of every year. However, the PHA may adjust its payment standards for any or all bedroom sizes at any time during the year in order to meet agency and/or community needs.

Exception Payment Standards [982.503(c)]

The PHA must request HUD approval to establish payment standards that are higher than the basic range. At HUD's sole discretion, HUD may approve a payment standard amount that is higher than the basic range for a designated part of the FMR area. HUD may approve an exception payment standard amount (in accordance with program requirements) for all units, or for all units of a given size, leased by program families in the exception area. Any PHA with jurisdiction in the exception area may use the HUD-approved exception payment standard amount. The total population of all HUD-approved exception areas in an FMR area may not include more than 50 percent of the population of the FMR area.

Unit-by-Unit Exceptions [24 CFR 982.503(c)(2)(ii)]

Unit-by-unit exceptions to the PHA's payment standards generally are not permitted. However, an exception may be made as a reasonable accommodation for a family that includes a person with disabilities. (See Chapter 2 for a discussion of reasonable accommodations.) This type of exception does not affect the PHA's payment standard schedule.

When needed as a reasonable accommodation, the PHA may make an exception to the payment standard without HUD approval if the exception amount does not exceed 110 percent of the applicable FMR for the unit size [HCV GB 7-9]. The PHA may request HUD approval for an exception to the payment standard for a particular family if the required amount exceeds 110 percent of the FMR.

IHCDA Policy

A family that requires a reasonable accommodation may request a higher payment standard at the time the Request for Tenancy Approval (RFTA) is submitted. The family must document the need for the exception. In order to approve an exception, or request an exception from HUD, IHCDA must determine that:

There is a shortage of affordable units that would be appropriate for the family;

The family's TTP would otherwise exceed 40 percent of adjusted monthly income; and

The rent for the unit is reasonable.

"Success Rate" Payment Standard Amounts [24 CFR 982.503(e)]

If a substantial percentage of families have difficulty finding a suitable unit, the PHA may request a "success rate payment standard" that applies to the entire jurisdiction. If approved by HUD, a success rate payment standard allows the PHA to set its payment standards at 90-110 percent of a higher FMR (the 50$^{th}$, rather than the 40$^{th}$ percentile FMR). To support the request, the PHA must demonstrate that during the most recent 6-month period for which information is available:

Fewer than 75 percent of families who were issued vouchers became participants;
The PHA had established payment standards for all unit sizes, and for the entire jurisdiction, at 110 percent of the published FMR; and
The PHA had a policy of allowing voucher holders who made sustained efforts to locate units at least 90 days to search for a unit.

Although HUD approves the success rate payment standard for all unit sizes in the FMR area, the PHA may choose to adjust the payment standard for only some unit sizes in all, or a designated part, of the PHA's jurisdiction within the FMR area.

Decreases in the Payment Standard Below the Basic Range [24 CFR 982.503(d)]

The PHA must request HUD approval to establish a payment standard amount that is lower than the basic range. At HUD's sole discretion, HUD may approve establishment of a payment standard lower than the basic range. HUD will not approve a lower payment standard if the family share for more than 40 percent of program participants exceeds 30 percent of adjusted monthly income.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Air Conditioning

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

IHCDA Policy

IHCDA has included an allowance for air-conditioning in its schedule. Central air-conditioning or a portable air conditioner must be present in a unit before IHCDA will apply this allowance to a family's rent and subsidy calculations.

Reasonable Accommodation

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

Utility Allowance Revisions

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

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

*5. GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES*

IHCDA Administrative Plan Chapter 16 PART III: INFORMAL REVIEWS AND HEARINGS

16-III.A. OVERVIEW

When the PHA makes a decision that has a negative impact on a family, the family is often entitled to appeal the decision. For applicants, the appeal takes the form of an informal review; for participants, or for applicants denied admission because of citizenship issues, the appeal takes the form of an informal hearing.

PHAs are required to include in their administrative plans, informal review procedures for applicants, and informal hearing procedures for participants [24 CFR 982.54(d)(12) and (13)].

16-III.B. INFORMAL REVIEWS

Informal reviews are provided for program applicants. An applicant is someone who has applied for admission to the program, but is not yet a participant in the program. Informal reviews are intended to provide a "minimum hearing requirement" [24 CFR 982.554], and need not be as elaborate as the informal hearing requirements. (Federal Register Volume 60, No. 127, p 36490).

Decisions Subject to Informal Review

The PHA must give an applicant the opportunity for an informal review of a decision denying assistance [24 CFR 982.554(a)]. Denial of assistance may include any or all of the following [24 CFR 982.552(a)(2)]:
Denying listing on the PHA waiting list
Denying or withdrawing a voucher
Refusing to enter into a HAP contract or approve a lease
Refusing to process or provide assistance under portability procedures
Denial of assistance based on an unfavorable history that may be the result of domestic violence, dating violence or stalking. (See Section 3-III.G.)

Informal reviews are *not* required for the following reasons [24 CFR 982.554(c)]:
Discretionary administrative determinations by the PHA
General policy issues or class grievances
A determination of the family unit size under the PHA subsidy standards
A PHA determination not to grant approval of the tenancy
A PHA determination that the unit is not in compliance with the HQS
A PHA determination that the unit is not in accordance with the HQS due to family size or composition
A PHA determination not to approve an extension or suspension of a voucher term

IHCDA Policy

IHCDA will only offer an informal review to applicants for whom assistance is being denied. Denial of assistance includes: denying listing on IHCDA's waiting list; denying or withdrawing a voucher; refusing to enter into a HAP contract or approve a lease; refusing to process or provide assistance under portability procedures.

Notice to the Applicant [24 CFR 982.554(a)]

The PHA must give an applicant prompt notice of a decision denying assistance. The notice must contain a brief statement of the reasons for the PHA decision, and must also state that the applicant may request an informal review of the decision. The notice must describe how to obtain the informal review.

Scheduling an Informal Review

IHCDA Policy

A request for an informal review must be made in writing and delivered to IHCDA either in person or by first class mail, by the close of the business day, no later than 15 calendar days from the date of the IHCDA's denial of assistance.

Except as provided in Section 3-III.G, IHCDA must schedule and send written notice of the informal review within 10 business days of the family's request.

Informal Review Procedures [24 CFR 982.554(b)]

IHCDA Policy

The informal review must be conducted by a person other than the one who made or approved the decision under review, or a subordinate of this person.

The applicant must be provided an opportunity to present written or oral objections to the decision of IHCDA.

The person conducting the review will make a recommendation to IHCDA, but IHCDA is responsible for making the final decision as to whether assistance should be granted or denied.

Informal Review Decision [24 CFR 982.554(b)]

The PHA must notify the applicant of the PHA's final decision, including a brief statement of the reasons for the final decision.

IHCDA Policy

In rendering a decision, IHCDA will evaluate the following matters:

Whether or not the grounds for denial were stated factually in the Notice.

The validity of grounds for denial of assistance. If the grounds for denial are not specified in HUD regulations or in agency policy, then the decision to deny assistance will be overturned.

The validity of the evidence. IHCDA will evaluate whether the facts presented prove the grounds for denial of assistance. If the facts prove that there are grounds for denial, and the denial is required by HUD or agency policy, IHCDA will uphold the decision to deny assistance.

If the facts prove the grounds for denial, and the denial is discretionary, IHCDA will consider the recommendation of the person conducting the informal review in making the final decision whether to deny assistance.

IHCDA will notify the applicant of the final decision, including a statement explaining the reason(s) for the decision. The notice will be mailed within 10 business days of the informal review, to the applicant and his or her representative, if any, along with proof of mailing.

Notification to the applicant of the final decision must be signed by the LSA's Hearing Officer and Executive Director, or their designee.

If the decision to deny is overturned as a result of the informal review, processing for admission will resume.

If the family fails to appear for their informal review, the denial of admission will stand and the family will be so notified.

## 16-III.C. INFORMAL HEARINGS FOR PARTICIPANTS [24 CFR 982.555, Pub.L. 109-162]

PHAs must offer an informal hearing for certain PHA determinations relating to the individual circumstances of a participant family. A participant is defined as a family that has been admitted to the PHA's HCV program and is currently assisted in the program. The purpose of the informal hearing is to consider whether the PHA's decisions related to the family's circumstances are in accordance with the law, HUD regulations and PHA policies.

The PHA is not permitted to terminate a family's assistance until the time allowed for the family to request an informal hearing has elapsed, and any requested hearing has been completed. Termination of assistance for a participant may include any or all of the following:

Refusing to enter into a HAP contract or approve a lease
Terminating housing assistance payments under an outstanding HAP contract
Refusing to process or provide assistance under portability procedures

Decisions Subject to Informal Hearing

Circumstances for which the PHA must give a participant family an opportunity for an informal hearing are as follows:

A determination of the family's annual or adjusted income, and the use of such income to compute the housing assistance payment

A determination of the appropriate utility allowance (if any) for tenant-paid utilities from the PHA utility allowance schedule
A determination of the family unit size under the PHA's subsidy standards
A determination that a certificate program family is residing in a unit with a larger number of bedrooms than appropriate for the family unit size under the PHA's subsidy standards, or the PHA determination to deny the family's request for exception from the standards
A determination to terminate assistance for a participant family because of the family's actions or failure to act
A determination to terminate assistance because the participant has been absent from the assisted unit for longer than the maximum period permitted under PHA policy and HUD rules
A determination to terminate a family's Family Self Sufficiency contract, withhold supportive services, or propose forfeiture of the family's escrow account [24 CFR 984.303(i)]
A determination to deny admission based on an unfavorable history that may be the result of domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking.

Circumstances for which an informal hearing is not required are as follows:
Discretionary administrative determinations by the PHA
General policy issues or class grievances
Establishment of the PHA schedule of utility allowances for families in the program
A PHA determination not to approve an extension or suspension of a voucher term
A PHA determination not to approve a unit or tenancy
A PHA determination that a unit selected by the applicant is not in compliance with the HQS
A PHA determination that the unit is not in accordance with HQS because of family size
A determination by the PHA to exercise or not to exercise any right or remedy against an owner under a HAP contract

IHCDA Policy

IHCDA will only offer participants the opportunity for an informal hearing when required to by the regulations.

Informal Hearing Procedures

*Notice to the Family* [24 CFR 982.555(c)]

When the PHA makes a decision that is subject to informal hearing procedures, the PHA must inform the family of its right to an informal hearing at the same time that it informs the family of the decision.

For decisions related to the family's annual or adjusted income, the determination of the appropriate utility allowance, and the determination of the family unit size, the PHA must notify the family that they may ask for an explanation of the basis of the determination, and that if they do not agree with the decision, they may request an informal hearing on the decision.

For decisions related to the termination of the family's assistance, or the denial of a family's request for an exception to the PHA's subsidy standards, the notice must contain a brief statement of the reasons for the decision, a statement that if the family does not agree with the decision, the family may request an informal hearing on the decision, and a statement of the deadline for the family to request an informal hearing.

IHCDA Policy

In cases where IHCDA makes a decision for which an informal hearing must be offered, the notice to the family will include all of the following:

The proposed action or decision of IHCDA.

A brief statement of the reasons for the decision including the regulatory reference.

The date the proposed action will take place.

A statement of the family's right to an explanation of the basis for IHCDA's decision.

A statement that if the family does not agree with the decision the family may request an informal hearing of the decision.

A deadline for the family to request the informal hearing.

To whom the hearing request should be addressed.

A copy of the IHCDA's hearing procedures.

Scheduling an Informal Hearing [24 CFR 982.555(d)]

When an informal hearing is required, the PHA must proceed with the hearing in a reasonably expeditious manner upon the request of the family.

IHCDA Policy

A request for an informal hearing must be made in writing and delivered to the LSA either in person or by first class mail, by the close of the business day, no later than 15 calendar days from the date of IHCDA's decision or notice to terminate assistance.

IHCDA must schedule and send written notice of the informal hearing to the family within 10 business days of the family's request. The written notice sent to the family scheduling the location, time and date of the hearing will also inform the family of their hearing discovery rights, and request a copy of all documents that the participant intends to present or utilize at the hearing. The letter will further inform the family that they must make the documents available no later than 12:00 pm on the business day prior to the scheduled hearing date or the documents might not be allowed to be presented at the hearing.

The family may request to reschedule a hearing for good cause, or if it is needed as a reasonable accommodation for a person with disabilities. Good cause is defined as an unavoidable conflict which seriously affects the health, safety or welfare of the family. Requests to reschedule a hearing must be made orally or in writing prior to the hearing date. At its discretion, IHCDA may request documentation of the "good cause" prior to rescheduling the hearing.

If the family does not appear at the scheduled time, and was unable to reschedule the hearing in advance due to the nature of the conflict, the family must contact IHCDA within 24 hours of the scheduled hearing date,

excluding weekends and holidays. IHCDA will reschedule the hearing only if the family can show good cause for the failure to appear, or if it is needed as a reasonable accommodation for a person with disabilities.

Pre-Hearing Right to Discovery [24 CFR 982.555(e)]

Participants and the PHA are permitted pre-hearing discovery rights. The family must be given the opportunity to examine before the hearing any PHA documents that are directly relevant to the hearing. The family must be allowed to copy any such documents at their own expense. If the PHA does not make the document available for examination on request of the family, the PHA may not rely on the document at the hearing.

The PHA hearing procedures may provide that the PHA must be given the opportunity to examine at the PHA offices before the 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.

For the purpose of informal hearings, *documents* include records and regulations.

IHCDA Policy

The family will be allowed to copy any documents related to the hearing at a cost of $.25 per page. The family must request discovery of IHCDA documents no later than 12:00 p.m. on the business day prior to the scheduled hearing date

IHCDA must be given an opportunity to examine at IHCDA offices before the hearing any family documents that are directly relevant to the hearing. Whenever a participant requests an informal hearing, IHCDA will include in the scheduling letter a request for a copy of all documents that the participant intends to present or utilize at the hearing. The participant must make the documents available no later than 12:00 pm on the business day prior to the scheduled hearing date or the documents might not be allowed to be presented at the hearing.

Participant's Right to Bring Counsel [24 CFR 982.555(e)(3)]

At its own expense, the family may be represented by a lawyer or other representative at the informal hearing.

Informal Hearing Officer [24 CFR 982.555(e)(4)]

Informal hearings will be conducted by a person or persons approved by the PHA, other than the person who made or approved the decision or a subordinate of the person who made or approved the decision.

IHCDA Policy

LSAs designate qualified, knowledgeable professionals to serve as hearing officers for their locality.

Attendance at the Informal Hearing

IHCDA Policy

Hearings may be attended by a hearing officer and the following applicable persons:

An LSA representative(s) and any witnesses for the LSA

The participant and any witnesses for the participant

The participant's counsel or other representative

Any other person approved by IHCDA as a reasonable accommodation for a person with a disability

Representation and Interpretive Services

The family is entitled to be represented by an attorney or other designee, at the family's expense, and to have such person make statements on the family's behalf.

The family is entitled to arrange for an interpreter to attend the hearing, at the expense of the family, or the PHA, as may be agreed upon by the two parties.

Recording of the Hearing

The family is entitled to have the hearing recorded by audiotape. The PHA may, but is not required to provide a transcript of the hearing.

IHCDA Policy

The family shall be entitled to have the hearing recorded by audiotape (a transcript of the hearing may, but is not required to be provided by the LSA).

Conduct at Hearings

The person who conducts the hearing may regulate the conduct of the hearing in accordance with the PHA's hearing procedures [24 CFR 982.555(4)(ii)].

IHCDA Policy

The hearing officer is responsible to manage the order of business and to ensure that hearings are conducted in a professional and businesslike manner. Attendees are expected to comply with all hearing procedures established by the hearing officer and guidelines for conduct. Any person demonstrating disruptive, abusive or otherwise inappropriate behavior will be excused from the hearing at the discretion of the hearing officer.

*Evidence* [24 CFR 982.555(e)(5)]

The PHA and the family must be given the opportunity to present evidence and question any witnesses. In general, all evidence is admissible at an informal hearing. Evidence may be considered without regard to admissibility under the rules of evidence applicable to judicial proceedings.

IHCDA Policy

Any evidence to be considered by the hearing officer **must be presented <u>at the time of the hearing</u>.** There are four categories of evidence.

Oral evidence: the testimony of witnesses

Documentary evidence: a writing which is relevant to the case. Writings include all forms of recorded communication or representation, including letters, words, pictures, sounds, videotapes or symbols or combinations thereof.

Demonstrative evidence: Evidence created specifically for the hearing and presented as an illustrative aid to assist the hearing officer, such as a model, a chart or other diagram.

Real evidence: A tangible item relating directly to the case.

*Hearsay Evidence* is evidence of a statement that was made other than by a witness while testifying at the hearing and that is offered to prove the truth of the matter. Even though evidence, including hearsay, is generally admissible, hearsay evidence alone cannot be used as the sole basis for the hearing officer's decision.

If either the PHA or the family fail to comply with the discovery requirements described above, the hearing officer will refuse to admit such evidence.

Other than the failure of a party to comply with discovery, the hearing officer has the authority to overrule any objections to evidence.

Hearing Officer's Decision [24 CFR 982.555(e)(6)]

The person who conducts the hearing must issue a written decision, stating briefly the reasons for the decision. Factual determinations relating to the individual circumstances of the family must be based on a preponderance of evidence presented at the hearing. A copy of the hearing must be furnished promptly to the family.

IHCDA Policy

In rendering a decision, the hearing officer will consider the following matters:

IHCDA Notice to the Family: The hearing officer will determine if the reasons for IHCDA's decision are factually stated in the Notice.

Discovery: The hearing officer will determine if IHCDA and the family were given the opportunity to examine any relevant documents in accordance with IHCDA policy.

IHCDA Evidence to Support the Decision: The evidence consists of the facts presented. Evidence is not conclusion and it is not argument. The hearing officer will evaluate the facts to determine if they support the IHCDA's conclusion.

Validity of Grounds for Termination of Assistance (when applicable): The hearing officer will determine if the termination of assistance is for one of the grounds specified in the HUD regulations and IHCDA policies. If the grounds for termination are not specified in the regulations or in compliance with IHCDA policies, then the decision of IHCDA will be overturned.

The hearing officer will issue a written decision to the family and IHCDA no later than 10 business days after the hearing. The report will contain the following information:

Hearing information:

Name of the participant;

Date, time and place of the hearing;

Name of the hearing officer;

Name of the IHCDA representative; and

Name of family representative (if any).

Background: A brief, impartial statement of the reason for the hearing.

Summary of the Evidence: The hearing officer will summarize the testimony of each witness and identify any documents that a witness produced in support of his/her testimony and that were admitted into evidence.

Findings of Fact: The hearing officer will include all findings of fact, based on a preponderance of the evidence. *Preponderance of the evidence* is defined as evidence which is of greater weight or more convincing than the evidence which is offered in opposition to it; that is, evidence which as a whole shows that the fact sought to be proved is more probable than not. Preponderance of the evidence may not be determined by the number of witnesses, but by the greater weight of all evidence.

Conclusions: The hearing officer will render a conclusion derived from the facts that were found to be true by a preponderance of the evidence. The conclusion will result in a determination of whether these facts uphold the PHA's decision.

Order: The hearing report will include a statement of whether the IHCDA's decision is upheld or overturned. If it is overturned, the hearing officer will instruct IHCDA to change the decision in accordance with the hearing officer's determination. In the case of termination of assistance, the hearing officer will instruct IHCDA to restore the participant's program status.

Procedures for Further Hearing

IHCDA Policy

The hearing officer may ask the family for additional information and/or might adjourn the hearing in order to reconvene at a later date, before reaching a decision. If the family misses an appointment or deadline ordered by the hearing officer, the IHCDA's action will take effect and another hearing will not be granted.

PHA Notice of Final Decision [24 CFR 982.555(f)]

The PHA is not bound by the decision of the hearing officer for matters in which the PHA is not required to provide an opportunity for a hearing, decisions that exceed the authority of the hearing officer, decisions that conflict with or contradict HUD regulations, requirements, or are otherwise contrary to Federal, State or local laws.

If the PHA determines it is not bound by the hearing officer's decision in accordance with HUD regulations, the PHA must promptly notify the family of the determination and the reason for the determination.

IHCDA Policy

The Hearing Officer will mail a "Notice of Final Decision" including the hearing officer's report, to the LSA, and to the participant and their representative. This Notice will be sent by first-class mail, postage pre-paid with an affidavit of mailing enclosed.

A copy of the "Notice of Final Decision" along with the original proof mailing will be maintained in IHCDA's file.

Procedures for IHCDA Review

IHCDA Policy

In addition, within 10 business days after the date the hearing officer's report is mailed to LSA and the participant, LSA or the participant may request an IHCDA review. Such request must be made in writing and postmarked or hand-delivered to IHCDA [Attn: Hearing Officer, 30 S. Meridian St, Indianapolis, IN 46204] and to the other party within the 10 business day period. The request must demonstrate cause, supported by specific references to the hearing officer's report, why the request should be granted. IHCDA will only conduct a review for purposes of determining if the decision:

Concerns a matter for which the LSA is not required to provide an opportunity for an Informal Hearing;

Concerns a matter that exceeds the authority of the Hearing Office under the LSA hearing procedures; or

Is contrary to HUD regulations or requirements, or otherwise contrary to Federal, State, or local law.

IHCDA will not review new evidence. It will only examine the evidence that was originally submitted to the Hearing Officer and the hearing decision.

It shall be within the sole discretion of IHCDA to grant or deny the request for IHCDA review.

Final Agency Action

IHCDA Policy

The IHCDA's review will be concluded within 30 calendar days of receipt of the appeal.

The review may result in the Hearing Officer's decision being upheld, reversed, or returned to the LSA with instructions for further action. After completing its review, the IHCDA will notify all parties in writing.

The IHCDA's decision shall be the final agency action for all purposes.

16-III.D. HEARING AND APPEAL PROVISIONS FOR NON-CITIZENS [24 CFR 5.514]

Denial or termination of assistance based on immigration status is subject to special hearing and notice rules. Applicants who are denied assistance due to immigration status are entitled to an informal hearing, not an informal review.

Assistance to a family may not be delayed, denied, or terminated on the basis of immigration status at any time prior to a decision under the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) appeal process. Assistance to a family may not be terminated or denied while the PHA hearing is pending, but assistance to an applicant may be delayed pending the completion of the informal hearing.

A decision against a family member, issued in accordance with the USCIS appeal process or the PHA informal hearing process, does not preclude the family from exercising the right, that may otherwise be available, to seek redress directly through judicial procedures.

Notice of Denial or Termination of Assistance [24 CFR 5.514(d)]

As discussed in Chapters 3 and 11, the notice of denial or termination of assistance for noncitizens must advise the family:

That financial assistance will be denied or terminated, and provide a brief explanation of the reasons for the proposed denial or termination of assistance.
The family may be eligible for proration of assistance.
In the case of a participant, the criteria and procedures for obtaining relief under the provisions for preservation of families [24 CFR 5.514 and 5.518].
That the family has a right to request an appeal to the USCIS of the results of secondary verification of immigration status and to submit additional documentation or explanation in support of the appeal.
That the family has a right to request an informal hearing with the PHA either upon completion of the USCIS appeal or in lieu of the USCIS appeal.

For applicants, assistance may not be delayed until the conclusion of the USCIS appeal process, but assistance may be delayed during the period of the informal hearing process.

USCIS Appeal Process [24 CFR 5.514(e)]

When the PHA receives notification that the USCIS secondary verification failed to confirm eligible immigration status, the PHA must notify the family of the results of the USCIS verification. The family will have 30 days from the date of the notification to request an appeal of the USCIS results. The request for appeal must be made by the family in writing directly to the USCIS. The family must provide the PHA with a copy of the written request for appeal and the proof of mailing.

IHCDA Policy

IHCDA will notify the family in writing of the results of the USCIS secondary verification within 10 business days of receiving the results.

The family must provide the IHCDA with a copy of the written request for appeal and proof of mailing within 10 business days of sending the request to the USCIS.

The family must forward to the designated USCIS office any additional documentation or written explanation in support of the appeal. This material must include a copy of the USCIS document verification request (used to process the secondary request) or such other form specified by the USCIS, and a letter indicating that the family is requesting an appeal of the USCIS immigration status verification results.

The USCIS will notify the family, with a copy to the PHA, of its decision. When the USCIS notifies the PHA of the decision, the PHA must notify the family of its right to request an informal hearing.

IHCDA Policy

IHCDA will send written notice to the family of its right to request an informal hearing within 10 business days of receiving notice of the USCIS decision regarding the family's immigration status.

Informal Hearing Procedures for Applicants [24 CFR 5.514(f)]

After notification of the USCIS decision on appeal, or in lieu of an appeal to the USCIS, the family may request that the PHA provide a hearing. The request for a hearing must be made either within 30 days of receipt of the PHA notice of denial, or within 30 days of receipt of the USCIS appeal decision.

The informal hearing procedures for applicant families are described below.

Informal Hearing Officer

The PHA must provide an informal hearing before an impartial individual, other than a person who made or approved the decision under review, and other than a person who is a subordinate of the person who made or approved the decision. See Section 16-III.C. for a listing of positions that serve as informal hearing officers.

Evidence

The family must be provided the opportunity to examine and copy at the family's expense, at a reasonable time in advance of the hearing, any documents in the possession of the PHA pertaining to the family's eligibility status, or in the possession of the USCIS (as permitted by USCIS requirements), including any records and regulations that may be relevant to the hearing.

IHCDA Policy

The family will be allowed to copy any documents related to the hearing at a cost of $.25 per page. The family must request discovery of IHCDA documents no later than
12:00 p.m. on the business day prior to the hearing.

The family must be provided the opportunity to present evidence and arguments in support of eligible status. Evidence may be considered without regard to admissibility under the rules of evidence applicable to judicial proceedings.

The family must also be provided the opportunity to refute evidence relied upon by the PHA, and to confront and cross-examine all witnesses on whose testimony or information the PHA relies.

Representation and Interpretive Services

The family is entitled to be represented by an attorney or other designee, at the family's expense, and to have such person make statements on the family's behalf.

The family is entitled to arrange for an interpreter to attend the hearing, at the expense of the family, or the PHA, as may be agreed upon by the two parties.

Recording of the Hearing

The family is entitled to have the hearing recorded by audiotape. The PHA may, but is not required to provide a transcript of the hearing.

IHCDA Policy

The family shall be entitled to have the hearing recorded by audiotape (a transcript of the hearing may, but is not required to be provided by the LSA).

Hearing Decision

The PHA must provide the family with a written final decision, based solely on the facts presented at the hearing, within 14 calendar days of the date of the informal hearing. The decision must state the basis for the decision.

Informal Hearing Procedures for Residents [24 CFR 5.514(f)]

After notification of the USCIS decision on appeal, or in lieu of an appeal to the USCIS, the family may request that the PHA provide a hearing. The request for a hearing must be made either within 30 days of receipt of the PHA notice of termination, or within 30 days of receipt of the USCIS appeal decision.

For the informal hearing procedures that apply to participant families whose assistance is being terminated based on immigration status, see Section 16-III.C.

Retention of Documents [24 CFR 5.514(h)]

The PHA must retain for a minimum of 5 years the following documents that may have been submitted to the PHA by the family, or provided to the PHA as part of the USCIS appeal or the PHA informal hearing process:

The application for assistance
The form completed by the family for income reexamination
Photocopies of any original documents, including original USCIS documents
The signed verification consent form
The USCIS verification results
The request for a USCIS appeal
The final USCIS determination
The request for an informal hearing
The final informal hearing decision

*7. Family Self Sufficiency*

In an effort to improve the coordination of HCVP with public and private resources whichwill enable assissted families achieve economic self-sufficiency IHCDA will be redeveloping its FSS program which will include improved opportunities and resources for job training, counseling, education, employment, financial literacy, and homeownership readiness. The redevelopment will also include the establishment of a new PCC, Action Plan and other program policies. The program will remain voluntary and will be launched in 2-4 demonstration areas within the IN901 jurisdiction.

*11. Fiscal Year End Audit*

Available for review at IHCDA 30 S. Meridian St. Indianapolis, IN 46204

*13. Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)*

IHCDA HCVP Administrative Plan: Chapter 16 PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

PART IX: NOTIFICATION REGARDING APPLICABLE PROVISIONS OF THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2005 (VAWA)

The Violence against Women Reauthorization Act of 2005 (VAWA) requires PHAs to inform assisted tenants of their rights under this law, including their right to confidentiality and the limits thereof. Since VAWA provides protections for applicants as well as tenants, PHAs may elect to provide the same information to applicants. VAWA also requires PHAs to inform owners and managers of their obligations under this law [24 CFR 5.2007(3)].

This part describes the steps that the PHA will take to ensure that all actual and potential beneficiaries of its housing choice voucher program are notified about their rights and that owners and managers are notified of their obligations under VAWA.

IHCDA Policy

IHCDA will post the following information regarding VAWA in its offices and on its Web site. It will also make the information readily available to anyone who requests it.

- A summary of the rights and protections provided by VAWA to housing choice voucher program applicants and participants who are or have been victims of domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking (see sample notices in Exhibits 16-1 and 16-2)
- The definitions of *domestic violence*, *dating violence*, and *stalking* provided in VAWA (included in Exhibits 16-1 and 16-2)
- An explanation of the documentation that IHCDA may require from an individual who claims the protections provided by VAWA (included in Exhibits 16-1 and 16-2)
- A copy of form HUD-50066, Certification of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, or Stalking
- A statement of IHCDA's obligation to keep confidential any information that it receives from a victim unless (a) IHCDA has the victim's written permission to release the information, (b) it needs to use the information in an eviction proceeding, or (c) it is compelled by law to release the information (included in Exhibits 16-1 and 16-2)
- The National Domestic Violence Hot Line: 1-800-799-SAFE (7233) or 1-800-787-3224 (TTY) (included in Exhibits 16-1 and 16-2)
- Contact information for local victim advocacy groups or service providers

16-IX.A. NOTIFICATION TO PARTICIPANTS [24 CFR 5.2007(3)(i)]

VAWA requires PHAs to notify HCV program participants of their rights under this law, including their right to confidentiality and the limits thereof.

IHCDA Policy

IHCDA will provide all participants with notification of their protections and rights under VAWA at the time of admission and at annual reexamination.

The notice will explain the protections afforded under the law, inform the participant of IHCDA confidentiality requirements, and provide contact information for local victim advocacy groups or service providers.

IHCDA will also include in all assistance termination notices a statement explaining assistance termination protection provided by VAWA (see Section 12-II.E).

16-IX.B. NOTIFICATION TO APPLICANTS

IHCDA Policy

IHCDA will provide all applicants with notification of their protections and rights under VAWA at the time they request an application for housing assistance.

The notice will explain the protections afforded under the law, inform each applicant of IHCDA confidentiality requirements, and provide contact information for local victim advocacy groups or service providers.

IHCDA will also include in all notices of denial a statement explaining the protection against denial provided by VAWA (see section 3-III.G).

16-IX.C. NOTIFICATION TO OWNERS AND MANAGERS [24 CFR 5.2007(3)(ii)]

VAWA requires PHAs to notify owners and managers of their rights and responsibilities under this law.

IHCDA Policy

Inform property owners and managers of their screening and termination responsibilities related to VAWA. IHCDA may utilize any or all of the following means to notify owners of their VAWA responsibilities:

- As appropriate in day-to-day interactions with owners and managers.
- Inserts in HAP payments, 1099s, owner workshops, classes, orientations, and/or newsletters.
- Signs in all LSA lobbies and/or mass mailings which include model VAWA certification forms

EXHIBIT 16-1: SAMPLE NOTICE TO HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER APPLICANTS AND TENANTS REGARDING THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT (VAWA)

This sample notice was adapted from a notice prepared by the National Housing Law Project.

A federal law that went into effect in 2006 protects individuals who are victims of domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. The name of the law is the Violence against Women Act, or "VAWA." This notice explains your rights under VAWA.

Protections for Victims

If you are eligible for a Section 8 voucher, the housing authority cannot deny you rental assistance solely because you are a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking.

If you are the victim of domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking, you cannot be terminated from the Section 8 program or evicted based on acts or threats of violence committed against you. Also, criminal acts directly related to the domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking that are caused by a member of your

household or a guest can't be the reason for evicting you or terminating your rental assistance if you were the victim of the abuse.

Reasons You Can Be Evicted

You can be evicted and your rental assistance can be terminated if the housing authority or your landlord can show there is an *actual* and *imminent* (immediate) threat to other tenants or employees at the property if you remain in your housing. Also, you can be evicted and your rental assistance can be terminated for serious or repeated lease violations that are not related to the domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking committed against you. The housing authority and your landlord cannot hold you to a more demanding set of rules than it applies to tenants who are not victims.

Removing the Abuser from the Household

Your landlord may split the lease to evict a tenant who has committed criminal acts of violence against family members or others, while allowing the victim and other household members to stay in the assisted unit. Also, the housing authority can terminate the abuser's Section 8 rental assistance while allowing you to continue to receive assistance. If the landlord or housing authority chooses to remove the abuser, it may not take away the remaining tenants' rights to the unit or otherwise punish the remaining tenants. In removing the abuser from the household, your landlord must follow federal, state, and local eviction procedures.

Moving to Protect Your Safety

The housing authority may permit you to move and still keep your rental assistance, even if your current lease has not yet expired. The housing authority may require that you be current on your rent or other obligations in the housing choice voucher program. The housing authority may ask you to provide proof that you are moving because of incidences of abuse.

Proving that You Are a Victim of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, or Stalking

The housing authority and your landlord can ask you to prove or "certify" that you are a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking. The housing authority or your landlord must give you at least 14 business days (i.e. Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays do not count) to provide this proof. The housing authority and your landlord are free to extend the deadline. There are three ways you can prove that you are a victim:

Complete the certification form given to you by the housing authority or your landlord. The form will ask for your name, the name of your abuser, the abuser's relationship to you, the date, time, and location of the incident of violence, and a description of the violence.

Provide a statement from a victim service provider, attorney, or medical professional who has helped you address incidents of domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking. The professional must state that he or she believes that the incidents of abuse are real. Both you and the professional must sign the statement, and both of you must state that you are signing "under penalty of perjury."

Provide a police or court record, such as a protective order.

If you fail to provide one of these documents within the required time, the landlord may evict you, and the housing authority may terminate your rental assistance.

Confidentiality

The housing authority and your landlord must keep confidential any information you provide about the violence against you, unless:

You give written permission to the housing authority or your landlord to release the information.

Your landlord needs to use the information in an eviction proceeding, such as to evict your abuser.

A law requires the housing authority or your landlord to release the information.

If release of the information would put your safety at risk, you should inform the housing authority and your landlord.

VAWA and Other Laws

VAWA does not limit the housing authority's or your landlord's duty to honor court orders about access to or control of the property. This includes orders issued to protect a victim and orders dividing property among household members in cases where a family breaks up.

VAWA does not replace any federal, state, or local law that provides greater protection for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking.

For Additional Information

If you have any questions regarding VAWA, please contact _____ at _____.

For help and advice on escaping an abusive relationship, call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE (7233) or 1-800-787-3224 (TTY).

Definitions

For purposes of determining whether a tenant may be covered by VAWA, the following list of definitions applies:

VAWA defines *domestic violence* to include felony or misdemeanor crimes of violence committed by any of the following:

A current or former spouse of the victim

A person with whom the victim shares a child in common

A person who is cohabitating with or has cohabitated with the victim as a spouse

A person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction receiving grant monies

Any other person against an adult or youth victim who is protected from that person's acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction

VAWA defines *dating violence* as violence committed by a person (1) who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim AND (2) where the existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on a consideration of the following factors:

The length of the relationship

The type of relationship

The frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship

VAWA defines *stalking* as (A)(i) to follow, pursue, or repeatedly commit acts with the intent to kill, injure, harass, or intimidate another person OR (ii) to place under surveillance with the intent to kill, injure, harass, or intimidate another person AND (B) in the course of, or as a result of, such following, pursuit, surveillance, or repeatedly committed acts, to place a person in reasonable fear of the death of, or serious bodily injury to, or to cause substantial emotional harm to (i) that person, (ii) a member of the immediate family of that person, or (iii) the spouse or intimate partner of that person.

EXHIBIT 16-2: SAMPLE NOTICE TO HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER OWNERS AND MANAGERS REGARDING THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT (VAWA)

This sample notice was adapted from a notice prepared by the National Housing Law Project.

A federal law that went into effect in 2006 protects individuals who are victims of domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. The name of the law is the Violence against Women Act, or "VAWA." This notice explains your obligations under VAWA.

Protections for Victims

You cannot refuse to rent to an applicant solely because he or she is a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking.

You cannot evict a tenant who is the victim of domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking based on acts or threats of violence committed against the victim. Also, criminal acts directly related to the domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking that are caused by a household member or guest cannot be cause for evicting the victim of the abuse.

Permissible Evictions

You can evict a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking if you can demonstrate that there is an *actual* or *imminent* (immediate) threat to other tenants or employees at the property if the victim is not evicted. Also, you may evict a victim for serious or repeated lease violations that are not related to the domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking. You cannot hold a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking to a more demanding standard that tenants who are not victims.

Removing the Abuser from the Household

You may split the lease to evict a tenant who has committed criminal acts of violence against family members or others, while allowing the victim and other household members to stay in the unit. If you choose to remove the abuser, you may not take away the remaining tenants' rights to the unit or otherwise punish the remaining tenants. In removing the abuser from the household, you must follow federal, state, and local eviction procedures.

Certification of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, or Stalking

If a tenant asserts VAWA's protections, you can ask the tenant to certify that he or she is a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking. You are not required to demand official documentation and may rely upon the victim's statement alone. If you choose to request certification, you must do so in writing and give the tenant at least 14 business days to provide documentation. You are free to extend this deadline. A tenant can certify that he or she is a victim by providing any one of the following three documents:

By completing a HUD-approved certification form. The most recent form is HUD-50066. This form is available at the housing authority, or online at http://www.hud.gov/offices/adm/hudclips/.

By providing a statement from a victim service provider, attorney, or medical professional who has helped the victim address incidents of domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking. The professional must state that he or she believes that the incidents of abuse are real. Both the victim and the professional must sign the statement under penalty of perjury.

By providing a police or court record, such as a protective order.

If the tenant fails to provide one of these documents within 14 business days, you may evict the tenant if authorized by otherwise applicable law and lease provisions.

Confidentiality

You must keep confidential any information a tenant provides to certify that he or she is a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking. You cannot enter the information into a shared database or reveal it to outside entities unless:

The tenant provides written permission releasing the information.

The information is required for use in an eviction proceeding, such as to evict the abuser.

Release of the information is otherwise required by law.

The victim should inform you if the release of the information would put his or her safety at risk.

VAWA and Other Laws

VAWA does not limit your obligation to honor court orders regarding access to or control of the property. This includes orders issued to protect the victim and orders dividing property among household members in cases where a family breaks up.

VAWA does not replace any federal, state, or local law that provides greater protection for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking.

Additional Information

If you have any questions regarding VAWA, please contact _____.

HUD Notice PIH 2006-42 contains detailed information regarding VAWA's certification requirements. The notice is available at http://www.hud.gov/offices/adm/hudclips/.

An overview of VAWA's housing provisions is available at http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2007/pdf/E7-4795.pdf.

Definitions

For purposes of determining whether a tenant may be covered by VAWA, the following list of definitions applies:

VAWA defines *domestic violence* to include felony or misdemeanor crimes of violence committed by any of the following:

A current or former spouse of the victim

A person with whom the victim shares a child in common

A person who is cohabitating with or has cohabitated with the victim as a spouse

A person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction receiving grant monies

Any other person against an adult or youth victim who is protected from that person's acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction

VAWA defines *dating violence* as violence committed by a person (1) who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim AND (2) where the existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on a consideration of the following factors:

The length of the relationship

The type of relationship

The frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship

VAWA defines *stalking* as (A)(i) to follow, pursue, or repeatedly commit acts with the intent to kill, injure, harass, or intimidate another person OR (ii) to place under surveillance with the intent to kill, injure, harass, or intimidate another person AND (B) in the course of, or as a result of, such following, pursuit, surveillance, or repeatedly committed acts, to place a person in reasonable fear of the death of, or serious bodily injury to, or to cause substantial emotional harm to (i) that person, (ii) a member of the immediate family of that person, or (iii) the spouse or intimate partner of that person.

**7.0 Homeownership and Project-Base Vouchers**

*(d) Homeownership*

In conjunction with the redeveloped FSS program IHCDA will also reform its homeownership program. Families must participate in and sucessfully complete the FSS program in order to receive a homeownership voucher.

IHCDA will link resources which fall under its authority in an attempt to promote self-sufficiency, prepare and assist potential homebuyers with the purchase of a qualified home, and offer down payment assistance. Programs will be developed in conjuction with the HCVP,FSS, IHCDA Single Family,IDA and other programs, funds, and resources.

*(e) Project Base*

IHCDA will operate a project-base program using up to 20 percent of its budget authority for project-based assistance. IHCDA may project up an amount not to exceed 800 vouchers. IHCDA maintains a jurisdiction which encompasses the "balance of state". IHCDA will consider project base applications in areas which are conducive to satisfying the agencies mission of affording Hoosiers an opportunity to live in safe, decent,

affordable economically stable communities and IHCDA's commitment to help build strong communities by providing financial resources and assistance to qualified partners throughout the State of Indiana in their development efforts. Focusing primarily on providing a continuum of housing from homelessness to homeownership, with a broader focus on low to moderate income Hoosiers.

**10.0 Additional Information**

*(a) Progress in Meeting Goals*

IHCDA committed to 3 project base projects in FY2011. In February 2011 a HAP contract was executed for 16 Project Base units which will serve the seriouly mentally ill homeless population and is located in Hobart, Indiana. A HAP contract was executed for 30 Project Base units in September 2011 which will serve disabled homeless polpulation in Ft Wayne, Indiana. Both programs are conducive to IHCDA's goal to mission.

| PHA Certifications of Compliance with PHA Plans and Related Regulations | U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development<br>Office of Public and Indian Housing<br>OMB No. 2577-0226<br>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 ___ 5-Year and/or X Annual PHA Plan for the PHA fiscal year beginning* 01/2012 *, 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.

| Indiana Housing & Community Development Authority | IN901 |
|---|---|
| PHA Name | PHA Number/HA Code |

_____ 5-Year PHA Plan for Fiscal Years 20____ - 20____

X
_____ Annual PHA Plan for Fiscal Years 20^11____ - 20^12____

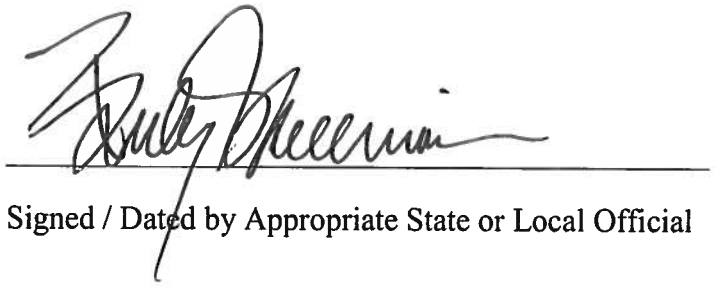
I hereby certify that all the information stated herein, as well as any information provided in the accompaniment herewith, is true and accurate. **Warning:** HUD will prosecute false claims and statements. Conviction may result in criminal and/or civil penalties. (18 U.S.C. 1001, 1010, 1012; 31 U.S.C.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

| Name of Authorized Official | Title |
|---|---|
| Becky Skillman | Board President |
| Signature | Date |
| | 10/04/2011 |

| Certification by State or Local Official of PHA Plans Consistency with the Consolidated Plan | U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development<br>Office of Public and Indian Housing<br>Expires 4/30/2011 |
|---|---|

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

I, Becky Skillman the Board President certify that the Five Year and Annual PHA Plan of the Indiana Housing & Community Development Authority is consistent with the Consolidated Plan of State of Indiana prepared pursuant to 24 CFR Part 91.



Signed / Dated by Appropriate State or Local Official

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

| Becky Skillman | IN901 |
|---|---|
| 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 | Becky Skillman | Title | Board President |
|---|---|---|---|
| Signature | Becky Skillman | Date | 10/04/2011 |