
Glossary

Accessible (FH Act) When used with respect to the public and common use areas of a building containing covered multifamily dwellings, means that the public or common use areas of the building can be approached, entered, and used by individuals with physical impairments (handicaps).¹ The phrase *readily accessible to*, and *usable by*, is synonymous with accessible. A public or common use area that complies with the appropriate requirements of *ICC/ANSI A117.1-2003, ICC/ANSI A117.1-1998, CABO/ANSI A117.1-1992,* ANSI A117.1-1986 or a comparable standard is accessible within the meaning of this paragraph. [24 CFR 100.201]

**Accessible
(Section 504)**

When used with respect to the design, construction, or alteration of a *facility or a portion of a facility other than an individual dwelling unit*, means that the facility or portion of the facility, when designed, constructed, or altered, can be approached, entered, and used by individuals with a physical impairment (handicaps).¹ The phrase *accessible to*, and *usable by*, is synonymous with accessible. [24 CFR 8.3]

Accessible, when used with respect to the design, construction, or alteration of an *individual dwelling unit*, means that the unit is located on an accessible route and when designed, constructed, altered or adapted can be approached, entered, and used by individuals with a physical impairment (handicaps).¹ A unit that is on an accessible route and is adaptable and otherwise in compliance with the standards set forth in 24 CFR 8.32 is accessible within the meaning of this paragraph. When a unit in an existing facility which is being made accessible as a result of alterations is intended for use by a specific qualified person with a disability (handicaps)¹ (e.g., a current occupant of such unit or of another unit under the control of the same recipient, or an applicant on a waiting list), the unit will be deemed accessible if it meets the requirements of applicable standards that address the particular disability or impairment of such person. [24 CFR 8.3]

**Accessible Route
(FH Act)**

A continuous unobstructed path connecting accessible elements and spaces in a building or within a site that can be negotiated by a person with a severe disability using a wheelchair and that is also safe for and usable by people with other disabilities. Interior accessible routes may include corridors, floors, ramps, elevators, and lifts. Exterior accessible routes may include parking access aisles, curb ramps, walks, ramps, and lifts. A route that complies with the appropriate requirements of *ICC/ANSI A117.1-2003, ICC/ANSI A117.1-1998, CABO/ANSI A117.1-1992,* ANSI A117.1-1986 or a comparable standard is an accessible route. [24 CFR 100.201]

**Accessible Route
(Section 504)**

A continuous unobstructed path connecting accessible elements and spaces in a building or facility that complies with the space and reach requirements of applicable standards prescribed by 24 CFR 8.32. An accessible route that serves only accessible units occupied by persons with hearing or vision impairments need not comply with those requirements intended to effect accessibility for persons with mobility impairments. [24 CFR 8.3]

**Adaptability
(Section 504)**

The ability of certain elements of a dwelling unit, such as kitchen counters, sinks, and grab bars, to be added to, raised, lowered, or otherwise altered, to accommodate the needs of persons with or without disabilities (handicaps),¹ or different types or degrees of disability. For example, in a unit adaptable for a hearing-impaired person, the wiring for visible emergency alarms may be installed, but the alarms need not be installed until such time as the unit is made ready for occupancy by a hearing-impaired person. [24 CFR 8.3]

Adjusted Income

Annual income (as determined by the owner) of the members of the family residing or intending to reside in the dwelling unit, after making the following deductions.

In determining adjusted income, the owner must deduct the following amounts from annual income:

1. \$480 for each dependent;
2. \$400 for any elderly family or disabled family;
3. The sum of the following, to the extent the sum exceeds 3% of annual income:
 - a. Unreimbursed reasonable medical expenses of any elderly family or disabled family; and

- b. Unreimbursed reasonable attendant care and auxiliary apparatus expenses for each member of the family who is a person with disabilities, to the extent necessary to enable any member of the family (including the member who is a person with disabilities) to be employed. This deduction may not exceed the earned income received by family members who are 18 years of age or older who are able to work because of such attendant care or auxiliary apparatus; and
4. Any reasonable child care expenses necessary to enable the family member to be employed or to further his or her education. *[24 CFR 5.611]*

Adult

An individual who is 18 years of age or older or a minor under the age of 18 who has been emancipated to act on his/her own behalf, including the ability to execute a contract or lease.

**Alteration
(Section 504)**

Any change in a facility or its permanent fixtures or equipment. It includes, but is not limited to, remodeling, renovation, rehabilitation, reconstruction, changes or rearrangements in structural parts, and extraordinary repairs. It does not include normal maintenance or repairs, reroofing, interior decoration, or changes to mechanical systems. *[24 CFR 8.3]*

Annual Income

All amounts, monetary or not, which:

1. Go to, or on behalf of, the family head or spouse [or co-head] (even if temporarily absent) or to any other family member; or
2. Are anticipated to be received from a source outside the family during the 12-month period following admission or annual re-examination effective date; and
3. Which are not specifically excluded [by regulation].

Annual income also means amounts derived (during the 12-month period) from assets to which any member of the family has access. *[24 CFR 5.609]*

Applicant

A person or a family that has applied for housing assistance. *[24 CFR 5.403]*

Application

A written request for occupancy in a subsidized housing unit that includes the information required to determine eligibility for assistance and suitability for tenancy. Owners generally develop a standardized form that is completed by the prospective applicant. The application must be signed and dated by the applicant and include the applicant's certification that the information provided is complete and accurate.

As-Paid Locality	A state, county or city whose public assistance program specifies an amount for shelter and utilities the family will receive, and adjusts the amount based upon the family's actual payment for shelter and utilities.
Assets	For more information on what is considered an asset and what is not an asset, see Exhibit 5-2.
Assistance Payment	The amount HUD pays the owner for a unit occupied by a Section 8, RAP, Rent Supplement, or PAC tenant. It includes HUD's share of the contract rent and any utility reimbursement due the tenant. It is the gross rent for the unit minus the Total Tenant Payment (TTP). The assistance payment for an occupied PRAC unit is the operating rent minus the TTP.
Assisted Rent	Any rent less than the market rent. Includes Section 236 rents that are greater than the basic rent.
Assisted Tenant	A tenant who pays less than the market rate. Includes tenants: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Receiving Rent Supplement, RAP, PAC, or Section 8 assistance;2. Living in a Section 202 PRAC or Section 811 PRAC development paying equal to or less than the operating rent;3. Living in a Section 202 PRAC or Section 811 PRAC development paying more than the operating rent, which generates excess income;4. Paying the BMIR contract rent;5. Paying the Section 236 basic rent; or6. Paying above basic rent, which generates excess income, but less than market rent, in a Section 236 project.
Assistance Animals	Assistance animals are *animals that are used to assist, support, or provide service to persons with disabilities. Assistance animals – often referred to as “service animals”, “assistive animals”, “support animals”, or “therapy animals” – perform many disability-related functions including but not limited to guiding individuals who are blind or have low vision, alerting individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing to sounds, providing minimal protection, or rescue assistance , pulling a wheelchair, fetching items, alerting persons to impending seizures, or providing emotional support to persons with disabilities who have a disability-related need for such support.*

**Auxiliary Aids
(Section 504)**

Services or devices that enable persons with impaired sensory, manual, or speaking skills to have an equal opportunity to participate in, and enjoy the benefits of, programs or activities receiving Federal financial assistance. For example, auxiliary aids for persons with impaired vision may include readers, Brailled materials, audio recordings, and other similar services and devices. Auxiliary aids for persons with impaired hearing may include telephone handset amplifiers, telephones compatible with hearing aids, telecommunications devices for deaf persons (TTYs), interpreters, note takers, written materials, and other similar services and devices. [24 CFR 8.3]

Basic Rent

The minimum rent all tenants in a Section 236 project must pay. It is HUD approved and represents the amount of rent the owner needs to receive in order to operate the property with the mortgage interest rate reduced to as low as 1%.

***Bifurcate**

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.*

Briefing

A meeting between the owner and the tenant prior to signing the lease during which the owner discusses various topics related to living in the unit. Topics include, but are not limited to, tenant rights, house rules, and lease terms.

**Chronically Mentally
III**

Use this definition for the Section 202 and Section 811 programs only.

An adult who has a chronic mental illness, i.e., if he or she has a severe and persistent mental or emotional impairment that seriously limits his or her ability to live independently (e.g., by limiting functional capacities relative to primary aspects of daily living such as personal relations, living arrangements, work, recreation, etc.), and whose impairment could be improved by more suitable housing conditions. See 24 CFR 891.305 and 891.505

Citizen

A citizen or national of the United States. [24 CFR 5.504] (See definition of National.)

Co-Head of Household

An adult member of the family who is treated the same as a head of the household for purposes of determining income, eligibility, and rent. (See paragraph 5.6 for explanation of *emancipated minor*.)

Common Household**Pet**

A domesticated animal, such as a dog, cat, bird, rodent (including a rabbit), fish, or turtle, that is traditionally kept in the home for pleasure rather than for commercial purposes. Common household pets do not include reptiles (except turtles). If this definition conflicts with any applicable State or local law or regulation defining the pets that may be owned or kept in dwelling accommodations, the State or local law or regulations shall apply. This definition does not include animals that are used to assist persons with disabilities. [24 CFR 5.306]

Contract**Rent**

The rent HUD or the Contract Administrator has approved for each unit type covered under an assistance contract. The rent may be paid by the tenant, HUD, or both. Refer to the project's rental schedule (form HUD-92458) or Rental Assistance contract for exact amounts.

Covered Person

A tenant, any member of the tenant's household, a guest, or another person under the tenant's control. [24 CFR 5.100]

Currently Engaging In

With respect to behavior such as illegal use of a drug, other drug-related criminal activity, or other criminal activity, *currently engaging in* means that the individual has engaged in the behavior recently enough to justify a reasonable belief that the individual's behavior is current. [24 CFR 5.853]

***Dating Violence**

Violence committed by a person: (A) who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim; and (B) where the existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on a consideration of the following factors: (i) the length of the relationship; (ii) the type of relationship; and (iii) the frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.*

Deductions

In determining adjusted income, the owner must deduct the following from annual income:

1. \$480 for each dependent;
2. \$400 for any elderly family or disabled family;
3. The sum of the following to the extent the sum exceeds 3% of annual income:
 - a. Unreimbursed medical expenses of any elderly or disabled family; and

- b. Unreimbursed reasonable attendant care and auxiliary apparatus expenses for each member of the family who is a person with disabilities, to the extent necessary to enable any member of the family (including the member who is a person with a disability) to be employed. This deduction may not exceed the earned income received by family members who are 18 years of age or older and who are able to work because of such attendant care or auxiliary apparatus; and
4. Any reasonable child care expense necessary to enable the family member to be employed or to further his or her education. [24 CFR 5.611]

Denial of Tenancy or Assistance

The process of rejecting an applicant's request for either occupancy or assistance because the household does not meet eligibility criteria for the program or the owner's criteria for suitability for tenancy.

Dependent

A member of the family other than the head, spouse, or co-head, who is under 18 years of age or is a person with disabilities or a full-time student. For the purposes of this Handbook, a foster child, a foster adult, or a live-in aide may never be a dependent regardless of age or disability.

Dependent Child

Dependent child in the context of the student eligibility restrictions, means a dependent child of an enrolled student who meets the criteria of 24 CFR 5.612. In this context, "dependent child" is defined in HUD's income eligibility regulations at 24 CFR 5.603 is a member of the family (except foster children and foster adults) other than the family head or spouse, who is under 18 years of age, or a person with a disability, or is a full-time student.

Developmentally Disabled

Meets the conditions of paragraph 2 under the definition for Person with a Disability. [24 CFR 891.505]

NOTE: The referenced definition also appears as Definition H in Figure 3-6 in this handbook.

Disability (Handicap)¹ (Section 504) [as defined for Civil Rights Protections]

Any condition or characteristic that renders an individual *a person with disabilities* (handicaps).¹ [24 CFR 8.3]

Disabled Family

[Also appears as Definition D – Disabled Family in Figure 3-6.]

A family whose head, spouse, or sole member is a person with disabilities (as defined by 24 CFR 5.403). It may include two or more persons with disabilities living together, or one or more persons with disabilities living with one or more live-in aides. [24 CFR 5.403] (See definition of Person with Disabilities as defined for program eligibility purposes.)

Disabled (Handicapped)¹ Family [Also appears as G – Disabled (Handicapped) Family in Figure 3-6.]

1. Families of two or more persons the head of which (or his or her spouse) is a person with disabilities (handicapped)¹;
2. The surviving member or members of any family described in paragraph (1) of this definition living in a unit assisted under 24 CFR 891, subpart E (Section 202 loans) with the deceased member of the family at the time of his or her death;
3. A single person with disabilities (handicapped person)¹ over the age of 18; or
4. Two or more persons with disabilities (handicapped person)¹ living together, or one or more such persons living with another person who is determined by HUD, based upon a licensed physician's certificate provided by the family, to be essential to their care or well-being. [24 CFR 891.505]

Disabled Household [Also appears as F – Disabled Household in Figure 3-6.]

Disabled household *is* a household composed of:

1. One or more persons at least one of whom is an adult (18 years or older) who has a disability;
2. Two or more persons with disabilities living together, or one or more such persons living with another person who is determined by HUD, based upon a certification from an appropriate professional (e.g., a rehabilitation counselor, social worker, or licensed physician) to be important to their care or wellbeing; or
3. The surviving member or members of any household described in paragraph (1) of this definition who were living in a unit assisted under this part with the deceased member of the household at the time of his or her death. [24 CFR 891.305]

Displaced Family	A family in which each member, or whose sole member, is a person displaced by governmental action, or a person whose dwelling has been extensively damaged or destroyed as a result of a disaster declared or otherwise formally recognized pursuant to federal disaster relief laws. <i>[24 CFR 5.403]</i>
Displaced Person	A person displaced by governmental action, or a person whose dwelling has been extensively damaged or destroyed as a result of a disaster declared or otherwise formally recognized pursuant to Federal disaster relief laws. <i>[24 CFR 5.403]</i>
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.
Drug	A controlled substance as defined in section 102 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 802). <i>[24 CFR 5.100]</i>
Drug-related Criminal Activity	The illegal manufacture, sale, distribution, or use of a drug, or the possession of a drug with intent to manufacture, sell, distribute, or use the drug. <i>[24 CFR 5.100]</i>
Elderly Family	<p>[Also appears as Definition B – Elderly Family in Figure 3-6.]</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Families of two or more persons, the head of which (or his or her spouse) is 62 years of age or older;2. The surviving member or members of a family described in paragraph (1) living in a unit assisted under 24 CFR part 891, subpart E (Section 202 loans) with the deceased member of the family at the time of his or her death;3. A single person who is 62 years of age or older; or4. Two or more elderly persons living together, or one or more such persons living with another person who is determined by HUD, based upon a licensed physician's certificate provided by the family, to be essential to their care or well being. <i>[24 CFR 891.505]</i>

Elderly Family	<p>[Also appears as Definition A – Family & Elderly Family in Figure 3-6.]</p> <p>A family (as defined in 24 CFR 5.403) whose head, spouse, or sole member is a person who is at least 62 years of age. It may include two or more persons who are at least 62 years of age living together, or one or more persons who are at least 62 years of age living with one or more live-in aides. [24 CFR 5.403]</p>
Elderly Person	<p>[Also appears as Definition C – Elderly Person in Figure 3-6.]</p> <p>An elderly person is a household composed of one or more persons, at least one of whom is 62 years of age or more at the time of initial occupancy. [24 CFR 891.205]</p>
Elderly Person	<p>A person at least 62 years of age. [24 CFR 5.100]</p>
Eligible Noncitizen	<p>A person who has eligible immigration status in one of the following categories:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. A noncitizen lawfully admitted for permanent residence, as defined by section 101(a)(20) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), as an immigrant, as defined by section 101(a)(15) of the INA (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(20) and U.S.C. 1101(a)(15), respectively) [immigrants]. (This category includes a noncitizen admitted under section 210 or 210A of the INA (8 U.S.C. 1160 or 1161) [special agricultural worker], who has been granted lawful temporary resident status);2. A noncitizen who entered the United States before January 1, 1972, or such later date as enacted by law, and has continuously maintained residence in the United States since then, and who is not ineligible for citizenship, but who is deemed to be lawfully admitted for permanent residence as a result of an exercise of discretion by the Attorney General under section 249 of the INA (8 U.S.C. 1259);3. A noncitizen who is lawfully present in the United States pursuant to an admission under section 207 of the INA (8 U.S.C. 1157) [refugee status]; pursuant to the granting of asylum (which has not been terminated) under section 208 of the INA (8 U.S.C. 1158) [asylum status]; or as a result of being granted conditional entry under section 203(a)(7) of the INA (8 U.S.C. 1153(a)(7)) before April 1, 1980, because of persecution or fear of persecution on account of race, religion, or political opinion or because of being uprooted by catastrophic national calamity;

4. A noncitizen who is lawfully present in the United States as a result of an exercise of discretion by the Attorney General for emergent reasons or reasons deemed strictly in the public interest under section 212(d)(5) of the INA (8 U.S.C. 1182(d)(5)) [parole status];
5. A noncitizen who is lawfully present in the United States as a result of the Attorney General's withholding deportation under section 243(h) of the INA (8 U.S.C. 1253(h)) [threat to life or freedom];
6. A noncitizen lawfully admitted for temporary or permanent residence under section 245A of the INA (8 U.S.C. 1255a) [amnesty granted under INA 245A]; or
7. A noncitizen who is a lawful resident in the United States and its territories and possessions under section 141 of the Compacts of Free Association between the government of the United States and the Governments of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia and Palau (collectively referred to as "the Freely Associated States" (FAS)) [Section 3(b) of Public Law 106-504].

A nonimmigrant student, while lawfully admitted to the United States, is not eligible.

***Enterprise Income Verification (EIV)**

HUD's computer system that must be used by owners as third party verification of employment and income during mandatory recertifications of family composition and income and to reduce administrative and subsidy payment errors.*

Eviction

The dispossession of the tenant from the leased unit as a result of the termination of tenancy, including a termination prior to the end of a lease term. [24 CFR 247.2]

Evidence of Citizenship or Eligible Status

The documents that must be submitted to evidence citizenship or eligible immigration status. [24 CFR 5.504] See paragraph 3-12 of this handbook for further information.

Expected to Reside

In applying lead-safe housing requirements, actual knowledge that a child will reside in a dwelling unit reserved for the elderly or designated exclusively for persons with disabilities. If a female resident is known to be pregnant, there is actual knowledge that a child will reside in the dwelling unit. [24 CFR 35.110]

Extremely Low-Income Family

A family whose annual income does not exceed 30% of the median income for the area, as determined by HUD, with adjustments for smaller and larger families, except that HUD may establish income ceilings higher or lower than 30% of the median income for the area if HUD finds that such variations are necessary because of unusually high or low family incomes. [24 CFR 5.603]

Fair Housing Act

Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act, 42 U.S.C. 3601. The Fair Housing Act is a broad statute that prohibits discrimination based upon race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, or familial status in most housing and housing-related transactions.

Familial Status (FH Act)

One or more individuals (who have not attained the age of 18 years) being domiciled with:

1. A parent or another person having legal custody of such individual or individuals (regardless of age or number of children); or
2. The designee of such parent or other person having such custody, with the written permission of such parent or another person.

The protections afforded against discrimination on the basis of familial status shall apply to any person who is pregnant or is in the process of securing legal custody of any individual who has not attained the age of 18 years. [24 CFR 100.20]

Family

[Also appears as Definition A – Family & Elderly Family of Figure 3-6.]

A family includes but is not limited to:

1. A family with or without children (the temporary absence of a child from the home due to placement in foster care shall not be considered in determining family composition and family size);
2. An elderly family;
3. A near-elderly family;
4. A disabled family;
5. A displaced family;
6. The remaining member of a tenant family; and
7. A single person who is not an elderly or displaced person, or a person with disabilities, or the remaining member of a tenant family. [24 CFR 5.403]

Family Composition The specific individuals who are included in the assisted family. Information on family composition includes names, ages, sexes, and citizenship status of all members and their relationship to one another.

Federal Financial Assistance (Section 504)

Any assistance provided or otherwise made available by the Department through any grant, loan, contract, or any other arrangement, in the form of:

1. Funds;
2. Services of Federal personnel; or
3. Real or personal property or any interest in or use of such property, including:
 - a. Transfers or leases of the property for less than fair market value or for reduced consideration; and
 - b. Proceeds from a subsequent transfer or lease of the property if the Federal share of its fair market value is not returned to the Federal Government.

Federal financial assistance includes community development funds in the form of proceeds from loans guaranteed under Section 108 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, but does not include assistance made available through direct federal procurement contracts or payments made under these contracts or any other contract of insurance or guaranty. *[24 CFR 8.3]*

Federally Assisted Housing

Includes housing assisted under any of the following programs:

1. Public housing;
2. Housing receiving project-based or tenant-based assistance under Section 8 of the U.S. Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f);
3. Housing that is assisted under section 202 of the Housing Act of 1959, as amended by section 801 of the National Affordable Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1701q);
4. Housing that is assisted under section 202 of the Housing Act of 1959, as such section existed before the enactment of the National Affordable Housing Act;

5. Housing that is assisted under section 811 of the National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 8013);
6. Housing financed by a loan or mortgage insured under section 221(d)(3) of the National Housing Act of (12 U.S.C. 1715/(d)(3)) that bears interest at a rate determined under the proviso of section 221(d)(5) of such Act (12 U.S.C. 1715/(d)(5));
7. Housing insured, assisted, or held by HUD or by a State or local agency under section 236 of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1715z-1); or
8. Housing assisted by the Rural Housing Service under section 514 or section 515 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1483, 1484).
[24 CFR 5.100]

Foster Adult

A foster adult is usually an adult with a disability who is unrelated to the tenant family and who is unable to live alone.

Foster Children

Children that are in the legal guardianship or custody of a State, county, or private adoption or foster care agency, yet are 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. These children will generally remain in foster care until they are reunited with their parents, or until their parents voluntarily consent to their adoption by another family, or until the court involuntarily terminates or severs the parental right of their biological parents, so that they can become available to be adopted by another family. Therefore, the parental rights of the parents of these children may or may not have been terminated or severed, and the children may or may not be legally available for adoption.

Fraud

Deceit or trickery deliberately practiced to gain some advantage dishonestly. Fraud is an intentional deception and cannot be committed accidentally.

NOTE: This is not necessarily the legal definition in particular cases.

Full-Time Student

A person who is attending school or vocational training on a full-time basis. *[24 CFR 5.603]*

Gross Rent

The gross rent for a unit equals the contract rent plus the utility allowance, if the property has a utility allowance. For Section 202 PRAC and Section 811 PRAC, the gross rent is referred to as the operating rent.

Gross Rent Change

Any HUD-approved change in the contract rent or the utility allowance for a unit.

Guest	A person temporarily staying in a unit with the consent of the tenant or another member of the household who has express or implied authority to consent on behalf of the tenant. <i>[24 CFR 5.100]</i> A guest is a temporary visitor of the tenant's and should not be confused with an unauthorized occupant. Additionally, a guest is not a party to the lease agreement.
Hardship Exemption	An exemption from the \$25 minimum rent an owner must provide for any household unable to pay the Section 8 minimum rent due to a long-term financial hardship as defined in the regulation. <i>[24 CFR 5.630]</i>
Head of Household	The adult member of the family who is the head of the household for purposes of determining income eligibility and rent. (See paragraph 5.6 for explanation of emancipated minor.) <i>[24 CFR 5.504]</i>
Household	The family and live-in aide, if applicable.
Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)	The payment made by HUD or the Contract Administrator to the owner of an assisted unit as provided in the contract. Where the unit is leased to an eligible family, the payment is the difference between the contract rent and the tenant rent. An additional payment is made to the family when the utility allowance is greater than the total tenant payment. A housing assistance payment, known as a "vacancy payment," may be made to the owner when an assisted unit is vacant, in accordance with the terms of the contract. <i>[24 CFR 880.201]</i>
Immediate Family Member	Means, with respect to a person: (A) a spouse, parent, brother or sister, or child of that person, or an individual to whom that person stands in loco parentis; or (B) any other person living in the household of that person and related to that person by blood or marriage.
Improper Payment	An improper payment is any payment that should not have been made or that was made in an incorrect amount under statutory, contractual, administrative, or other legally applicable requirements. Incorrect amounts are overpayments and underpayments (including inappropriate denials of payment or service). An improper payment includes any payment that was made to an ineligible recipient or for an ineligible service, duplicate payments, payments for services not received, and payments that are for the incorrect amount. In addition, when an agency's review is unable to discern whether a payment was proper as a result of insufficient or lack of documentation, this payment must also be considered an error.

Income Limit	HUD establishes income limits that are used to determine whether housing applicants qualify for admission to HUD-subsidized properties. These income limits are based on HUD estimates for area median family income with certain statutorily permissible adjustments. Different programs use different income limits. (See paragraph 3-6 for applicability.)
Income-Targeting	A statutory requirement that at least 40% of new admissions to a Section 8 property in each fiscal year be households with incomes at or below 30% of the area median income. The law ensures that a significant portion of federal housing assistance goes to families with the greatest need. [24 CFR 5.601, 5.603, 5.653]
Increased Ability to Pay	An increase in the tenant's income to a point where the total tenant payment is equal to or greater than the contract rent, plus any utility allowance, for the unit. An increased ability to pay does not apply to Section 202 PRAC or Section 811 PRAC properties.
Independent Public Auditor	<i>Independent public auditor</i> is a Certified Public Accountant or a licensed or registered public accountant, having no business relationship with the private owner except for the performance of audit, systems work and tax preparation. If not certified, the Public Accountant must have been licensed or registered by a regulatory authority of a State or other political subdivision of the United States on or before December 31, 1970. In States that do not regulate the use of the title "public accountant," only Certified Public Accountants may be used.
Independent Student	To be classified as an independent student, the student must meet the Independent Student definition for Title IV aid. The student must meet one or more of the following criteria: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Be at least 24 years old by December 31 of the award year for which aid is sought;2. Be an orphan or a ward of the court through the age of 18;3. Be a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces;4. Have legal dependents other than a spouse (for example, dependent children or an elderly dependent parent);5. Be a graduate or professional student; or6. Be married.
Institution of Higher Education	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.

From 20 U.S.C. 1001:

(a) 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 1 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)(2) 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.

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 ^[1] 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; ^[1]

(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.

Law Enforcement Agency

The National Crime Information Center (NCIC), police departments, and other law enforcement agencies that hold criminal conviction records. *[24 CFR 5.902]*

Lease

A written agreement between an owner and a family for the leasing of a decent, safe, and sanitary dwelling unit to the family. *[24 CFR 886.102 and 884.102]*

Lease Term

The period of time for which a lease agreement is written.

Legitimate Tenant Organization

An organization established by the tenants of a multifamily housing project covered by this handbook, whose purpose includes addressing issues related to terms and conditions of their tenancy, and which meets regularly, operates democratically, is representative of all residents in the development, and is completely independent of owners, management, and their representatives. *[CFR 24 245.110]*

Live-in Aide	<p>A person who resides with one or more elderly persons, near-elderly persons, or persons with disabilities, and who:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">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; and3. Would not be living in the unit except to provide the necessary supportive services. <i>[24 CFR 5.403]</i>
Low-Income Family	<p>A family whose annual income does not exceed 80 percent of the area median income, as determined by HUD, with adjustments for smaller and larger families. <i>[24 CFR 5.603]</i></p>
Management Agent	<p>An entity that has day-to-day frontline responsibilities for a HUD-insured and/or assisted multifamily housing property. The project owner is responsible for seeking out and selecting a management agent that meets the standards outlined in Handbook 4381.5, Chapter 2. The HUD-owner-management agent relationship is defined and subject to the requirements and procedures set forth in HUD Handbook 4381.5.</p>
Market Area	<p>The geographic area from which a project owner could reasonably expect to draw applicants, based on the services and amenities offered by the development and the needs of the community.</p>
Market Rent	<p>The rent HUD authorizes the owner to collect from families ineligible for assistance. For Section 236 units, the market rent is shown on the project's HUD-approved rent schedule. For Rent Supplement, Section 202, and Section 8 units, the market rent is the same as the contract rent. For BMIR units, market rent varies by whether the project is a rental or cooperative.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. <u>BMIR Rentals</u>. Market rent equals 110% of the BMIR rent.2. <u>BMIR Cooperatives</u>. Cooperatives use the term “carrying charge” to describe the amount charged a cooperative member for occupying a unit. Market carrying charges equal the contract carrying charge plus any surcharge established by the cooperative and approved by HUD. If the cooperative has not received HUD approval of a plan for surcharging its over-income members, the market carrying charge equals 110% of the contract carrying charge.

Minimum Rent	The lowest total tenant payment permitted for tenants receiving Section 8 assistance. The minimum rent is \$25 and is used when 30% of adjusted monthly income and 10% of gross monthly income and the welfare rent (where applicable) are all below \$25. The minimum rent covers the tenant's contribution for rent and utilities.
Mixed Family	A family whose members include those with citizenship or eligible immigration status and those without citizenship or eligible immigration status. <i>[24 CFR 5.504]</i> (See also Prorated Assistance.)
National	A person who owes permanent allegiance to the United States; for example, as a result of birth in a United States territory or possession. <i>[24 CFR 5.504]</i>
Near-Elderly family	A family whose head, spouse, or sole member is a person who is at least 50 years of age, but below the age of 62; two or more persons who are at least 50 years of age, but below the age of 62, living together; or one or more persons who are at least 50 years of age, but below the age of 62, living with one or more live-in aides. <i>[24 CFR 5.403]</i>
Noncitizen	A person who is neither a citizen nor a national of the United States. <i>[24 CFR 5.504]</i>
Nonelderly Disabled (Handicapped¹) Family	<p>[Also appears in Definition I – Nonelderly Disabled (Handicapped) Family in Figure 3-6.]</p> <p>A disabled (handicapped¹) family in which the head of the family (and spouse, if any) is less than 62 years of age at the time of the family's initial occupancy of a project. <i>[24 CFR 891.505]</i></p>
Operating Rent (PRAC)	The *operating* rent *(gross rent) is the rent* approved by HUD to cover the operating expenses at a PRAC project.
Other Person Under the Tenant's Control	The person, although not staying as a guest in the unit, is, or was at the time of the activity in question, on the premises because of an invitation from the tenant or other member of the household who has express or implied authority to so consent on behalf of the tenant. Absent evidence to the contrary, a person temporarily and infrequently on the premises solely for legitimate commercial purposes is not under the tenant's control. <i>[24 CFR 5.100]</i>
PAC (Project Assistance Contract)	The contract entered into by the borrower and HUD setting forth the rights and duties of the parties with respect to the project and the payments under the PAC. See paragraph 1-3 of this handbook for further description. <i>[24 CFR 891.655]</i>

Parents

For purposes of the Section 8 student eligibility restrictions, and consistent with long-standing HUD policy regarding eligibility for the Section 8 programs, means the biological or adoptive parents, or guardians (e.g., grandparents, aunt/uncle, godparents, etc.), or such other definition as may be adopted by the PHA, Owner, or Manager through appropriate amendment to its admissions policies.

Person with Disabilities [as defined for Civil Rights Protections]

[NOTE: The *definition of an individual or person with a disability in the* Fair Housing Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans With Disabilities Act and their implementing regulations *are generally similar.* Section 504's definition of disability (handicap) is found at *29 U.S.C. 705 and* 24 CFR 8.3. The Fair Housing Act definition is found at 24 CFR 100.201, and the ADA definition is found at 28 CFR 35.104.]

A person with a disability is any person who:

1. Has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities;
2. Has a record of such an impairment; or
3. Is regarded as having such an impairment.

The definition 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 "physical or mental impairment" includes:

1. 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

2. 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.
3. “Major life activities” means functions such as caring for one’s self, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning, and working.

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

“Is regarded as having an impairment” means:

1. Has a physical or mental impairment that does not substantially limit one or more major life activities but is treated by a person as constituting such a limitation;
2. 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 that impairment; or
3. Has none of the impairments defined in this section but is treated by a *recipient* as having such an impairment.

Person with Disabilities [as defined for program eligibility purposes]

[Also appears as Definition E – Person with Disabilities in Figure 3-6.]

1. A person who:
 - a. Has a disability, as defined in 42 U.S.C. 423;
 - 1) 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
 - 2) In the case of an individual who has attained the age of 55 and is blind, inability by reason of such blindness to engage in substantial gainful activity requiring skills or abilities comparable to those of any gainful activity in which he/she has previously engaged with some regularity and over a substantial period of time. For the purposes of this

definition, the term blindness, as defined in section 416(i)(1) of this title, means central vision acuity of 20/200 or less in the better eye with use of a correcting lens. An eye which is accompanied by a limitation in the fields of vision such that the widest diameter of the visual field subtends an angle no greater than 20 degrees shall be considered for the purposes of this paragraph as having a central visual acuity of 20/200 or less.

- b. Is determined, pursuant to HUD regulations, to have a physical, mental, or emotional impairment that:
 - 1) Is expected to be of long-continued and indefinite duration;
 - 2) Substantially impedes his or her ability to live independently; and
 - 3) Is of such nature that the ability to live independently could be improved by more suitable housing conditions; or
- c. Has a developmental disability, as defined in Section 102(7) of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (42 U.S.C. 6001(8)), i.e., a person with a severe chronic disability that
 - 1) Is attributable to a mental or physical impairment or combination of mental and physical impairments;
 - 2) Is manifested before the person attains age 22;
 - 3) Is likely to continue indefinitely;
 - 4) Results in substantial functional limitation in three or more of the following areas of major life activity:
 - a) Self-care,
 - b) Receptive and expressive language,
 - c) Learning,
 - d) Mobility,
 - e) Self-direction,
 - f) Capacity for independent living, and
 - f) Economic self-sufficiency; and
 - 5) Reflects the person's need for a combination and sequence of special, interdisciplinary, or generic care, treatment, or other services that are of lifelong or extended duration and are individually planned and coordinated.

2. Does not exclude persons who have the disease of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome or any conditions arising from the etiologic agent for acquired immunodeficiency syndrome;
3. For purposes of qualifying for low-income housing, does not include a person whose disability is based solely on any drug or alcohol dependence; and
4. Means person with disabilities (individual with handicaps)¹ as defined by 24 CFR 8.3 (Section 504), for purposes of reasonable accommodation and program accessibility for persons with disabilities. [24 CFR 5.403]

**Person with
Disabilities
(Handicapped person)¹**

[as defined for program
eligibility purposes]

[Also appears in Definition H – Person with a Disability (Handicapped Person) in Figure 3-6.]

A person with disabilities means:

1. Any adult having 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 a nature that such ability could be improved by more suitable housing conditions.
2. A person with a developmental disability, as defined in section 102(7) of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (42 U.S.C. 6001(8)), i.e., a person with a severe chronic disability that:
 - a. Is attributable to a mental or physical impairment or combination of mental and physical impairments;
 - b. Is manifested before the person attains age 22;
 - c. Is likely to continue indefinitely;
 - d. Results in substantial functional limitation in three or more of the following areas of major life activity:
 - (1) Self-care;
 - (2) Receptive and expressive language;
 - (3) Learning;
 - (4) Mobility;
 - (5) Self-direction;
 - (6) Capacity for independent living;
 - (7) Economic self-sufficiency; and

- e. Reflects the person's need for a combination and sequence of special, interdisciplinary, or generic care, treatment, or other services that are of lifelong or extended duration and are individually planned and coordinated.
3. A person with a chronic mental illness, i.e., person who has a severe and persistent mental or emotional impairment that seriously limits his or her ability to live independently, and whose impairment could be improved by more suitable housing conditions.
4. Persons infected with the human acquired immunodeficiency virus (HIV) who are disabled as a result of infection with the HIV are eligible for occupancy in the Section 202 projects designed for the physically disabled, developmentally disabled, or chronically mentally ill depending upon the nature of the person's disability.

NOTE: A person whose sole impairment is alcoholism or drug addiction (i.e., who does not have a developmental disability, chronic mental illness, or physical disability that is the disabling condition required for eligibility in a particular project) will not be considered to be disabled for the purposes of the Section 202 and Section 811 programs. [24 CFR 891.305 and 891.505]

Pet Deposit

An owner may require tenants who own or keep pets in their units to pay a refundable pet deposit.

NOTE: For complete information on pet deposits see 24 CFR 5.318.

Physical Disability

A physical impairment which (A) is expected to be of long-continued and indefinite duration, (B) substantially impedes his or her ability to live independently, and (C) is of such a nature that such ability to live independently could be improved by more suitable housing conditions.

**PRAC
(Project Rental
Assistance Contract)**

The contract entered into by the owner and HUD setting forth the rights and duties of the parties with respect to the project and the payments under the PRAC. PRAC is used for Section 202 and Section 811 projects. See paragraph 1-3 of this handbook for further description. [24 CFR 891.105]

PRAC Operating Rent See Operating Rent (PRAC).

Preferences	Established criteria used to determine the order applicants are selected from the waiting list for housing assistance or an assisted housing unit. Preferences may be established by federal law, HUD regulations, State or local law, or written owner policy. <i>[24 CFR 5.601; 5.655; 236.715; 880.603; 880.612a; 881.601; 883.701; 884.214; 884.223a; 886.132; 886.337; 886.329a; 891.230; 891.750]</i>
Preliminary Application	An abbreviated application form that is used by some owners when the waiting time for an available unit is extensive and requires only enough information to assess apparent program eligibility, place the applicant on a waiting list, and contact the applicant when a unit becomes available or additional information is required.
Premises	The building or complex or development in which the public or assisted housing dwelling unit is located, including common areas and grounds. <i>[24 CFR 5.100]</i>
Prohibited Bases	Civil rights statutes establish the demographic categories by which discrimination is prohibited. HUD refers to these categories as “prohibited bases.” For instance, under the Fair Housing Act, the prohibited bases are race, color, religion, sex, national origin, familial status, and disability. It is more inclusive and explanatory than the term “protected classes,” because it does not categorize people into sets of classes (e.g., male, female, White, Black, Asian, Native American, Pacific Islander, Hispanic, Non-Hispanic, Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist).
Project Assistance Payment	The payment made by HUD to the borrower for assisted units as provided in the PAC. The payment is the difference between the contract rent and the tenant rent. An additional payment is made to a family occupying an assisted unit in an independent living complex when the utility allowance is greater than the total tenant payment. A project assistance payment, known as a “vacancy payment,” may be made to the borrower when an assisted unit (or resident space in a group home) is vacant, in accordance with the terms of the PAC. <i>[24 CFR 891.655]</i>

Project Rental Assistance Payment	The payment made by HUD to the owner for assisted units as provided in the PRAC. The payment is the difference between the total tenant payment and the HUD-approved per-unit operating expenses, except for expenses related to items not eligible under design and cost provisions. An additional payment is made to a household occupying an assisted unit when the utility allowance is greater than the total tenant payment. A project rental assistance payment, known as a "vacancy payment," may be made to the owner when an assisted unit is vacant, in accordance with the terms of the PRAC. <i>[24 CFR 891.105]</i>
Prorated Assistance	Partial rental assistance, or reduced housing assistance payments received by mixed families. In mixed families, the level of assistance is calculated at the ratio of eligible family members to ineligible family members.
Protected Classes	Demographic categories of persons established by civil rights statutes against whom discrimination is prohibited. (See also Prohibited Bases.)
Public Housing Agency (PHA)	<p>Any State, county, municipality, or other governmental entity or public body (or agency or instrumentality thereof) which is authorized to engage in or assist in the development or operation of public housing; Defined in Section 3 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437 a (b)(6).</p> <p>PHAs include Performance-based Contract Administrators (PBCAs) and State Housing Finance Agencies (HFAs).</p>
Qualified Persons with Disabilities (Individual with Handicaps)¹	An individual with disabilities (handicaps) ¹ who meets the essential eligibility requirements for participation in, or receipt of benefits from, that program or activity. "Essential eligibility requirements" include stated eligibility requirements such as income as well as other explicit or implicit requirements inherent in the nature of the program or activity, such as requirements that an occupant of multifamily housing be capable of meeting the recipient's selection criteria and be capable of complying with all obligations of occupancy with or without supportive services provided by persons other than the recipient. For example, a chronically mentally ill person whose particular condition poses a significant risk of substantial interference with the safety or enjoyment of others or with his or her own health or safety in the absence of necessary supportive services may be "qualified" for occupancy in a project where such supportive services are provided by the recipient as part of the assisted program. The person may not be "qualified" for a project lacking such services. <i>[Relevant language excerpted from 24 CFR 8.3]</i>

RAP (Rental Assistance Payment)	A rental assistance subsidy program established by the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 to provide additional rental assistance subsidy to project owners on behalf of very low-income tenants. RAP was available only to Section 236 projects and was the predecessor to the project-based Section 8 program.
Recertification Anniversary Date	Generally, the recertification anniversary date is the first day of the month a tenant moved into a project receiving HUD assistance. As long as an owner processes an annual recertification according to the procedures and deadlines required in Chapter 7, changes in the TTP, tenant rent, and assistance payment take effect on the recertification anniversary date.
Recipient (Section 504)	Any State or its political subdivision, any instrumentality of a State or its political subdivision, any public or private agency, institution, organization, or other entity, or any person to which federal financial assistance is extended for any program or activity directly or through another recipient, including any successor, assignee, or transferee of a recipient, but excluding the ultimate beneficiary of the assistance. An entity or person receiving housing assistance payments from a recipient on behalf of eligible families under a housing assistance payments program or a voucher program is not a recipient or subrecipient merely by virtue of receipt of such payments. [24 CFR 8.3]
Remaining Member of a Tenant Family	See paragraph 3-15 for a discussion of the eligibility of a remaining member of a tenant family.
Rent Supplement	A project-based assistance program for mortgages insured by HUD. These contracts were available to Section 221(d)(3) BMIR, Section 231, Section 236 (insured and noninsured), and Section 202 projects for the life of the 40-year mortgage. The program was suspended under the housing subsidy moratorium of January 5, 1973. Owners of insured projects with Rent Supplement were allowed to convert to project-based Section 8 assistance.
Residency Preference	A preference for admission of persons who reside in a specified geographic area (“residency preference area”). [24 CFR 5.655 (c)(1)(ii)]
Rural Housing Service (RHS)	U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Housing Services.

Screening	A review of an applicant's history to identify patterns of behavior that, if exhibited at the assisted housing development, would make the applicant an unsuitable tenant. Screening criteria may include consideration of drug-related or criminal activity, tenancy, credit and rent payment history, or other behaviors that may affect the rights of other residents and management.
Section 504	Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, 29 U.S.C. 794, as it applies to programs or activities receiving Federal financial assistance. <i>[24 CFR 8.3]</i>
Section 8	The housing assistance payments program that implements Section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f note). <i>[24 CFR 891.505]</i>
Security Deposit	A payment required by an owner to be held during the term of the lease (or the time period the tenant occupies the unit) to offset damages incurred due to the actions of the tenant. Such damages may include physical damage to the property, theft of property, and failure to pay back rent. Forfeiture of the deposit does not absolve the tenant of further financial liability.
Security Personnel	A qualified security professional with adequate training and experience to provide security services for project residents.
Service Animals	See Assistance Animals.
Service Bureaus	<p>These organizations prepare:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Monthly subsidy voucher facsimiles based on the 50059 data requirements, and2. Approved special claims and transmit them to the user's Contract Administrator or TRACS for processing and payment. <p>Otherwise, the service bureau will follow instructions received from HUD or the Contract Administrator on special claim payments. In instances where the software being used to double-check calculations before transmission discovers errors in the 50059 data requirements provided, these organizations print out revised 50059 data requirements and return the revised documentation to their sites for appropriate action.</p> <p>Service bureaus may provide their users with the monthly benefit history reports used in annual recertifications, as well as returning TRACS messages received from the Contract Administrator or TRACS.</p> <p>NOTE: Service bureaus are organizations that provide a number of different services and are paid a fee to do so. Their users (owners</p>

and management agents) are responsible for the verification of information contained on the 50059 facsimiles they provide to their service bureau. The bureaus transmit tenant certifications to TRACS or to Contract Administrators using TRACS-compliant software. If a service bureau determines that data elements provided by the site are incorrect, the bureau will transmit the correct data to TRACS and return a correct facsimile to the sites for signature by the household and management and for copying and filing in the tenant file.

***Stalking**

(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.*

Student

Student for Section 8 eligibility purposes means all students enrolled either full-time or part-time at an institution of higher education.

Student Financial Assistance

For the Section 8 program, student financial assistance included in annual income is any financial assistance that a student receives in excess of tuition (e.g., athletic and academic scholarships) and that the student receives (1) under the Higher Education Act, (2) from private sources, or (3) from an institution of higher education as defined by the Higher Education Act of 1965. Financial assistance does not include loan proceeds.

- a. Higher Education Act Assistance under the Higher Education Act of 1965 includes Pell Grants, Federal Supplement Educational Opportunity Grants, Academic Achievement Incentive Scholarships State Assistance Partnership Program, the Robert G. Byrd Honors Scholarship Program, and Federal Work Study programs.
- b. Assistance from Private Sources is non-governmental sources of assistance, including assistance that may be provided to a student from parent, guardian or other family member, whether residing within the family in the section 8 assisted unit or not, and from other persons not residing in the unit.
- c. Assistance from an Institution of Higher Education requires reference to the particular institution and the institution's listing of financial assistance. (See definition for Institution of Higher Education.)
- d. Loans are not financial assistance, and, therefore, the loan programs cited in the Higher Education Act of 1965 (the Perkins,

Stafford and Plus loans) are not included in the term “financial assistance” in determining student eligibility for section 8 assistance.

Tenant	An individual or a family renting or occupying an assisted dwelling unit. <i>[24 CFR 5.504]</i>
Tenant Consultation	Tenants or tenant representatives may submit written comments on the proposed pet rules to the project owner by the date specified in the notice of proposed rules. In addition, the owner may schedule one or more meetings with tenants during the comment period to discuss the proposed rules. Tenants and tenant representatives may make oral comments on the proposed rules at these meetings. This process is called Tenant Consultation. <i>[24 CFR 5.353]</i>
Tenant Rent	The amount payable monthly by the family as rent to the owner. <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Where all utilities (except telephone) and other essential housing services are supplied by the owner, tenant rent equals total tenant payment.2. Where some or all utilities (except telephone) and other essential housing services are not supplied by the owner, tenant rent equals total tenant payment less the utility allowance.
Tenant Selection Plan	A formal written policy statement, developed by the owner and available to the public, that clearly states the procedures and criteria the owner will consistently apply in drawing applicants from the waiting list, screening for suitability for tenancy, implementing income targeting requirements, and offering housing assistance and/or assisted housing units. The Tenant Selection Plan also includes policies applied to residents of the property such as how unit transfers are carried out.
Tenant with a Disability	See the three definitions of Person with Disabilities.
Termination of Assistance	When a tenant fails to comply with certain HUD program requirements, the owner, under agreements with HUD, is obligated to terminate the assistance provided by HUD on behalf of that tenant.

Termination of Tenancy

Termination of tenancy occurs when a tenant violates specific provisions of the lease agreement, and the owner notifies the tenant that he/she no longer has the right to occupy the unit as a result of lease violations. The HUD model leases have very specific conditions under which tenancy may be terminated and procedures that must be followed during the termination process. (See model leases in Appendix 4 and guidance in Chapter 8, Termination.)

Title VI-D

Title VI, Subtitle D of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992 authorizes owners of certain HUD multifamily assisted developments to elect to serve elderly families, to limit the numbers of disabled families residing in a project or to adopt preferences for elderly families, depending upon the type of project and whether certain requirements are met. See paragraph 2-10 for a discussion on the applicability of this Act.

Total Tenant Payment

The total amount the HUD rent formula requires the tenant to pay toward the gross rent. Total Tenant Payment is computed in accordance with the formula in Exhibit 5-8.

Total Tenant Payment (Resident Rent Payment)

Each family or individual who receives PRAC subsidy must make a total tenant payment of 30% of adjusted income, 10% of gross income, or Welfare Rent, whichever is greater, for housing costs, i.e., rent and utilities. In some cases, a resident's monthly rent payment may exceed the PRAC operating rent. As with HAP contracts:

1. The monthly amount a resident pays the owner should be the Total Tenant Payment less any HUD-approved utility allowance the tenant pays; and
2. The resident may receive a utility reimbursement from the owner if the resident's Total Tenant Payment is less than the HUD-approved utility allowance.

Tuition

Tuition shall have the meaning given this term by the institution of higher education in which the student is enrolled.

Unauthorized Occupant

A person who, with the consent of a tenant, is staying in the unit, but is not listed on the lease documents or approved by the owner to dwell in the unit. An owner must follow State or local law regarding an unauthorized occupant and establish an equitable and consistent policy and incorporate that policy into the house rules.

Unearned Income

Income received that is not wages, tips, or other compensation for work performed.

Unintentional Program Violation	An error or oversight by the tenant that does not involve deliberate, intentional deceit. (See also Fraud.)
Unit Transfer	With owner approval, a tenant moves from one unit to another unit within the same property.
Utility Allowance	HUD's or the Contract Administrator's estimate of the average monthly utility bills (except telephone) for an energy-conscious household. This estimate considers only utilities paid directly by the tenant. If all utilities are included in the rent, there is not a utility allowance. Utility allowances vary by unit type and are listed on the project's rent schedule or HAP contract.
Utility Allowance (PRAC)	This is an amount equal to the estimate made or approved by HUD of the monthly costs of a reasonable consumption of utilities (except telephone) for the unit by an energy-conservative household of modest circumstances, consistent with the requirements of a safe, sanitary, and healthful living environment. A utility allowance is used in cases where the cost of utilities (except telephone) is the responsibility of the household and is not included in the tenant payment.
Utility Reimbursement	The amount, if any, by which the utility allowance for a unit exceeds the total tenant payment for the family occupying the unit.
VAWA	The Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-162, approved August 28, 2006) as this law amended the U.S Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437c-1, 1437d, and 1437p).
Very Low-Income Family	A very low-income family is a family whose annual income does not exceed 50 percent of the area median income, as determined by HUD, with adjustments for smaller and larger families. [24 CFR 5.603]
Veteran	<p>The definition for veteran, as used by the Department of Veterans Affairs, is codified at 36 U.S.C. 101(2), may be used when determining a student's eligibility for Section 8 assistance. Since use of this definition is widespread in other federal programs affecting veterans, PHAs, Owners and Managers may find it useful to adopt this definition for purposes of administering the student eligibility restrictions.</p> <p>Definition of veteran from 38 U.S.C. 101(2): The term "veteran" means a person who served in the active military, naval, or air service, and who was discharged or released therefrom under conditions other than dishonorable.</p>

**Violent
Criminal Activity**

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]

Waiting List

A formal record of applicants for housing assistance and/or assisted housing units that identifies the applicant's name, date and time of application, selection preferences claimed, income category, and the need for an accessible unit. The waiting list may be kept in either a bound journal or a computer program. Whichever method is used to maintain the waiting list, the owner must establish a method of documenting the appropriate selection of applicant names from the list.

Welfare Assistance

Welfare or other payments to families or individuals, based on need, that are made under programs funded, separately or jointly by the Federal, State, or local government. [24 CFR 5.603]

Welfare Rent

In those States in which the welfare grant is based on the actual amount a family pays for shelter and utilities, the welfare rent is the maximum amount permitted under welfare rule for rent and utilities.

¹ The term *handicapped* appears in a number of regulatory definitions that have not yet been updated to reflect current statutes. In this handbook, HUD replaced *handicapped* with the term *disabled*, *disability*, or *impairment* to reflect current statutes. The parenthetical reference to *handicapped* indicates that the term *handicapped* has been replaced with *disabled*, *disability*, or *impairment* in that definition.