

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

Program Participants  
and Departmental Staff

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The Public Housing Occupancy  
Handbook: Admission

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#### Introduction to the Handbook

This handbook provides public housing agencies (PHAs) with HUD policy and advice on occupancy matters related to the Lower Income Public Housing Program.

The statute governing the public housing program is the U.S. Housing Act of 1937, as amended. It gives PHAs a great deal of discretion in operating the program as long as they act consistently with Federal, state, and local laws, HUD regulations, the Annual Contributions Contract (ACC), and sound management practices. PHAs are encouraged to tailor their public housing program to meet local conditions, needs, and objectives. If the PHA is interested in establishing a policy or procedure involving occupancy matters which is not covered in the regulations or this handbook, the PHA should discuss the matter with the local HUD office.

Applicability. This handbook applies to all lower income public housing owned or leased by PHAs and leased by the PHA to lower income tenants.

This handbook does not apply to:

- Section 23 and Section 10(c) leased housing projects where the tenant signs a lease with a private owner, including the Section 23 Housing Assistance Payments Program;
- the Section 8 Housing Assistance Payments Program;
- the Turnkey III Homeownership Opportunities Program;
- the Mutual Help Homeownership Opportunities Program; or
- the Indian housing programs.