

COMMUNITY SERVICE AND SELF SUFFICIENCY POLICY

A. Background

The Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act of 1998 requires that all non-exempt (see definitions) public housing adult residents (18 or older) contribute either (8) hours per month of community service (volunteer work) or participate in eight (8) hours of training, counseling, classes or other activities that help an individual toward self sufficiency and economic independence. This is a requirement of the Public Housing Lease.

B. Definitions

Community Service – volunteer work which includes, but is not limited to:

- Work at a local institution including but not limited to: school, child care center, hospital, hospice, recreation center, senior center, adult day care center, homeless shelter, indigent feeding program, cooperative food bank, etc;
- Work with a non-profit organization that serves PHA residents or their children such as: Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Boys & Girls clubs, 4-H program, PAL, Garden Center, Community clean-up programs, beautification programs, other youth or senior organizations;
- Work at the Authority to help improve physical conditions;
- Work at the Authority to help with children's programs;
- Work at the Authority to help with senior programs;
- Helping neighborhood groups with special projects;
- Working through resident organization to help other residents with problems, serving as an officer in a Resident organization, serving on the Resident Advisory Board; and
- Caring for the children of other residents so they may volunteer.

NOTE: **Political activity is excluded.**

Self Sufficiency Activities – activities that include, but are not limited to:

- Job readiness programs;
- Job training programs;
- GED classes
- Substances abuse or mental health counseling;
- English proficiency or literacy (reading) classes;
- Apprenticeships;
- Budgeting and credit counseling;
- Any kind of class that helps a person toward economic independence; and
- Full-time student status at any school, college, or vocational school.

Exempt Adult – an adult member of the family who

- Is 62 years of age or older;
- Has a disability that prevents him/her from being gainfully employed;
- Is the caretaker of a disabled person;
- Is working at least 30 hours per week, or
- Is participating in a welfare to work program (including supplemental nutrition program).

Requirements of the Program

The eight (8) hours per month may be either volunteer or self sufficiency program activity, or a combination of the two.

At least eight (8) hours of activity must be performed each month. An individual may not skip a month and then double up the following month, unless special circumstances warrant special consideration. The Authority will make the determination of whether to allow or disallow a deviation from the schedule.

Activities must be performed within the community and not outside the jurisdictional areas of the Authority.

Family obligations

At lease execution or re-examination after February 1, 2000, all household members (18 or older) of a public housing resident family must

Provide documentation that they are exempt from Community Service requirement if they qualify for an exemption, and

Sign a certification that they have received and read this policy and understand that if they are not exempt, failure to comply with the Community Service requirement will result in nonrenewal of their lease.