



Kate Brown, Governor

HUD Contract Administration Section

www.ohcs.oregon.gov

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SECTION 8 PROGRAM UPDATES

NOTICE H-2015-04 METHODOLOGY FOR COMPLETING A MULTIFAMILY HOUSING UTILITY ANALYSIS (UPDATE)

OHCS received confirmation from HUD Headquarters that the Department of Health and Human Services Low-income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) statute explicitly states that assistance under this program shall not be considered income or resources. The statute is accessed at <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/resource/statute>. The specific citation is:

Section 2605 (f)(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law unless enacted in express limitation of this paragraph, the amount of any home energy assistance payments or allowances provided directly to, or indirectly for the benefit of, an eligible house-hold under this title **shall not be considered income** or resources of such household (or any member thereof) for any purpose under any Federal or State law, including any law relating to taxation, food stamps, public assistance, or welfare programs.

Watch for this clarification in the upcoming FAQs that HUD will post on their website.

Attached to the 2015-08-14 OHCS Memo email is the updated OHCS Utility Allowance Policy reflecting this clarification.

NEW SECTION 8 RENEWAL POLICY GUIDE

HUD issued the updated Section 8 Renewal Policy Guidebook on August 7, 2015. The guidance will apply to contract renewals and amend rents packages received by

OHCS or postmarked **November 5, 2015** or later. The updates include guidance issued in previous housing notices.

The body of the guidebook contains asterisks (*) to indicate where specific text has been revised. Chapter 2 and Chapter 16 have been completely revised, so they do not contain asterisks (*) to indicate specific changes in the text.

NOTICE H 2015-06 PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY IN MULTIFAMILY ASSISTED AND INSURED HOUSING PROGRAMS IN ACCORDANCE WITH HUD'S EQUAL ACCESS RULE

Housing Notice H 2015-06, known as the Equal Access Rule, was issued on July 13, 2015. On February 3, 2012, HUD published a final rule entitled Equal Access to Housing in HUD Programs Regardless of Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity (77FR5662) ("Equal Access Rule" or "Rule"). The Rule is intended to ensure that housing across HUD programs is open to all eligible individuals and families regardless of actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status. Housing Notice H 2015-06 provides guidance on how the equal Access Rule applies to Multifamily insured and assisted housing.

Access the rule at <http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/documents/huddoc?id=15-06hsgn.pdf>

FAIR HOUSING IN OREGON

Please see the informational website at

<http://www.oregon.gov/ohcs/pages/equal-access-to-housing-in-oregon.aspx>

HUD REGION X WEBSITES

The HUD Region X website has lots of good information that pertains to Oregon affordable housing owners. There have been many updates since the last OHCS memo was sent. To keep up on the latest information, click the links below:

<http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/states/shared/working/r10/mf/whatsnew>

<http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/states/shared/working/r10/mf/xmfhsgmanageinfo>

INDUSTRY TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

- Many training opportunities can be found online by using one of the search engines. Examples include, but are not limited to, Oregon AHMA Boot Camps and Conference, Quadel Consulting, and NCHM.
- The following link will take you to a Calendar of Events on the HUD RHIIP website (go to RHIIP Support and Training at the bottom of the page):

http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/housing/mfh/rhiip/mfhrhiip

If you have problems with any of the links in this memo, try the following:

- 1. First, hold down the Ctrl key and click on the link, or***
- 2. If #1 did not work, highlight the link and copy/paste it into the browser address bar.***
- 3. OHCS Section 8 memos are posted to the OHCS website at***
<http://www.oregon.gov/ohcs/Pages/hca-communication-memos.aspx> (There is a delay in posting the new memos.)