Please take a moment to read the new policy changes for fiscal year (FY) 2016-2017 to stay informed as a participating tenant. For all current policies, you may refer to the Administrative Plan, which outlines the policies that govern the Housing Authority of the County of Los Angeles administration of its Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) rental assistance program, also referred to as Section 8. The Administrative Plan can be found at www.hacola.org.

The following are new policy changes for FY 2016-2017.

1. **Victims of Sex Trafficking Waiting List Preference** The Housing Authority currently has a waiting list preference for families who live and work in-jurisdiction and are referred to the Housing Authority by law enforcement agencies, subject to Executive Director approval. The types of referrals allowable under this preference include victims of domestic violence, person’s involuntarily displaced to avoid reprisals, or displaced victims of a hate crime.

   Under the FY 2016-2017 Administrative Plan, the types of allowable referrals have been expanded to include “victims of sex trafficking.”

2. **Homeless Waiting List Preference** The Housing Authority currently has a waiting list preference for homeless families referred by an eligible organization. The number of families that qualify for the waiting preference list is currently limited to a number determined annually by the Housing Authority. To qualify for this preference, homeless families must be referred by County agencies with a contract or Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in place with the Housing Authority, or by Community-Based Organizations (CBO) contracted with the Housing Authority.

   Under the FY 2016-2017 Administrative Plan, the Housing Authority now requires homeless families that qualify for this preference to be referred by an eligible entity utilizing a Coordinated Access System. The referring entity must provide a certification of the family’s homeless status. Annually, the Housing Authority will assign a percentage of applications, as approved by its governing Board of Commissioners, not to exceed thirty-five percent of expected annual voucher attrition.

3. **Mandatory Use of a Coordinated Access System** Currently, the Housing Authority does not require its partner agencies to use a Coordinated Access System to refer homeless families for housing assistance.

   Under the FY 2016-2017 Administrative Plan, the Housing Authority now requires the use of a Coordinated Access System for homeless referrals. The Coordinated Access System used by the Housing Authority is the Coordinated Entry System that coordinates providers’ efforts, creates a real-time list of individuals experiencing homelessness in local communities, and provides a means to quickly match people to available housing resources.

4. **Earned Income Disregard Applicability** The Earned Income Disregard (EID) is designed to promote self-sufficiency for eligible families with disabilities in the HCV Program who meet the definition of a “qualified family.”

   Under the previous regulations, families were eligible to receive the EID benefit for no more than 24 months, which could be spread across a 48-month time period to account for potential changes in the employment status of the family member whose original employment caused the family to be eligible for EID. The Housing Authority was required to track the employment of such family members and stop and start the EID benefit accordingly.

   Under the FY 2016-2017 Administration Plan the EID benefit applies for a straight 24-month period, with a set start and end date, which means the benefit is no longer spread across a 48-month time period. There are no changes to EID eligibility criteria, the benefit amount of the EID, the single lifetime eligibility requirement, or the ability of the applicable family member to stop and restart employment during the eligibility period.
Seeking Section 8 Volunteers!

Have you ever wondered why the Housing Authority operates the way it does? Why it has so many rules and policies? Do you wish you could share your concerns or ideas with them? Here is your opportunity to learn the answers to these questions and have your input heard.

The Housing Authority is recruiting Section 8 Program volunteers for its Resident Advisory Board (RAB) Committee that will assist with the 2017 Annual Plan process. The RAB provides the opportunity for Section 8 participants to present input on matters that affect them, including new policies and plans. After all, who knows better than you, what you need, what you want, and what will assist you and your family the most?

All you have to do as a RAB Committee member is attend a minimum of one meeting each year that takes place in October/November. Should you wish to volunteer for this year’s Committee, you may email AssistedHousingCompliance@hacola.org, or call (626) 586-1991 and express your interest. Be sure you provide your name, a contact phone number, and any questions you may have. A Housing Authority representative will contact you with details of your role as a RAB Committee member. Lastly, thank you to the 2016 RAB Committee that assisted with the development of the 2016 Annual Plan process.

2016 Resident Advisory Board Members - Alhambra Office

2016 Resident Advisory Board Members - Palmdale Office