

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
HOUSING ASSISTANCE DIVISION**

Notification of Adoption of Waivers Contained in U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Notice PIH 2021-14(HA), REV-3

Beginning on April 10, 2020, the Los Angeles County Development Authority (LACDA) adopted and implemented a series of statutory and regulatory waivers permitted by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). These HUD waivers will allow the LACDA to enact temporary changes to its Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Program in order to reduce the impact of the COVID-19 crisis. Below is the list of HUD waivers the LACDA has implemented to date: HUD has since consolidated additional guidance and waivers and issued an alternative PIH Notice 2021-14(HA), REV-2 that encompasses all waivers to date.

| SECTION 8 HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER PROGRAM OPERATION CHANGES | |
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| Requirement | Waiver and Alternative Requirements |
| 1 <u>Eligibility Determination Income Verification</u> | HUD is permitting PHAs to use income and asset verification documents generated over 60-days prior to submission to the LACDA. In lieu of a proper third-party verification, HUD is also allowing PHAs to consider self-certification as the highest form of income verification at admission for household income and assets. This waiver is in effect from June 3, 2021 until December 31, 2021. |
| 2 <u>Eligibility Determination: Social Security Number and Citizenship Verification</u> | HUD is permitting PHAs to consider self-certification as an allowable, temporary verification for documentation needed to verify a family members' social security number, date of birth, and documentation evidence of eligible noncitizen status before admitting applicants to the HCV Program. This waiver is in effect from June 3, 2021 until December 31, 2021. |
| 3 <u>Waiting List: Opening and Closing; Public Notice</u> | HUD is providing an alternative requirement so PHAs may provide public notice in a voicemail message on its main or general information telephone number, and through its website (if such a PHA website is available) when it opens its waiting list. |
| 4 <u>Family Income and Composition: Delayed Annual Examinations</u> | Waives the statutory and regulatory requirement to permit PHAs to delay reexaminations of HCV families. This waiver is in effect from December 22, 2020 until December 31, 2021. |
| 5 <u>Increase in Payment Standard Under HAP Contract Term</u> | HUD is allowing for PHAs who increase their payment standards, to make the increases effective immediately. This waiver is in effect from December 22, 2020 until December 31, 2021. |
| 6 <u>Family Income and Composition: Annual Reexamination - Income Verification</u> | Waives the requirements to use the income verification hierarchy, including the use of EIV, and allows PHAs to use self-certification as the highest form of income verification. This waiver is in effect starting from April 28, 2020 to December 31, 2021. |
| 7 <u>Interim Reexaminations – Reported Decreases</u> | Waives the requirement to use the income verification hierarchy, including the use of EIV, for interim reexaminations for family reported decreases in income. This waiver is in effect starting from April 28, 2020 to December 31, 2021. |
| 8 <u>Family Self-Sufficiency – Extension of Contract of Participation</u> | Provides for extensions to FSS contract of participation beyond 5-years and not to exceed 7-years. This waiver is in effect starting from April 28, 2020 to December 31, 2021. |
| 9 <u>Initial Housing Quality Standards Inspection (New Contract)</u> | Changes initial inspection requirements, allowing for owner certification that there are no life-threatening deficiencies. This waiver is in effect starting from April 10, 2020 to December 31, 2021. |
| 10 <u>PBV Pre-HAP Contract Inspections, PHA Acceptance of Completed Units</u> | Changes inspection requirements, allowing for owner certification that there are no life-threatening deficiencies. This waiver is in effect starting from April 10, 2020 to December 31, 2021. |
| 11 <u>Biennial HQS Inspections</u> | Allows for delay in biennial inspections, this waiver is in effect starting from April 28, 2020, but the LACDA has to conduct an actual inspection by December 31, 2021. |
| 12 <u>Interim HQS Inspections – HCV & PBV</u> | Waives the requirement for the PHA to conduct interim inspection and requires alternative method. This waiver is in effect starting from April 10, 2020 to December 31, 2021. |
| 13 <u>PBV Turnover Unit Inspections</u> | Changes inspection requirements, allowing for owner certification that there are no life-threatening deficiencies. This waiver is in effect starting from June 23, 2020 to December 31, 2021. |
| 14 <u>HQS Quality Control Inspections</u> | Provides for a suspension of the requirement for Quality Control Sampling Inspections. This waiver is in effect starting from April 10, 2020 to December 31, 2021. |
| 15 <u>HQS Space and Security – Family Additions and Maximum Unit Occupancy</u> | Waives the requirement that each dwelling unit have at least 1 bedroom or living/sleeping room for each 2 persons. This waiver is in effect starting from April 28, 2020 until December 31, 2021. |
| 16 <u>Information When the Family Is Selected - PHA Oral Briefing for HCV and PBV program</u> | Waives the requirement for an oral briefing. Provides for alternative methods to conduct required voucher briefing, such as webcast, video call, or expanded information packet. This waiver is in effect starting from April 28, 2020 to December 31, 2021. |
| 17 <u>Term of Voucher - Extensions of Term</u> | Allows PHAs to provide voucher extensions regardless of current PHA policy. This waiver is in effect starting from April 10, 2020 to December 31, 2021. |
| 18 <u>PHA Approval of Assisted Tenancy – When HAP Contract is Executed</u> | Provides for HAP payments for contracts not executed within 60 days. The PHA must not pay HAP to owner until HAP contract is executed. This waiver is in effect starting from April 10, 2020 to December 31, 2021. |
| 19 <u>Absence from Unit</u> | Allows the PHA at its discretion to continue housing assistance payments and not terminate the HAP contract for family absent from the unit for a period of more than 180 consecutive days due to extenuating circumstances (e.g. hospitalization, extended stays in nursing homes, care for family members) from 12/22/2020 to December 31, 2021. |
| 20 <u>Automatic Termination of the HAP Contract</u> | Allows the PHA to extend the 180-day period of time (abeyance period) after the last HAP payment is made before the HAP contract terminates automatically. This waiver is in effect starting from April 28, 2020 to December 31, 2021. |
| 21 <u>Family Unification Program</u> | Allows PHAs to increase age to 26 for foster youth initial lease up. This waiver is in effect starting from April 10, 2020 to December 31, 2021. |
| 22 <u>Administrative Plan Changes</u> | Allows PHAs to make changes to their administrative plan without formal adoption by the PHA's Board of Commissioners. This waiver is in effect from March 31, 2021 until December 31, 2021. |

The LACDA's adoption of these waivers is voluntary and subject to change based on the LACDA's operational needs. If conditions allow for the LACDA to resume its standard practices prior to the expiration of a particular waiver, the LACDA reserves the right to terminate the use of that waiver prior to the waiver's expiration date. The LACDA reserves the right to adopt additional waivers contained in PIH Notice 2021-14(HA), REV-3, extensions or any future waivers approved by HUD for the HCV program.