

Streamlined Lease Assistance Program

New Moving to Work Initiative

October 30, 2014

HACSB was designated as a Moving to Work Agency by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in 2008. As a result, we have executed innovative initiatives based on the three key MTW objectives: saving taxpayer dollars through efficient work; helping our families achieve economic independence; and ensuring a family's freedom of housing choice. Currently, there are 39 Housing Authorities participating in the program out of 3,200 Housing Authorities nationwide.

On November 1, 2014, HACSB will implement a new MTW initiative – Streamlined Lease Assistance Program - which simplifies the cumbersome rent calculation for households in the Housing Choice Voucher and Public Housing Programs (excluding households assisted under the Five Year Lease Assistance Program). A tiered or fixed rent calculation will be used to determine the rent.

With the tiered subsidy for all non-elderly and non-disabled households, the household's portion of the rent will start at 21% of gross annual income and increase by 3% at every recertification (two years) to a final tier of 30% of annual income. With the fixed rent subsidy for all elderly and disabled households, the household's portion of the rent will be set at 24% of gross annual income for the duration of assistance.

Both calculations will eliminate all other deductions and allowances (e.g. dependents, elderly/disabled, childcare, medical, disability expense, utility, etc.) resulting in a simpler calculation which will benefit the family and the agency. Families will be able to budget and plan other expenses since the simplified rent will be a percentage of gross annual income and can be factored into their household expenses more accurately. Also HACSB staff will realize extensive administrative efficiencies due to the simplification of the rent calculation process.

The Streamlined Lease Assistance Program will be applied to current HACSB participants at their first biennial recertification on or after February 1, 2015. It will apply to new households admitted on or after February 1, 2015.

For additional detailed information on the Housing Authority's Streamlined Leased Assistance Program, please refer to the Administrative Plan located on our website at www.hacsb.com.