

Public Housing Tenant Responsibilities



Participants in the Public Housing program have rights and responsibilities as program participants. Requirements may vary among public housing agencies (PHAs). Learn more about your specific responsibilities by reading your lease.

Q When am I required to notify the PHA of changes?

- If there are changes to your family, such as a birth or a death in your household, or if someone moves out.
 - If you welcome a new child into your home through birth, adoption, or court-awarded custody, you must let the PHA know.
- When there are changes to your family's income. Changes may include an increase or decrease. Your PHA may have specific requirements about the type of income or how much. Always remember to check your lease.


Q What information am I required to supply during a recertification?

- Income and asset (based on PHA policy) information.
- Information about each household member's citizenship status.
- Each member's social security number.

Q What are my obligations to the unit?

- You must follow the terms of your lease. This includes paying your rent and any utility bills. You are responsible for allowing the PHA to enter your unit, and not subleasing your unit.
- You are responsible for keeping your unit in good shape. This includes not damaging the unit or the premises. It includes keeping your unit clean.
- You are responsible for the actions of any guests who are visiting your unit.
- You cannot participate in any drug-related or violent criminal activity and cannot commit any other crime that would threaten or bother your neighbors. You also cannot use illegal drugs or abuse alcohol in a way that bothers your neighbors.

Q What are Community Service and Self Sufficiency requirements?

-  Every member of the household over the age of 18 must participate in 8 hours of community service a month or with an economic self-sufficiency program. There are some exclusions. See your PHA for exclusions and for eligible activities.



For more Public Housing resident resources, visit <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/public-housing/tenant-empowerment/public-housing-tenant-resources/>.



Contact your local PHA for more information.

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