

## Chapter 10

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## Chapter 10

### MOVING WITH CONTINUED ASSISTANCE AND PORTABILITY

#### INTRODUCTION

Freedom of housing choice is a hallmark of the housing choice voucher (HCV) program. In general, HUD regulations impose few restrictions on where families may live or move with HCV assistance. This chapter sets forth HUD regulations and FCRHA policies governing moves within or outside the FCRHA's jurisdiction in two parts:

Part I: Moving with Continued Assistance. This part covers the general rules that apply to all moves by a family assisted under the FCRHA's HCV program, whether the family moves to another unit within the FCRHA's jurisdiction or to a unit outside the FCRHA's jurisdiction under portability.

Part II: Portability. This part covers the special rules that apply to moves by a family under portability, whether the family moves out of or into the FCRHA's jurisdiction. This part also covers the special responsibilities that the FCRHA has under portability regulations and procedures.

#### PART I: MOVING WITH CONTINUED ASSISTANCE

##### 10-I.A. ALLOWABLE MOVES

HUD lists six regulatory conditions under which an assisted family is allowed to move to a new unit with continued assistance. Permission to move is subject to the restrictions set forth in section 10-I.B.

- The family has a right to terminate the lease on notice to the owner (for the owner's breach or otherwise) and has given a notice of termination to the owner in accordance with the lease [24 CFR 982.314(b)(3)]. If the family terminates the lease on notice to the owner, the family must give the FCRHA a copy of the notice at the same time [24 CFR 982.314(d)(1)].
- The lease for the family's unit has been terminated by mutual agreement of the owner and the family [24 CFR 982.314(b)(1)(ii)].

##### FCRHA Policy

If the family and the owner mutually agree to terminate the lease for the family's unit, the family must give the FCRHA a copy of the termination agreement.

- The owner has given the family a notice to vacate, has commenced an action to evict the family, or has obtained a court judgment or other process allowing the owner to evict the

family [24 CFR 982.314(b)(2)]. The family must give the FCRHA a copy of any owner eviction notice [24 CFR 982.551(g)].

- The family or a member of the family is or has been the victim of domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking and the move is needed to protect the health or safety of the family or family members [24 CFR 982.314(b)(4)]. This condition applies even when the family has moved out of its unit in violation of the lease, with or without prior notification to the FCRHA, if the family or family member who is the victim reasonably believed that he or she was imminently threatened by harm from further violence if he or she remained in the unit [24 CFR 982.314(b)(4), 24 CFR 982.353(b)].

#### FCRHA Policy

If a family requests permission to move with continued assistance based on a claim that the move is necessary to protect the health or safety of a family member who is or has been the victim of domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking, the FCRHA will request documentation in accordance with section 16-IX.D. of this plan.

The FCRHA reserves the right to waive the documentation requirement if it determines that other corroborating evidence will suffice. In such cases the FCRHA will document the waiver in the family's file.

- The FCRHA has terminated the HAP contract for the owner's breach [24 CFR 982.314(b)(1)(i)].
- The FCRHA determines that the family's current unit does not meet the HQS space standards because of an increase in family size or a change in family composition. In such cases, the FCRHA must issue the family a new voucher, and the family and FCRHA must try to find an acceptable unit as soon as possible. If an acceptable unit is available for the family, the FCRHA must terminate the HAP contract for the family's old unit in accordance with the HAP contract terms and must notify both the family and the owner of the termination. The HAP contract terminates at the end of the calendar month that follows the calendar month in which the FCRHA gives notice to the owner. [24 CFR 982.403(a) and (c)]

### **10-I.B. RESTRICTIONS ON MOVES**

A family's right to move is generally contingent upon the family's compliance with program requirements [24 CFR 982.1(b)(2)]. HUD specifies two conditions under which the FCRHA may deny a family permission to move and two ways in which the FCRHA may restrict moves by a family.

#### **Denial of Moves**

HUD regulations permit the FCRHA to deny a family permission to move under the following conditions:

### ***Insufficient Funding***

The FCRHA may deny a family permission to move either within or outside the FCRHA's jurisdiction if the FCRHA does not have sufficient funding for continued assistance [24 CFR 982.314(e)(1)]. However, Notice PIH 2012-42 significantly restricts the ability of PHAs to deny permission to move due to insufficient funding and places further requirements on PHAs regarding moves denied due to lack of funding. The requirements found in this notice are mandatory.

#### **FCRHA Policy**

The FCRHA will deny a family permission to move on grounds that the FCRHA does not have sufficient funding for continued assistance if (a) the move is initiated by the family, not the owner or the FCRHA; (b) the FCRHA can demonstrate that the move will, in fact, result in higher subsidy costs; and (c) the FCRHA can demonstrate, in accordance with the policies in Part VIII of Chapter 16, that it does not have sufficient funding in its annual budget to accommodate the higher subsidy costs.

The FCRHA will create a list of families whose moves have been denied due to insufficient funding. When funds become available, the families on this list will take precedence over families on the waiting list. The FCRHA will use the same procedures for notifying families with open requests to move when funds become available as it uses for notifying families on the waiting list (see section 4-III.D).

The FCRHA will inform the family of its policy regarding moves denied due to insufficient funding in a letter to the family at the time the move is denied.

### ***Grounds for Denial or Termination of Assistance***

The FCRHA may deny a family permission to move if it has grounds for denying or terminating the family's assistance [24 CFR 982.314(e)(2)].

#### **FCRHA Policy**

If the FCRHA has grounds for denying or terminating a family's assistance, the FCRHA will act on those grounds in accordance with the regulations and policies set forth in Chapters 3 and 12, respectively. The FCRHA will deny a family permission to move for this reason.

### **Restrictions on Elective Moves [24 CFR 982.314(c)]**

HUD regulations permit the FCRHA to prohibit any elective move by a participant family during the family's initial lease term. They also permit the FCRHA to prohibit more than one elective move by a participant family during any 12-month period. However, such prohibitions, if adopted, do not apply when the family or a member of the family is or has been the victim of domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking and the move is needed to protect the health or safety of the family or family member. (For the policy on documentation of abuse, see section

10-I.A.) .) In addition, the PHA may not establish a policy permitting moves only at reexamination [Notice PIH 2012-42].

#### FCRHA Policy

Participant families who want to move may do so in compliance with their lease.

The FCRHA will deny a family permission to make an elective move during the family's initial lease term. This policy applies to moves within the FCRHA's jurisdiction or outside it under portability.

The FCRHA will also deny a family permission to make more than one elective move during any 12-month period. This policy applies to all assisted families residing in the FCRHA's jurisdiction.

The FCRHA will consider exceptions to these policies for the following reasons: to protect the health or safety of a family member (e.g., lead-based paint hazards, domestic violence, witness protection programs), to accommodate a change in family circumstances (e.g., new employment, school attendance in a distant area), or to address an emergency situation over which a family has no control.

In addition, the FCRHA will allow exceptions to these policies for purposes of reasonable accommodation of a family member who is a person with disabilities (see Chapter 2).

### **10-I.C. MOVING PROCESS**

#### **Notification**

If a family wishes to move to a new unit, the family must notify the FCRHA and the owner before moving out of the old unit or terminating the lease on notice to the owner [24 CFR 982.314(d)(2)]. If the family wishes to move to a unit outside the FCRHA's jurisdiction under portability, the notice to the FCRHA must specify the area where the family wishes to move [24 CFR 982.314(d)(2), Notice PIH2012-42]. The notices must be in writing [24 CFR 982.5].

#### **Approval**

##### FCRHA Policy

Upon receipt of a family's notification that it wishes to move, the FCRHA will determine whether the move is approvable in accordance with the regulations and policies set forth in sections 10-I.A and 10-I.B. The FCRHA will notify the family in writing of its determination within 10 business days following receipt of the family's notification to the landlord.

## **Reexamination of Family Income and Composition**

### FCRHA Policy

For families approved to move to a new unit within the FCRHA's jurisdiction, the FCRHA will perform a new annual reexamination in accordance with the policies set forth in Chapter 11 of this plan.

For families moving into or families approved to move out of the FCRHA's jurisdiction under portability, the FCRHA will follow the policies set forth in Part II of this chapter.

## **Voucher Issuance and Briefing**

### FCRHA Policy

For families approved to move to a new unit within the FCRHA's jurisdiction, the FCRHA will issue a new voucher within 10 business days of the FCRHA's written approval to move. No briefing is required for these families. The FCRHA will follow the policies set forth in Chapter 5 on voucher term, extension, and expiration. If a family does not locate a new unit within the term of the voucher and any extensions, the family may remain in its current unit with continued voucher assistance if the owner agrees. Otherwise, the family will lose its assistance.

For families moving into or families approved to move out of the FCRHA's jurisdiction under portability, the FCRHA will follow the policies set forth in Part II of this chapter.

## **Housing Assistance Payments [24 CFR 982.311(d)]**

When a family moves out of an assisted unit, the FCRHA may not make any housing assistance payment to the owner for any month **after** the month the family moves out. The owner may keep the housing assistance payment for the month when the family moves out of the unit.

If a participant family moves from an assisted unit with continued tenant-based assistance, the term of the assisted lease for the new assisted unit may begin during the month the family moves out of the first assisted unit. Overlap of the last housing assistance payment (for the month when the family moves out of the old unit) and the first assistance payment for the new unit, is not considered to constitute a duplicative housing subsidy.

## **PART II: PORTABILITY**

### **10-II.A. OVERVIEW**

Within the limitations of the regulations and this plan, a participant family or an applicant family that has been issued a voucher has the right to use tenant-based voucher assistance to lease a unit anywhere in the United States providing that the unit is located within the jurisdiction of a PHA administering a tenant-based voucher program [24 CFR 982.353(b)]. The process by which a family obtains a voucher from one PHA and uses it to lease a unit in the jurisdiction of another

PHA is known as portability. The PHA that issues the voucher is called the **initial PHA**. The PHA that has jurisdiction in the area to which the family wants to move is called the **receiving PHA**.

The receiving PHA has the option of administering the family's voucher for the initial PHA or absorbing the family into its own program. Under the first option, the receiving PHA provides all housing services for the family and bills the initial PHA for the family's housing assistance payments and the fees for administering the family's voucher. Under the second option, the receiving PHA pays for the family's assistance with its own program funds, and the initial PHA has no further relationship with the family. The initial PHA must contact the receiving PHA via email or other confirmed delivery method to determine whether the receiving PHA will administer or absorb the initial PHA's voucher. Based on the receiving PHA's response, the initial PHA must determine whether they will approve or deny the portability request [Notice PIH 2012-42].

PHAs commonly act as both the initial and receiving PHA because families may move into or out of their jurisdiction under portability. Each role involves different responsibilities. The FCRHA will follow the rules and policies in section 10-II.B when it is acting as the initial PHA for a family. It will follow the rules and policies in section 10-II.C when it is acting as the receiving PHA for a family.

## **10-II.B. INITIAL PHA ROLE**

### **Allowable Moves under Portability**

A family may move with voucher assistance only to an area where there is at least one PHA administering a voucher program [24 CFR 982.353(b)]. If there is more than one PHA in the area, the initial PHA may choose the receiving PHA [24 CFR 982.355(b)].

Applicant families that have been issued vouchers as well as participant families may qualify to lease a unit outside the FCRHA's jurisdiction under portability. HUD regulations and FCRHA policy determine whether a family qualifies.

### ***Applicant Families***

Under HUD regulations, most applicant families qualify to lease a unit outside the PHA's jurisdiction under portability. However, HUD gives the FCRHA discretion to deny a portability move by an applicant family for the same two reasons that it may deny any move by a participant family: insufficient funding and grounds for denial or termination of assistance.

#### FCRHA Policy

In determining whether or not to deny an applicant family permission to move under portability because the PHA lacks sufficient funding or has grounds for denying



assistance to the family, the initial PHA will follow the policies established in section 10-I.B of this chapter.

In addition, the FCRHA may establish a policy denying the right to portability to nonresident applicants during the first 12 months after they are admitted to the program [24 CFR 982.353(c)].

### FCRHA Policy

If neither the head of household nor the spouse/co head of an applicant family had a domicile (legal residence) in the FCRHA's jurisdiction at the time that the family's initial application for assistance was submitted, the family must lease a unit within the initial FCRHA's jurisdiction for at least 12 months before requesting portability.

The FCRHA will consider exceptions to this policy for purposes of reasonable accommodation (see Chapter 2) or reasons related to domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking. However, any exception to this policy is subject to the approval of the receiving PHA [24 CFR 982.353(c)(3)].

### ***Participant Families***

The initial PHA must not provide portable assistance for a participant if a family has moved out of its assisted unit in violation of the lease [24 CFR 982.353(b)]. The Violence against Women Act of 2005 (VAWA) creates an exception to this prohibition for families who are otherwise in compliance with program obligations but have moved to protect the health or safety of a family member who is or has been a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking and who reasonably believed he or she was imminently threatened by harm from further violence if he or she remained in the unit [24 CFR 982.353(b)].

### FCRHA Policy

The FCRHA will determine whether a participant family may move out of the FCRHA's jurisdiction with continued assistance in accordance with the regulations and policies set forth here and in sections 10-I.A and 10-I.B of this chapter. The FCRHA will notify the family of its determination in accordance with the approval policy set forth in section 10-I.C of this chapter.

## **Determining Income Eligibility**

### ***Applicant Families***

An applicant family may lease a unit in a particular area under portability only if the family is income eligible for admission to the voucher program in that area [24 CFR 982.353(d)(3)]. The family must specify the area to which the family wishes to move [Notice2012-42].

The initial PHA is responsible for determining whether the family is income eligible in the area to which the family wishes to move [24 CFR 982.355(c)(1)]. If the applicant family is not income eligible in that area, the PHA must inform the family that it may not move there and receive voucher assistance [Notice PIH2012-42].

### ***Participant Families***

The income eligibility of a participant family is not redetermined if the family moves to a new jurisdiction under portability [24 CFR 982.353(d)(2), 24 CFR 982.355(c)(1)].

## **Reexamination of Family Income and Composition**

No new reexamination of family income and composition is required for an applicant family or participant family.

### FCRHA Policy

For a participant family approved to move out of its jurisdiction under portability, the FCRHA generally will conduct a reexamination of family income and composition only if the family's annual reexamination must be completed on or before the initial billing deadline specified on form HUD-52665, Family Portability Information.

The FCRHA will make any exceptions to this policy necessary to remain in compliance with HUD regulations.

## **Briefing**

The regulations and policies on briefings set forth in Chapter 5 of this plan require the FCRHA to provide information on portability to all applicant families that qualify to lease a unit outside the FCRHA's jurisdiction under the portability procedures. Therefore, no special briefing is required for these families.

### FCRHA Policy

No formal briefing will be required for a participant family wishing to move outside the FCRHA's jurisdiction under portability. However, the FCRHA will provide the family with the same oral and written explanation of portability that it provides to applicant families selected for admission to the program (see Chapter 5). The FCRHA will provide the name, address, and phone of the contact for the PHA in the jurisdiction to which they wish to move. The FCRHA will advise the family that they will be under the PHA's policies and procedures, including subsidy standards and voucher extension policies.

## **Voucher Issuance and Term**

An applicant family has no right to portability until after the family has been issued a voucher [24 CFR 982.353(b)]. In issuing vouchers to applicant families, the FCRHA will follow the regulations and procedures set forth in Chapter 5.

### FCRHA Policy

Families will not be approved for portability if they are in violation of any lease terms. For families approved to move under portability, the FCRHA will issue a new voucher within 10 business days of the FCRHA's written approval to move.

The initial term of the voucher will be 60 days.

## **Voucher Extensions and Expiration**

### FCRHA Policy

The FCRHA will approve **no** extensions to a voucher issued to an applicant or participant family porting out of the FCRHA's jurisdiction except under the following circumstances:

- (a) The initial term of the voucher will expire before the portable family will be issued a voucher by the receiving PHA,
- (b) The family decides to return to the initial PHA's jurisdiction and search for a unit there, or
- (c) The family decides to search for a unit in a third PHA's jurisdiction.

In such cases, the policies on voucher extensions set forth in Chapter 5, section 5-II.E, of this plan will apply, including the requirement that the family apply for an extension in writing prior to the expiration of the initial voucher term.

If the family wants to return to the FCRHA's jurisdiction or search for a unit in a third PHA's jurisdiction, the family must be referred back to the FCRHA by the receiving PHA. In these cases the family may have two vouchers in hand – the FCRHA's voucher and the receiving PHA's voucher. The FCRHA's voucher is considered the “voucher of record” and the FCRHA's decision to extend the voucher only applies to the family's search for a unit in Fairfax County or in the third jurisdiction. The voucher issued to the family by the original receiving PHA will be considered invalid for the family's search for a unit in Fairfax County or a third jurisdiction.

To receive or continue receiving assistance under the initial PHA's voucher program, a family that moves to another PHA's jurisdiction under portability must be under HAP contract in the receiving PHA's jurisdiction within 60 days following the expiration date of the initial PHA's voucher term (including any extensions). (See below under “Initial Billing Deadline” for one exception to this policy.)

### **Preapproval Contact with the Receiving PHA**

Prior to approving a family's request to move under portability, the initial PHA must contact the receiving PHA via e-mail or other confirmed delivery method to determine whether the receiving PHA will administer or absorb the family's voucher. Based on the receiving PHA's response, the initial PHA must determine whether it will approve or deny the move [Notice PIH2012-42].

#### FCRHA Policy

The FCRHA will use e-mail, when possible, to contact the receiving PHA regarding whether the receiving PHA will administer or absorb the family's voucher.

## **Initial Notification to the Receiving PHA**

After approving a family's request to move under portability, the initial PHA must promptly notify the receiving PHA to expect the family [24 CFR 982.355(c)(2)]. This means that the initial PHA must contact the receiving PHA directly on the family's behalf [Notice PIH2012-42]. The initial PHA must also advise the family how to contact and request assistance from the receiving PHA [24 CFR 982.355(c)(2)].

### FCRHA Policy

Because the portability process is time-sensitive, the FCRHA will notify the receiving PHA by phone, fax, or e-mail to expect the family. This notification is dependent on the participant or applicant providing information to the FCRHA that allows it to reasonably identify the receiving PHA. The initial PHA will also ask the receiving PHA to provide any information the family may need upon arrival, including the name, fax, e-mail address, and telephone number of the staff person responsible for business with incoming portable families and procedures related to appointments for voucher issuance. The PHA will pass this information along to the family, who is responsible for promptly contacting the receiving PHA to comply with their procedures [24 CFR 982.355(c)(3)]. The PHA will also ask for the name, address, telephone number, fax and e-mail of the person responsible for processing the billing information.

## **Sending Documentation to the Receiving PHA**

The initial PHA is required to send the receiving PHA the following documents:

- Form HUD-52665, Family Portability Information, with Part I filledout [Notice PIH2012-42]
- A copy of the family's voucher [Notice PIH2012-42]
- A copy of the family's most recent form HUD-50058, Family Report, or, if necessary in the case of an applicant family, family and income information in a format similar to that of form HUD-50058 [24 CFR 982.355(c)(4), Notice PIH2012-42]
- Copies of the income verifications backing up the form HUD-50058, including a copy of the family's current EIV data [24 CFR 982.355(c)(4), Notice PIH2012-42]
- A copy of the family's current EIV data [HUD Refinement of Income & Rent Rule webcast, January 28, 2010]

### FCRHA Policy

In addition to these documents, the FCRHA will provide the following information, if available, to the receiving PHA:

- Social security numbers (SSNs)
- Documentation of SSNs for all nonexempt household members whose SSNs have not been verified through the EIV system
- Documentation of legal identity
- Documentation of citizenship or eligible immigration status

- Documentation of participation in the earned income disallowance (EID) benefit
- Documentation of participation in a family self-sufficiency (FSS) program

The FCRHA will notify the family in writing regarding any information provided to the receiving PHA [HCV GB, p. 13-3]

### **Initial Billing Deadline [Notice PIH2012-42]**

When the initial PHA sends form HUD-52665 to the receiving PHA, it specifies in Part I the deadline by which it must receive the initial billing notice from the receiving PHA. This deadline is 60 days following the expiration date of the voucher issued to the family by the initial PHA. If the initial PHA does not receive a billing notice by the deadline and does not intend to honor a late billing submission, it must contact the receiving PHA to determine the status of the family. If the receiving PHA reports that the family is not yet under HAP contract, the initial PHA may refuse to accept a late billing submission. If the receiving PHA reports that the family is under HAP contract and the receiving PHA cannot absorb the family, the initial PHA must accept a late billing submission; however, it may report to HUD the receiving PHA's failure to comply with the deadline.

#### FCRHA Policy

If the FCRHA has not received an initial billing notice from the receiving PHA by the deadline specified on form HUD-52665, it will contact the receiving PHA by phone, fax, or e-mail on the next business day. If the PHA reports that the family is not yet under HAP contract, the FCRHA will inform the receiving PHA that it will not honor a late billing submission and will return any subsequent billings that it receives on behalf of the family. The FCRHA will send the receiving PHA a written confirmation of its decision by mail.

The FCRHA will allow an exception to this policy if the family includes a person with disabilities and the late billing is a result of a reasonable accommodation granted to the family by the receiving PHA.

### **Monthly Billing Payments [24 CFR 982.355(e), Notice PIH2012-42]**

If the receiving PHA is administering the family's voucher, the initial PHA is responsible for making billing payments in a timely manner. The first billing amount is due within 30 calendar days after the initial PHA receives Part II of form HUD-52665 from the receiving PHA. Subsequent payments must be **received** by the receiving PHA no later than the fifth business day of each month. The payments must be provided in a form and manner that the receiving PHA is able and willing to accept.

The initial PHA may not terminate or delay making payments under existing portability billing arrangements as a result of over leasing or funding shortfalls. The PHA must manage its tenant-based program in a manner that ensures that it has the financial ability to provide assistance for

families that move out of its jurisdiction under portability and are not absorbed by receiving PHAs as well as for families that remain within its jurisdiction.

#### FCRHA Policy

The FCRHA will ensure the payment is received by the deadline using whatever payment method is preferred by the receiving PHA (check, direct deposit, etc.).

### **Annual Updates of Form HUD-50058**

If the initial PHA is being billed on behalf of a portable family, it should receive an updated form HUD-50058 each year from the receiving PHA. If the initial PHA fails to receive an updated 50058 by the family's annual reexamination date, the initial PHA should contact the receiving PHA to verify the status of the family.

### **Denial or Termination of Assistance [24 CFR 982.355(c)(9)]**

If the initial PHA has grounds for denying or terminating assistance for a portable family that has not been absorbed by the receiving PHA, the initial PHA may act on those grounds at any time. (For FCRHA policies on denial and termination, see Chapters 3 and 12, respectively.)

### **10-II.C. RECEIVING PHA ROLE**

If a family has a right to lease a unit in the receiving PHA's jurisdiction under portability, the receiving PHA must provide assistance for the family [24 CFR 982.355(10)].

The receiving PHA's procedures and preferences for selection among eligible applicants do not apply, and the receiving PHA's waiting list is not used [24 CFR 982.355(10)]. However, the family's unit, or voucher, size is determined in accordance with the subsidy standards of the receiving PHA [24 CFR 982.355(7)], and the amount of the family's housing assistance payment is determined in the same manner as for other families in the receiving PHA's voucher program [24 CFR 982.355(e)(2)].

### **Responding to Initial PHA's Request**

The receiving PHA must respond via e-mail or other confirmed delivery method to the initial PHA's inquiry to determine whether the family's voucher will be billed or absorbed. If the receiving PHA informs the initial PHA that it will be absorbing the voucher, the receiving PHA cannot reverse its decision at a later date [Notice PIH2012-42].

#### FCRHA Policy

The FCRHA will use e-mail, when possible, to notify the initial PHA whether it will administer or absorb the family's voucher.

## **Initial Contact with Family**

When a family moves into the FCRHA's jurisdiction under portability, the family is responsible for promptly contacting the FCRHA and complying with the FCRHA's procedures for incoming portable families [24 CFR 982.355(c)(3)].

If the voucher issued to the family by the initial PHA has expired, the FCRHA will not process the family's paperwork but instead refers the family back to the initial PHA [Notice PIH2012-42].

If for any reason the receiving PHA refuses to process or provide assistance to a family under the portability procedures, the family must be given the opportunity for an informal review or hearing [Notice PIH2012-42]. (For more on this topic, see later under "Denial or Termination of Assistance.")

## **Briefing**

HUD allows the receiving PHA to require a briefing for an incoming portable family as long as the requirement does not unduly delay the family's search [Notice PIH2012-42].

### FCRHA Policy

The FCRHA will require the family attend a briefing. The FCRHA will provide the family with a briefing packet (as described in Chapter 5) and orally inform the family about the FCRHA's payment and subsidy standards, procedures for requesting approval of a unit, the unit inspection process, and the leasing process.

## **Income Eligibility and Reexamination**

HUD allows the receiving PHA to conduct its own income reexamination of a portable family [24 CFR 982.355(c)(4)]. However, the receiving PHA may not delay voucher issuance or unit approval until the reexamination process is complete unless the reexamination is necessary to determine that an applicant family is income eligible for admission to the program in the area where the family wishes to lease a unit [Notice PIH2012-42, 24 CFR 982.201(b)(4)]. The receiving PHA does not redetermine income eligibility for a portable family that was already receiving assistance in the initial PHA's voucher program [24 CFR 982.355(c)(1)].

### FCRHA Policy

For any family moving into its jurisdiction under portability, the FCRHA will conduct a new reexamination of family income and composition. However, the FCRHA will not delay issuing the family a voucher for this reason, nor will the FCRHA deny issuing the voucher if the criminal background check is not completed. The FCRHA will not delay approving a unit for the family until the reexamination process is complete unless the family is an applicant and the FCRHA cannot otherwise confirm that the family is income eligible for admission to the program in the area where the unit is located.



In conducting its own reexamination, the FCRHA will rely upon any verifications provided by the initial PHA to the extent that they (a) accurately reflect the family's current circumstances and (b) were obtained within the last 60 days for applicants and within the last 120 days for participants. Any new information may be verified by documents provided by the family and adjusted, if necessary, when third party verification is received.

## **Voucher Issuance**

When a family moves into its jurisdiction under portability, the receiving PHA is required to issue the family a voucher [24 CFR 982.355(b)(6)]. The family must submit a request for tenancy approval to the receiving PHA during the term of the receiving PHA's voucher [24 CFR 982.355(c)(6)]. The family's unit, or voucher size is determined in accordance with the subsidy standards of the PHA [24 CFR 982.355(7)], and the amount of the family's housing assistance payment is determined in the same manner as for other families in the PHA's voucher program [24 CFR 982.355(e)(2)]. The receiving PHA will immediately contact the initial PHA if the receiving PHA changes the unit size of the family's voucher [PIC Coach Corner – Volume2009-1].

### ***Timing of Voucher Issuance***

HUD expects the receiving PHA to issue the voucher within two weeks after receiving the family's paperwork from the initial PHA if the information is in order, the family has contacted the receiving PHA, and the family complies with the receiving PHA's procedures [Notice PIH2012-42].

#### **FCRHA Policy**

When a family ports into its jurisdiction, the FCRHA will issue the family a voucher within two weeks based on the paperwork provided by the initial PHA unless the family's paperwork from the initial PHA is incomplete, the family's voucher from the initial PHA has expired or the family does not comply with the FCRHA's procedures. The FCRHA will update the family's information when verification has been completed.

The FCRHA shall promptly notify the initial PHA if the family fails to submit a Request for Tenancy Approval by the date specified by the initial PHA or any extension granted by the receiving PHA.

### ***Voucher Term***

The term of the receiving PHA's voucher may not expire before the term of the initial PHA's voucher [24 CFR 982.355(c)(6)].

#### **FCRHA Policy**

The receiving PHA's voucher will expire on the same date as the initial PHA's voucher.

### ***Voucher Extensions [24 CFR 982.355(c)(6), Notice2012-42]***

The receiving PHA may provide additional search time to the family beyond the expiration date of the initial PHA's voucher; however, if it does so, it must inform the initial PHA of the extension. It must also bear in mind the billing deadline provided by the initial PHA. Unless willing and able to absorb the family, the receiving PHA should ensure that any voucher expiration date would leave sufficient time to process a request for tenancy approval, execute a HAP contract, and deliver the initial billing to the initial PHA.

#### **FCRHA Policy**

The FCRHA generally will not extend the term of the voucher that it issues to an incoming portable family unless the FCRHA plans to absorb the family into its own program, in which case it will follow the policies on voucher extension set forth in section 5-II.E.

The FCRHA will consider an exception to this policy as a reasonable accommodation to a person with disabilities (see Chapter 2).

### **Notifying the Initial PHA**

The receiving PHA must promptly notify the initial PHA if the family has leased an eligible unit under the program or if the family fails to submit a request for tenancy approval for an eligible unit within the term of the receiving PHA's voucher [24 CFR 982.355(c)(8)]. The receiving PHA is required to use Part II of form HUD-52665, Family Portability Information, for this purpose [24 CFR 982.355(e)(5), Notice PIH2012-42]. (For more on this topic and the deadline for notification, see below under "Administering a Portable Family's Voucher,")

If an incoming portable family ultimately decides not to lease in the jurisdiction of the receiving PHA but instead wishes to return to the initial PHA's jurisdiction or to search in another jurisdiction, the receiving PHA must refer the family back to the initial PHA. In such a case the voucher of record for the family is once again the voucher originally issued by the initial PHA. Any extension of search time provided by the receiving PHA's voucher is only valid for the family's search in the receiving PHA's jurisdiction. [Notice PIH2012-42]

### **Administering a Portable Family's Voucher**

#### ***Initial Billing Deadline***

If a portable family's search for a unit is successful and the receiving PHA intends to administer the family's voucher, the receiving PHA must submit its initial billing notice (Part II of form HUD-52665) (a) no later than 10 business days following the date the receiving PHA **executes** a HAP contract on behalf of the family **and** (b) in time that the notice will be **received** no later than 60 days following the expiration date of the family's voucher issued by the initial PHA [Notice PIH2012-42]. A copy of the family's form HUD-50058, Family Report, completed by

the receiving PHA must be attached to the initial billing notice. The receiving PHA may send these documents by mail, fax, or e-mail.

FCRHA Policy

If the FCRHA does not have a Voucher to issue a family wishing to transfer in, then the FCRHA will bill the initial housing authority.

The FCRHA will send its initial billing notice by fax or e-mail, if necessary, to meet the billing deadline but will also send the notice by regular mail.

If the receiving PHA fails to send the initial billing within 10 business days following the date the HAP contract is executed, it is required to absorb the family into its own program unless (a) the initial PHA is willing to accept the late submission or (b) HUD requires the initial PHA to honor the late submission (e.g., because the receiving PHA is over leased) [Notice PIH2012-42].

***Ongoing Notification Responsibilities [Notice PIH2012-42, HUD-52665]***

**Annual Reexamination.** The receiving PHA must send the initial PHA a copy of a portable family's updated form HUD-50058 after each annual reexamination for the duration of time the receiving PHA is billing the initial PHA on behalf of the family, regardless of whether there is a change in the billing amount.

FCRHA Policy

The FCRHA will send a copy of the updated HUD-50058 by regular mail at the same time the FCRHA and owner are notified of the reexamination results.

**Change in Billing Amount.** The receiving PHA is required to notify the initial PHA, using form HUD-52665, of any change in the billing amount for the family as a result of:

- A change in the HAP amount (because of a reexamination, a change in the applicable payment standard, a move to another unit, etc.)
- An abatement or subsequent resumption of the HAP payments
- Termination of the HAP contract
- Payment of a damage/vacancy loss claim for the family
- Termination of the family from the program

The timing of the notice of the change in the billing amount should correspond with the notification to the owner and the family in order to provide the initial PHA with advance notice of the change. Under no circumstances should the notification be later than 10 business days following the effective date of the change in the billing amount. If the receiving PHA fails to send form HUD-52665 within 10 days of the effective date of billing changes, the initial PHA is not responsible for any increase prior to notification.

### ***Late Payments [Notice PIH2012-42]***

If the initial PHA fails to make a monthly payment for a portable family by the fifth business day of the month, the receiving PHA must promptly notify the initial PHA in writing of the deficiency. The notice must identify the family, the amount of the billing payment, the date the billing payment was due, and the date the billing payment was received (if it arrived late). The receiving PHA must send a copy of the notification to the Office of Public Housing (OPH) in the HUD area office with jurisdiction over the receiving PHA. If the initial PHA fails to correct the problem by the second month following the notification, the receiving PHA may request by memorandum to the director of the OPH with jurisdiction over the receiving PHA that HUD transfer the unit in question. A copy of the initial notification and any subsequent correspondence between the PHAs on the matter must be attached. The receiving PHA must send a copy of the memorandum to the initial PHA. If the OPH decides to grant the transfer, the billing arrangement on behalf of the family ceases with the transfer, but the initial PHA is still responsible for any outstanding payments due to the receiving PHA.

### ***Overpayments [Notice PIH2012-42]***

In all cases where the receiving PHA has received billing payments for billing arrangements no longer in effect, the receiving PHA is responsible for returning the full amount of the overpayment (including the portion provided for administrative fees) to the initial PHA.

In the event that HUD determines billing payments have continued for at least three months because the receiving PHA failed to notify the initial PHA that the billing arrangement was terminated, the receiving PHA must take the following steps:

- Return the full amount of the overpayment, including the portion provided for administrative fees, to the initial PHA.
- Once full payment has been returned, notify the Office of Public Housing in the HUD area office with jurisdiction over the receiving PHA of the date and the amount of reimbursement to the initial PHA.

At HUD's discretion, the receiving PHA will be subject to the sanctions spelled out in Notice PIH2012-42.

### ***Denial or Termination of Assistance***

At any time, the receiving PHA may make a determination to deny or terminate assistance to a portable family for family action or inaction [24 CFR 982.355(c)(9), 24 CFR 982.355(c)(10), 24 CFR 982.552, 24 CFR 982.553].

In the case of a termination, the PHA should provide adequate notice of the effective date to the initial PHA to avoid having to return a payment. In no event should the receiving PHA fail to notify the initial PHA later than 10 business days following the effective date of the termination of the billing arrangement. [Notice PIH2012-42]

### FCRHA Policy

If the FCRHA elects to deny assistance (applicant family) or terminate assistance (participant family) for a portable family, the FCRHA will notify the initial PHA within 10 business days after the informal review or hearing if the denial or termination is upheld. The FCRHA will base its denial or termination decision on the policies set forth in Chapter 3 or Chapter 12, respectively. The informal review or hearing will be held in accordance with the policies in Chapter 16. The receiving PHA will furnish the initial PHA with a copy of the review or hearing decision.

### **Absorbing a Portable Family**

The receiving PHA may absorb an incoming portable family into its own program when the PHA executes a HAP contract on behalf of the family or at any time thereafter providing that (a) the PHA has funding available under its annual contributions contract (ACC) and (b) absorbing the family will not result in overleasing [24 CFR 982.355(d)(1), Notice PIH2012-42].

If the receiving PHA absorbs a family from the point of admission, the admission will be counted against the income targeting obligation of the receiving PHA [24 CFR 982.201(b)(2)(vii)].

If the receiving PHA absorbs a family after providing assistance for the family under a billing arrangement with the initial PHA, HUD encourages the receiving PHA to provide adequate advance notice to the initial PHA to avoid having to return an overpayment. The receiving PHA must specify the effective date of the absorption of the family [Notice PIH2012-42].

### FCRHA Policy

If the FCRHA decides to absorb a portable family upon the execution of a HAP contract on behalf of the family, the FCRHA will notify the initial PHA by the initial billing deadline specified on form HUD-52665. The effective date of the HAP contract will be the effective date of the absorption.

If the FCRHA decides to absorb a family after that, it will provide the initial PHA with 30 days' advance notice.

Following the absorption of an incoming portable family, the family is assisted with funds available under the consolidated ACC for the receiving PHA's voucher program [24 CFR 982.355(d)], and the receiving PHA becomes the initial PHA in any subsequent moves by the family under portability.