

COMMUNITY SERVICE / SELF SUFFICIENCY POLICY

A. Background

The Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act of 1998 requires that all non-exempt (see definitions) public housing adult residents (18 or older) contribute eight (8) hours per month of community service (volunteer work) or participate in eight (8) hours of training, counseling, classes and other activities which help an individual toward self-sufficiency and economic independence. This a requirement of the Public Housing Lease.

B. Definitions

Community Service – Volunteer work which includes, but is not limited to:

1. Work at a local school, hospital, or child care center
2. Work with youth organizations
3. Work at the Authority to help improve physical conditions
4. Work at the authority to help with children's programs
5. Helping neighborhood groups with special projects
6. Working through resident organization to help other residents with problems

NOTE: POLITICAL ACTIVITY IS EXCLUDED

Self Sufficiency Activities – Activities which include, but are not limited to:

1. Job training programs
2. Substance abuse or mental health counseling
3. English proficiency or literacy (reading) classes
4. Budgeting and credit counseling
5. Any kind of class that helps a person toward economic independence
6. Attending high school, college, university or vocational education classes

Exempt Adult – An adult member of the family who:

1. Is 62 years of age or older
2. Has a disability that prevent him/her from being gainfully employed
3. Is the caretaker of a disabled person
4. Is working at least 20 hours per week
5. Is participating in a welfare to work program
6. Is receiving assistance from TANF and is in compliance with job training and work activities requirements of the program

C. Requirements of the Program

1. The eight (8) hours per month may be either volunteer work or self sufficiency program activity or a combination of the two.
2. At least eight (8) hours of activity must be performed each month. An individual may not skip a month and then double up the following month, unless special circumstances warrant special consideration. The Authority will make the determination of whether to allow or disallow a deviation from the schedule.
3. Activities must be performed within the community and not outside the jurisdictional area of the Authority.

Applicant Acknowledgement

Date