

HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER PLAN AFFIRMATIVELY FURTHERING FAIR HOUSING

Federal laws require PHAs to treat all applicants and participants equally, providing the same quality of service, regardless of family characteristics and background. Federal law prohibits discrimination in housing on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, familial status, and disability. To affirmatively further fair housing the Housing Authority of the County of Kern (HACK) will comply fully with all federal, state, and local non-discrimination laws, and with rules and regulations governing fair housing and equal opportunity in housing and employment, including:

1. The Fair Housing Act, 42 U.S.C. 3610-3619 (implementing regulations at 24 CFR parts 100, et seq.);
2. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C 2000d (implementing regulations at 24 CFR part 1);
3. Title VIII of the Civil rights Act of 1968 (as amended by the community Development Act of 1974 and the Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988)
4. The Age discrimination Act of 1975, 42 U.S.C 6101-6107 (implementing regulations at 24 CFR part 146);
5. Executive Order 11063, Equal Opportunity in Housing (1962), as amended, Executive Order 12259, 46 CFR 1253 (1980), as amended, Executive Order 12892, 59 CFR 2939 (1994) (implementing regulations at 24 CFR part 107);
6. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. 794 CFR part 8); and
7. Title II of the Americans with disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. 12101, et seq.
HACK will submit a signed certification to HUD of HACK's intention to comply with the Fair Housing Act, title VI of the civil Rights Act of 1975, Executive Order 11063, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act at any time HACK applies for additional funding or at the request of HUD.

Providing information to families as part of the briefing process:

HACK will provide information to the HCV applicant family about civil rights requirements and the opportunity to rent in a broad range of neighborhoods (24 CFR 982.301). To further its commitment to full compliance with applicable Civil Rights laws, HACK will provide Federal/State/local information to applicants and participants in the Section 8 Housing Program regarding discrimination and any recourse available to them if they believe they may be victims of discrimination. Such information will be made available with the application and all applicable Fair Housing Information and Discrimination Complaint Forms will be made available at the HACK office. In addition, all written information and advertisements will contain the appropriate Equal Opportunity language and logo.

HACK will assist any family that believes they have suffered illegal discrimination by providing them copies of the housing discrimination form. HACK will also assist them in completing the form, if requested, and will provide them with the address of the nearest HUD Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity or Discrimination Hotline: 1-800/669-9777.

HACK will endeavor to provide bilingual staff or other access to people who speak languages other than English.

Records of participants in HACK's HCV programs (Tenant Based HCV, Project Based HCV, Family Self Sufficiency, Shelter Plus Care and Single Room Occupancy) will be maintained to demonstrate steps taken to affirmatively further fair housing. Additional, steps will include:

1. Advertising widely in the community for the recruitment of staff who provide Section 8 services, such as the coordinators, housing specialists, inspectors or clerical staff positions,
2. Marketing the program to all eligible persons, including persons with disabilities and persons with limited English proficiency,
3. Making buildings and communications that facilitate applications and service delivery accessible to persons with disabilities,
4. Providing fair housing counseling services or 12 referrals to fair housing agencies.

Providing Information to Owners:

HACK will take steps to ensure that owners are fully aware of all applicable civil rights laws. The Housing assistance Payments (HAP) contract informs owners of the requirement not to discriminate against any person because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, familial status, or disability in connection with the contract.