



Community Service and Self-Sufficiency Policy

Revised October 2004

Background

The Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act of 1998 requires that all non-exempt 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, or other activities that help an individual toward self-sufficiency and economic independence. This is a requirement of the Public Housing Lease.

Definitions

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

- Work at a local institution including but not limited to: school, childcare center, hospital, hospice, recreation center, senior center, adult day care center, homeless shelter, indigent feeding program, cooperative food bank, etc.;
- Work with a non-profit organization that serves HADCO residents or their children such as: Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Boys and Girls clubs, 4-H program, PAL, garden center, community cleanup programs, beautification programs, other youth or senior organizations;
- Helping neighborhood groups with special projects;
- Working through resident organizations to help other residents with problems, serving as an officer in a resident organization, serving on the Resident Advisory Board; and
- Caring for the children of other residents so they may volunteer.
- **NOTE: Political activity is excluded.**

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

- Job readiness and training programs;
- Job training programs;
- GED classes;
- Substance abuse or mental health counseling;
- English proficiency or literacy (reading) classes;
- Apprenticeships;
- Budgeting and credit counseling;
- Any kind of class that helps a person toward economic independence; and
- Full time student status at any school, college, or vocational school.



Exempt Adult – an adult member of the family who:

- Is 62 years of age or older;
- Has a disability that prevents him/her from being gainfully employed;
- Is the caretaker of a disabled person;
- Is employed; or
- Is participating in a welfare-to-work program.

Requirements of the Program

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

Family Obligations

At lease execution or re-examination after February 1, 2000, all adult members of a public housing resident family must provide documentation that they are exempt from Community Service requirement if they qualify for an exemption, and sign a certification that they have received and read this policy and understand that if they are not exempt, failure to comply with the Community Service requirement will result in nonrenewal of their lease.

At each annual re-examination, non-exempt family members must present completed documentation (provided by HADCO) of activities performed over the previous twelve (12) months. This form will include places for signatures of supervisors, instructors, or counselors certifying to the number of hours contributed.

If a family member is found to be noncompliant at re-examination, he/she and the Head of Household will sign an agreement with HADCO to make up the deficient hours over the next twelve (12) month period.



Change in exempt status:

- If, during the twelve (12) month period, a non-exempt person becomes exempt, it is his/her responsibility to report this to HADCO and provide documentation.
- If, during the twelve (12) month period, an exempt person becomes non-exempt, it is his/her responsibility to report this to HADCO. HADCO will provide the person with the certification documentation form and a list of agencies in the community that provide volunteer and/or training opportunities.

HADCO Obligations

To the greatest extent possible and practicable, HADCO will:

- provide names and contacts at agencies that can provide opportunities for residents, including disabled, to fulfill their Community Service obligations. (*According to the Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act, a disabled person who is otherwise able to be gainfully employed is not necessarily exempt from the Community Service requirement*); and
- provide in-house opportunities for volunteer work or self-sufficiency programs.

HADCO will provide the family with exemption verification forms and certification documentation forms and a copy of this policy at initial application and at lease execution. HADCO will make the final determination as to whether or not a family member is exempt from the Community Service requirement. Residents may use HADCO's Grievance Procedure if they disagree with HADCO's determination.

Noncompliance of a Family Member:

At least thirty (30) days prior to annual re-examination and/or lease expiration, HADCO will begin reviewing the exempt or non-exempt status and compliance of family members. If HADCO finds a family member to be noncompliant, HADCO will enter into an agreement with the noncompliant member and the Head of Household to make up the deficient hours over the next twelve (12) month period. If at the next annual re-examination, the family member still is not compliant, the lease will not be renewed and the entire family will have to vacate, unless the noncompliant member agrees to move out of the unit.

The family may use HADCO's Grievance Procedure to protest the lease termination.



Signatures and Acknowledgement:

I/we have received a copy of HADCO's Community Service Requirements and have read and understand the contents of the policy. I/we understand that this is a requirement of the Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act of 1998 and that if we do not comply with this regulation, our lease will not be renewed.

Head of Household: _____

Date: _____

Co-Head: _____

Date: _____

Adult Tenant: _____

Date: _____

Manager: _____

Date: _____