Attachment 1B: Resident Provisions in Conversions of Assistance from Public Housing

Attachment 1B – Resident Provisions in Conversions of Assistance from Public Housing to PBRA and PBV

This Attachment contains two sections, describing:

1B.1 Summary of Resident Provisions
1B.2 Resident Participation and Funding

1B.1 Summary of Resident Provisions

The following is a summary of special provisions and alternative requirements related to tenants of public housing projects converting under RAD (including for those that will reside in non-RAD PBV units in the Covered project):

- Conversion will be considered a significant action requiring discussion in the PHA’s Five-Year Plan, Annual Plan or MTW Plan or requiring a significant amendment to a PHA Plan (see Section 1.5.E. of this Notice);
- Notification of proposed conversion, meetings during the conversion process, written response to residents comments on conversion, and notification of conversion approval and impact (see Section 1.8 of this Notice);
- No rescreening at conversion (see Section 1.6.C.1 of this Notice for conversions to PBV and Section 1.7.B.1 for conversions to PBRA);
- A right to return, which covers the right to return to the rent-assisted property after temporary relocation (when temporary relocation is necessary to facilitate rehabilitation or construction), or the right to occupancy of the new unit if the rental assistance is transferred to a new unit. (See Section 1.4.A.5. of this Notice and the RAD Fair Housing, Civil Rights, and Relocation Notice.)
- Phase-in of tenant rent increases (see Section 1.6.C.3. of this Notice for conversions to PBV and Section 1.7.B.3. for conversions to PBRA);
- Relocation protections, including procedural rights, assistance with moving, and applicable relocation payments. (See Section 1.4.A.5. of this Notice and the RAD Fair Housing, Civil Rights, and Relocation Notice.)
- Continued participation in the ROSS-SC FSS and JobsPlus programs (see Sections 1.6.C.5 and 1.6.C.9 of this Notice, for conversions to PBV and Section 1.7.B.4 for conversions to PBRA);
- Continued Earned Income Disregard (see Section 1.6.C.8 of this Notice, for conversions to PBV and Section 1.7.B.7 for conversions to PBRA);
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- Continued recognition of and funding for legitimate residents organizations (see Section 1.6.C.6 of this Notice for conversions to PBV, Section 1.7.B.5 of this Notice for conversions to PBRA, and below in Attachment 1B.2 for additional requirements for both programs);
- Procedural rights consistent with section 6 of the Act (see Section 1.6.C.7 of this Notice for conversions to PBV and Section 1.7.B.6 of this Notice for conversions to PBRA); and
- Choice-mobility option allowing a resident to move with a tenant-based voucher after tenancy in the Covered Project (see 24 CFR § 983.260 for conversions to PBV and Section 1.7.C.5 of this Notice for conversions to PBRA).

The foregoing is a summary of special provisions and alternative requirements relating to residents of public housing projects converting to RAD and does not attempt to capture all program requirements and details. For additional information, refer to the full text of this Notice and to the RAD Fair Housing, Civil Rights, and Relocation Notice (Notice H 2016-17; PIH 2016-17).
1B.2 Resident Participation and Funding

The following provisions contain the resident participation and funding requirements for public housing conversions to PBRA and PBV, respectively.

A. PBRA: Resident Participation and Funding

Residents of Covered Projects converting assistance to PBRA will have the right to establish and operate a resident organization in accordance with 24 CFR Part 245 (Tenant Participation in Multifamily Housing Projects). In addition, a Project Owner must provide $25 per occupied unit annually for resident participation, of which at least $15 per occupied unit shall be provided to the legitimate tenant organization at the covered property. Resident participation funding applies to all occupied units in the Covered Project as well as units which would have been occupied if not for temporary relocation. These funds must be used for resident education, organizing around tenancy issues, and training activities.

In the absence of a legitimate resident organization at a Covered Project, HUD encourages the Project Owner and residents to work together to determine the most appropriate ways to foster a constructive working relationship, including supporting the formation of a legitimate resident organization. Residents are encouraged to contact the Project Owner directly with questions or concerns regarding issues related to their tenancy. Project Owners are also encouraged to actively engage residents in the absence of a resident organization.

Project Owners must make resident participation funds available to residents for organizing activities in accordance with this Notice. Residents must make requests for these funds in writing to the Project Owner. These requests will be subject to approval by the Project Owner. Eligible uses of funds are the same as those permitted under “Guidance on the use of Tenant Participation Funds,” Notice PIH 2013-21. The Department strongly encourages residents and Project Owners to resolve questions concerning specific uses of resident participation funds directly. If a dispute over funding arises the resident organization or Project Owner may refer any disputes over funding to the HUD Field Office for intervention only after documented efforts to at direct resolution have proven unsuccessful.

B. PBV: Resident Participation and Funding

To support resident participation following conversion of assistance, residents of Covered Projects converting assistance to the PBV program will have the right to establish and operate a resident organization for the purpose of addressing issues related to their living conditions.
environment, which includes the terms and conditions of their tenancy as well as activities related to housing and community development.

1. **Legitimate Resident Organization.** A Project Owner must recognize legitimate resident organizations and give reasonable consideration to concerns raised by legitimate resident organizations. A resident organization is legitimate if it has been established by the residents of a Covered Project, meets regularly, operates democratically, is representative of all residents in the project, and is completely independent of the Project Owner, management, and their representatives.

   In the absence of a legitimate resident organization at a Covered Project, HUD encourages the Project Owner and residents to work together to determine the most appropriate ways to foster a constructive working relationship, including supporting the formation of a legitimate resident organization. Residents are encouraged to contact the Project Owner directly with questions or concerns regarding issues related to their tenancy. Project Owners are also encouraged to actively engage residents in the absence of a resident organization.

2. **Protected Activities.** Project Owners must allow residents and resident organizers to conduct the following activities related to the establishment or operation of a resident organization:
   a. Distributing leaflets in lobby areas;
   b. Placing leaflets at or under residents' doors;
   c. Distributing leaflets in common areas;
   d. Initiating contact with residents;
   e. Conducting door-to-door surveys of residents to ascertain interest in establishing a resident organization and to offer information about resident organizations;
   f. Posting information on bulletin boards;
   g. Assisting resident to participate in resident organization activities;
   h. Convening regularly scheduled resident organization meetings in a space on site and accessible to residents, in a manner that is fully independent of management representatives. In order to preserve the independence of resident organizations, management representatives may not attend such meetings unless invited by the resident organization to specific meetings to discuss a specific issue or issues; and
   i. Formulating responses to Project Owner's requests for:
      i. Rent increases;
      ii. Partial payment of claims;
      iii. The conversion from project-based paid utilities to resident-paid utilities;
      iv. A reduction in resident utility allowances;
      v. Major capital additions; and
vi. Prepayment of loans.

In addition to these activities, Project Owners must allow residents and resident organizers to conduct other reasonable activities related to the establishment or operation of a resident organization.

Project Owners shall not require residents and resident organizers to obtain prior permission before engaging in the activities permitted in this section.

3. Meeting Space. Project Owners must reasonably make available the use of any community room or other available space appropriate for meetings that is part of the multifamily housing project when requested by:
   a. Residents or a resident organization and used for activities related to the operation of the resident organization; or
   b. Residents seeking to establish a resident organization or collectively address issues related to their living environment.

   Resident and resident organization meetings must be accessible to persons with disabilities, unless this is impractical for reasons beyond the organization's control. If the project has an accessible common area or areas, it will not be impractical to make organizational meetings accessible to persons with disabilities.

   Project Owners may charge a reasonable, customary and usual fee, approved by the Secretary as may normally be imposed for the use of such facilities in accordance with procedures prescribed by the Secretary, for the use of meeting space. A PHA may waive this fee.

4. Resident Organizers. A resident organizer is a resident or non-resident who assists residents in establishing and operating a resident organization, and who is not an employee or representative of current or prospective Project Owners, managers, or their agents.

   Project Owners must allow resident organizers to assist residents in establishing and operating resident organizations.

5. Canvassing. If a Covered Project has a consistently enforced, written policy against canvassing, then a non-resident resident organizer must be accompanied by a resident while on the property of the project.
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If a project has a written policy favoring canvassing, any non-resident resident organizer must be afforded the same privileges and rights of access as other uninvited outside parties in the normal course of operations. If the project does not have a consistently enforced, written policy against canvassing, the project shall be treated as if it has a policy favoring canvassing.

A resident has the right not to be re-canvassed against his or her wishes regarding participation in a resident organization.

6. **Funding**. Project Owners must provide $25 per occupied unit annually for resident participation, of which at least $15 per occupied unit shall be provided to the legitimate resident organization at the covered property. These funds must be used for resident education, organizing around tenancy issues, and training activities. Project Owners must make resident participation funds available to residents for organizing activities in accordance with this Notice. Residents must make requests for these funds in writing to the Project Owner. These requests will be subject to approval by the Project Owner. Eligible use of funds are the same as those permitted under “Guidance on the use of Tenant Participation Funds,” Notice PIH 2013-21. The Department strongly encourages residents and Project Owners to resolve questions concerning specific uses of resident participation funds directly. If a dispute over funding arises the resident organization or Project Owner may refer any disputes over funding to the Contract Administrator for intervention only after documented efforts to at direct resolution have proven unsuccessful.

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99 Resident participation funding applies to all occupied units in the Covered Project as well as units which would have been occupied if not for temporary relocation.