

Shared Supports: Housing Options with Roommate Sharing

Housing options available to roommates:

HUD policies do not mandate that a “family” that receives Section 8 housing assistance be related to one another, however, each Public Housing Authority (PHA) has the right to determine what the definition of a “family” is. HUD provides guidelines (Chapter 5 of the *Housing Choice Voucher Program Guidebook*), but each PHA has discretion within those guidelines. Waiver participants in the NOW who wish to be roommates and apply for one voucher together may do so (assuming it is approved by the PHA). All roommates in a home must provide their income information on the application for the voucher, as they would be considered a “family” or “household”.

CHAPTER 5 ELIGIBILITY AND DENIAL OF ASSISTANCE

Definition of Family

Program Requirements

Each applicant for assistance under the housing choice voucher program must meet the PHA's definition of family. Within guidelines provided by HUD, a PHA has discretion in its definition of what constitutes a family.

A family is either a single person or a group of persons and includes:

- A household with or without children. A child who is temporarily away from home due to placement in foster care should be considered a member of the family.
- An elderly family, which is defined as a family whose head, co-head, spouse, or sole member is at least 62 years of age; or two or more persons, each of whom are at least 62, living together; or one or more persons who are at least 62 living with one or more live-in aides.
- A disabled family, which means a family whose head, co-head, spouse, or sole member is a person with disabilities; or two or more persons with disabilities; or one or more persons with disabilities with one or more live-in aides.
- A displaced family, which is a family in which each member or the sole member is a person displaced by governmental action, or whose dwelling has been extensively damaged or destroyed as a result of a disaster declared or otherwise formally recognized by federal disaster relief laws.
- A remaining member of a tenant family is a family member of an assisted tenant family who remains in the unit when other members of the family have left the unit.
- A single person who is not an elderly or displaced person, or a person with disabilities, or the remaining member of a tenant family.

Section 8 assistance under HUD may be “tenant-based” or “project-based”. In project-based programs, rental assistance is paid for families who live in specific housing developments or units (i.e., public housing). With tenant-based assistance, the assisted unit or home is selected by the family (i.e., “housing choice voucher program”). To receive tenant-based assistance, the participant or family selects a suitable unit or home. The participant or family is free to choose any housing that meets the requirements of the program and is not limited to units located in subsidized housing projects. After approving the tenancy, the public housing authority (PHA) enters into a contract in which a housing subsidy is paid to the landlord directly by the public housing authority on behalf of the participating family. The family then pays the difference between the actual rent charged by the landlord and the amount subsidized by the program. The PHA contract with the owner/landlord only covers a single unit

and a specific assisted family. If the family moves out of the leased unit, the contract with the owner terminates. However, HUD is aware that a family's housing needs change over time with changes in family size, job locations, and for other reasons. The housing choice voucher program is designed to allow families to move without the loss of housing assistance. Moves are permissible as long as the family notifies the PHA ahead of time, terminates its existing lease within the lease provisions, and finds acceptable alternate housing. Under certain circumstance, the PHA may set limits on moves for a given family. Under certain circumstances, if authorized by the PHA, a family may use its voucher to purchase a modest home.

§ 982.314 Move with continued tenant-based assistance.

(a) *Applicability.* This section states when a participant family may move to a new unit with continued tenant-based assistance: (b) *When family may move.* A family may move to a new unit if: (1) The assisted lease for the old unit has terminated. This includes a termination because: (i) The PHA has terminated the HAP contract for the owner's breach; or (ii) The lease has terminated by mutual agreement of the owner and the tenant. (2) The owner has given the tenant a notice to vacate, or has commenced an action to evict the tenant, or has obtained a court judgment or other process allowing the owner to evict the tenant. (3) The tenant has given notice of lease termination (if the tenant has a right to terminate the lease on notice to the owner, for owner breach or otherwise). (c) *How many moves.* (1) A participant family may move one or more times with continued assistance under the program, either inside the PHA jurisdiction, or under the portability procedures. (See § 982.353) (2) The PHA may establish: (i) Policies that prohibit any move by the family during the initial lease term; and (ii) Policies that prohibit more than one move by the family during any one year period. (3) The PHA policies may apply to moves within the PHA jurisdiction by a participant family, and to moves by a participant family outside the PHA jurisdiction under portability procedures. (d) *Notice that family wants to move.* (1) If the family terminates the lease on notice to the owner, the family must give the PHA a copy of the notice at the same time. (2) If the family wants to move to a new unit, the family must notify the PHA and the owner before moving from the old unit. If the family wants to move to a new unit that is located outside the initial PHA jurisdiction, the notice to the initial PHA must specify the area where the family wants to move. See portability procedures in subpart H of this part. (e) *When PHA may deny permission to move.* (1) The PHA may deny permission to move if the PHA does not have sufficient funding for continued assistance. (2) At any time, the PHA may deny permission to move in accordance with § 982.552 (grounds for denial or termination of assistance). [60 FR 34695, July 3, 1995, as amended at 64FR 56913, Oct. 21, 1999]

§ 982.315 Family break-up.

(a) The PHA has discretion to determine which members of an assisted family continue to receive assistance in the program if the family breaks up. The PHA administrative plan must state PHA policies on how to decide who remains in the program if the family breaks up...

There are a variety of living options available to waiver participants individually, as well as waiver participants with roommates. These special housing types discussed below may or may not be available in all regions of Louisiana, as each PHA decides which housing options it will offer

Subpart M—Special Housing Types. SOURCE: 63 FR 23865, Apr. 30, 1998, unless otherwise noted.

§ 982.601 Overview.

(a) *Special housing types.* This subpart describes program requirements for special housing types. The following are the special housing types: (1) Single room occupancy (SRO) housing; (2) Congregate housing; (3) Group home; (4) Shared housing; (5) Cooperative (including mutual housing); (6) Manufactured home. (b) *PHA choice to offer special housing type.* (1) The PHA may permit a family to use any of the following special housing types in accordance with requirements of the program: single room occupancy housing, congregate housing, group home, shared housing or cooperative housing. (2) In general, the PHA is not required to permit use of any of these special housing types in its program. (3) The PHA must permit use of any special housing type if needed as a reasonable accommodation so that the program is readily accessible to and usable by persons with disabilities in accordance with 24 CFR part 8. (4) For occupancy of a manufactured home, see §

982.620(a).(c) *Family choice of housing and housing type.* The PHA may not set aside program funding for special housing types, or for a specific special housing type. The family chooses whether to rent housing that qualifies as a special housing type under this subpart, or as any specific special housing type, or to rent other eligible housing in accordance with requirements of the program. The PHA may not restrict the family's freedom to choose among available units in accordance with § 982.353.(d) *Applicability of requirements.* Except as modified by this subpart, requirements in the other subparts of this part apply to the special housing types. Provisions in this subpart only apply to a specific special housing type. The housing type is noted in the title of each section.

Another option available to roommates is the "Shared Housing" option in which a participant or "family" can share a house or unit with another resident. The other resident(s) with whom the participant shares the unit does not have to receive Section 8 assistance, as the landlord executes separate leases with each participant or family. Each participant may use their own voucher for the shared unit, which covers use of their own private bedroom(s) as well as access to and use of a shared "common" or public space (kitchen, living room, etc.). A 0-bedroom or 1-bedroom unit cannot be used for shared housing.

SHARED HOUSING [24 CFR 982.615 through 982.618]
15-IV.A. OVERVIEW

Shared housing is a single housing unit occupied by an assisted family and another resident or residents. The shared unit consists of both common space for use by the occupants of the unit and separate private space for each assisted family. An assisted family may share a unit with other persons assisted under the HCV program or with other unassisted persons. The owner of a shared housing unit may reside in the unit, but housing assistance may not be paid on behalf of the owner. The resident owner may not be related by blood or marriage to the assisted family. If approved by the PHA, a live-in aide may reside with the family to care for a person with disabilities. The PHA must approve a live-in aide if needed as a reasonable accommodation so that the program is readily accessible to and usable by persons with disabilities. When providing HCV assistance in shared housing, a separate lease and HAP contract are executed for each assisted family, and the standard form of the HAP contract is used.

15-IV.B. PAYMENT STANDARD, UTILITY ALLOWANCE AND HAP CALCULATION

The payment standard for a family in shared housing is the lower of the payment standard for the family unit size or the prorata share of the payment standard for the shared housing unit size. The prorata share is calculated by dividing the number of bedrooms available for occupancy by the assisted family in the private space by the total number of bedrooms in the unit. The HAP for a family in shared housing is the lower of the payment standard minus the TTP or the gross rent minus the TTP. The utility allowance for an assisted family living in shared housing is the prorata share of the utility allowance for the shared housing unit. The rents paid for families living in shared housing are subject to generally applicable standards for rent reasonableness. The rent paid to the owner for the assisted family must not exceed the pro-rata portion of the reasonable rent for the shared unit. In determining reasonable rent, the PHA should consider whether sanitary and food preparation areas are private or shared.

15-IV.C. HOUSING QUALITY STANDARDS

The PHA may not give approval to reside in shared housing unless the entire unit, including the portion of the unit available for use by the assisted family under its lease, meets the housing quality standards.

HQS requirements described in Chapter 8 apply to shared housing except for the requirements stated below.

- *Facilities Available for the Family:* Facilities available to the assisted family, whether shared or private, must include a living room, a bathroom, and food preparation and refuse disposal facilities.
- *Space and Security:* The entire unit must provide adequate space and security for all assisted and unassisted residents. The private space for each assisted family must contain at least one bedroom for each two persons in the family. The number of bedrooms in the private space of an assisted family must not be less than the family unit size. A 0-bedroom or 1-bedroom unit may not be used for shared housing.

2 persons w/ SSI = Any location

3 persons = 6 locations

STATE: LOUISIANA

SSI

8,088 | 10,170 | 24,264

PROGRAM	1 PERSON	2 PERSON	3 PERSON	4 PERSON	5 PERSON	6 PERSON	7 PERSON	8 PERSON
Alexandria, LA MSA								
FY 2010 MFI: 50000	10500	12000	13500	15000	16200	17400	18600	19800
30% OF MEDIAN	17500	20000	22500	25000	27000	29000	31000	33000
VERY LOW INCOME	28000	32000	36000	40000	43200	46400	49600	52800
LOW-INCOME								
Baton Rouge, LA MSA								
Baton Rouge, LA HMFA								
FY 2010 MFI: 60600	12750	14600	16400	18200	19700	21150	22600	24050
30% OF MEDIAN	21250	24250	27300	30300	32750	35150	37600	40000
VERY LOW INCOME	33950	38800	43650	48500	52400	56300	60150	64050
LOW-INCOME								
Iberville Parish, LA HMFA								
FY 2010 MFI: 47800	10050	11500	12950	14350	15500	16650	17800	18950
30% OF MEDIAN	16750	19150	21550	23900	25850	27750	29650	31550
VERY LOW INCOME	26800	30600	34450	38250	41350	44400	47450	50500
LOW-INCOME								
Houma-Bayou Cane-Thibodaux, LA MSA								
FY 2010 MFI: 55800	11750	13400	15100	16750	18100	19450	20800	22150
30% OF MEDIAN	19550	22350	25150	27900	30150	32400	34600	36850
VERY LOW INCOME	31300	35750	40200	44650	48250	51800	55400	58950
LOW-INCOME								
Lafayette, LA MSA								
FY 2010 MFI: 58300	12250	14000	15750	17500	18900	20300	21700	23100
30% OF MEDIAN	20450	23350	26250	29150	31500	33850	36150	38500
VERY LOW INCOME	32700	37350	42000	46650	50400	54150	57850	61600
LOW-INCOME								
Lake Charles, LA MSA								
FY 2010 MFI: 55000	11550	13200	14850	16500	17850	19150	20500	21800
30% OF MEDIAN	19250	22000	24750	27500	29700	31900	34100	36300
VERY LOW INCOME	30800	35200	39600	44000	47550	51050	54600	58100
LOW-INCOME								
Monroe, LA MSA								
FY 2010 MFI: 51400	10800	12350	13900	15400	16650	17900	19100	20350
30% OF MEDIAN	18000	20600	23150	25700	27800	29850	31900	33950
VERY LOW INCOME	28800	32900	37000	41100	44400	47700	51000	54300
LOW-INCOME								
New Orleans-Metairie-Kenner, LA MSA								
FY 2010 MFI: 61200	12850	14700	16550	18350	19850	21300	22800	24250
30% OF MEDIAN	21450	24500	27550	30600	33050	35500	37950	40400
VERY LOW INCOME	34300	39200	44100	48950	52900	56800	60700	64650
LOW-INCOME								
Shreveport-Bossier City, LA MSA								
FY 2010 MFI: 52600	11100	12650	14250	15800	17100	18350	19600	20900
30% OF MEDIAN	18450	21050	23700	26300	28450	30550	32650	34750
VERY LOW INCOME	29500	33700	37900	42100	45500	48850	52250	55600
LOW-INCOME								
Acadia Parish, LA								
FY 2010 MFI: 43000	9450	10800	12150	13450	14550	15650	16700	17800
30% OF MEDIAN	15750	18000	20250	22450	24250	26050	27850	29650
VERY LOW INCOME	25150	28750	32350	35900	38800	41650	44550	47400
LOW-INCOME								
Allen Parish, LA								
FY 2010 MFI: 45800	9650	11000	12400	13750	14850	15950	17050	18150
30% OF MEDIAN	16050	18350	20650	22900	24750	26600	28400	30250
VERY LOW INCOME	25700	29350	33000	36650	39600	42550	45450	48400
LOW-INCOME								
Assumption Parish, LA								
FY 2010 MFI: 48700	10250	11700	13150	14600	15800	16950	18150	19300
30% OF MEDIAN	17050	19500	21950	24350	26300	28250	30200	32150
VERY LOW INCOME	27300	31200	35100	38950	42100	45200	48300	51450
LOW-INCOME								

STATE: LOUISIANA

-----I N C O M E L I M I T S-----

PROGRAM	1 PERSON	2 PERSON	3 PERSON	4 PERSON	5 PERSON	6 PERSON	7 PERSON	8 PERSON
Avoyelles Parish, LA FY 2010 MFI: 39600	9300 15450 24750	10600 17650 28250	11950 19850 31800	13250 22050 35300	14350 23850 38150	15400 25600 40950	16450 27350 43800	17500 29150 46600
Beauregard Parish, LA FY 2010 MFI: 50800	10700 17800 28500	12200 20350 32550	13750 22900 36600	15250 25400 40650	16500 27450 43950	17700 29500 47200	18950 31500 50450	20150 33550 53700
Bienville Parish, LA FY 2010 MFI: 40900	9300 15450 24750	10600 17650 28250	11950 19850 31800	13250 22050 35300	14350 23850 38150	15400 25600 40950	16450 27350 43800	17500 29150 46600
Caldwell Parish, LA FY 2010 MFI: 45500	9600 15950 25500	10950 18200 29150	12300 20500 32800	13650 22750 36400	14750 24600 39350	15850 26400 42250	16950 28250 45150	18050 30050 48050
Catahoula Parish, LA FY 2010 MFI: 36800	9300 15450 24750	10600 17650 28250	11950 19850 31800	13250 22050 35300	14350 23850 38150	15400 25600 40950	16450 27350 43800	17500 29150 46600
Claiborne Parish, LA FY 2010 MFI: 43500	9300 15450 24750	10600 17650 28250	11950 19850 31800	13250 22050 35300	14350 23850 38150	15400 25600 40950	16450 27350 43800	17500 29150 46600
Concordia Parish, LA FY 2010 MFI: 38700	9300 15450 24750	10600 17650 28250	11950 19850 31800	13250 22050 35300	14350 23850 38150	15400 25600 40950	16450 27350 43800	17500 29150 46600
East Carroll Parish, LA FY 2010 MFI: 33200	9300 15450 24750	10600 17650 28250	11950 19850 31800	13250 22050 35300	14350 23850 38150	15400 25600 40950	16450 27350 43800	17500 29150 46600
Evangeline Parish, LA FY 2010 MFI: 36800	9300 15450 24750	10600 17650 28250	11950 19850 31800	13250 22050 35300	14350 23850 38150	15400 25600 40950	16450 27350 43800	17500 29150 46600
Franklin Parish, LA FY 2010 MFI: 37100	9300 15450 24750	10600 17650 28250	11950 19850 31800	13250 22050 35300	14350 23850 38150	15400 25600 40950	16450 27350 43800	17500 29150 46600
Iberia Parish, LA FY 2010 MFI: 48600	10250 17050 27250	11700 19450 31150	13150 21900 35050	14600 24300 38900	15800 26250 42050	16950 28200 45150	18150 30150 48250	19300 32100 51350
Jackson Parish, LA FY 2010 MFI: 49100	10350 17200 27550	11800 19650 31450	13300 22100 35400	14750 24550 39300	15950 26550 42450	17150 28500 45600	18300 30450 48750	19500 32450 51900

STATE: LOUISIANA

-----I N C O M E L I M I T S-----

PROGRAM	1 PERSON	2 PERSON	3 PERSON	4 PERSON	5 PERSON	6 PERSON	7 PERSON	8 PERSON
Jefferson Davis Parish, LA FY 2010 MFI: 44800								
30% OF MEDIAN	9450	10800	12150	13450	14550	15650	16700	17800
VERY LOW INCOME	15700	17950	20200	22400	24200	26000	27800	29600
LOW-INCOME	25100	28700	32300	35850	38750	41600	44500	47350
La Salle Parish, LA FY 2010 MFI: 48900								
30% OF MEDIAN	10300	11750	13200	14650	15850	17000	18200	19350
VERY LOW INCOME	17150	19600	22050	24450	26450	28400	30350	32300
LOW-INCOME	27400	31300	35200	39100	42250	45400	48500	51650
Lincoln Parish, LA FY 2010 MFI: 52300								
30% OF MEDIAN	11000	12600	14150	15700	17000	18250	19500	20750
VERY LOW INCOME	18350	20950	23550	26150	28250	30350	32450	34550
LOW-INCOME	29300	33500	37700	41850	45200	48550	51900	55250
Madison Parish, LA FY 2010 MFI: 31900								
30% OF MEDIAN	9300	10600	11950	13250	14350	15400	16450	17500
VERY LOW INCOME	15450	17650	19850	22050	23850	25600	27350	29150
LOW-INCOME	24750	28250	31800	35300	38150	40950	43800	46600
Morehouse Parish, LA FY 2010 MFI: 40000								
30% OF MEDIAN	9300	10600	11950	13250	14350	15400	16450	17500
VERY LOW INCOME	15450	17650	19850	22050	23850	25600	27350	29150
LOW-INCOME	24750	28250	31800	35300	38150	40950	43800	46600
Natchitoches Parish, LA FY 2010 MFI: 43300								
30% OF MEDIAN	9300	10600	11950	13250	14350	15400	16450	17500
VERY LOW INCOME	15450	17650	19850	22050	23850	25600	27350	29150
LOW-INCOME	24750	28250	31800	35300	38150	40950	43800	46600
Red River Parish, LA FY 2010 MFI: 37700								
30% OF MEDIAN	9300	10600	11950	13250	14350	15400	16450	17500
VERY LOW INCOME	15450	17650	19850	22050	23850	25600	27350	29150
LOW-INCOME	24750	28250	31800	35300	38150	40950	43800	46600
Richland Parish, LA FY 2010 MFI: 39300								
30% OF MEDIAN	9300	10600	11950	13250	14350	15400	16450	17500
VERY LOW INCOME	15450	17650	19850	22050	23850	25600	27350	29150
LOW-INCOME	24750	28250	31800	35300	38150	40950	43800	46600
Sabine Parish, LA FY 2010 MFI: 45200								
30% OF MEDIAN	9500	10850	12200	13550	14650	15750	16850	17900
VERY LOW INCOME	15850	18100	20350	22600	24450	26250	28050	29850
LOW-INCOME	25350	28950	32550	36150	39050	41950	44850	47750
St. James Parish, LA FY 2010 MFI: 57600								
30% OF MEDIAN	12150	13850	15600	17300	18700	20100	21500	22850
VERY LOW INCOME	20200	23050	25950	28800	31150	33450	35750	38050
LOW-INCOME	32300	36900	41500	46100	49800	53500	57200	60900
St. Landry Parish, LA FY 2010 MFI: 39200								
30% OF MEDIAN	9450	10800	12150	13450	14550	15650	16700	17800
VERY LOW INCOME	15750	18000	20250	22450	24250	26050	27850	29650
LOW-INCOME	25150	28750	32350	35900	38800	41650	44550	47400
St. Mary Parish, LA FY 2010 MFI: 45000								
30% OF MEDIAN	9450	10800	12150	13500	14600	15700	16750	17850
VERY LOW INCOME	15750	18000	20250	22500	24300	26100	27900	29700
LOW-INCOME	25200	28800	32400	36000	38900	41800	44650	47550

Determination of Rent with Section 8 Housing Assistance

Supplemental Security Income: maximum monthly benefit = \$674.00/person
(x2 people = \$16,176/year of annual income)

Eligibility for Section 8 assistance is determined by income of all adult family members. Income limits vary among parish and cities in Louisiana. Generally, a PHA uses the "very low income" table (50% of median income) to determine eligibility for a voucher. (See table attachment)

HUD studies show that many assisted families pay the incorrect amount of rent. The primary causes are:

- 1) Under-reporting of income by residents
- 2) PHA's not granting exclusions and deduction to which residents are entitled

Annual Income:

"Annual Income" refers to all amounts, monetary or not, which go to, or on behalf of, the residents living in the home (income paid to children are not counted). This includes:

- the full amount of wages/salaries (before deductions)
- commissions, fees, tips, and other compensation for personal services
- the full amount of amounts received from Social Security, annuities, insurance policies, pensions, disability or death benefits, unemployment benefits, disability or worker's compensation, welfare assistance, alimony, child support payments

"Annual Income" does not include:

- Amounts received that are specifically for, or in reimbursement of, the cost of medical expenses for any family member
- Income of a live-in aide
- Full amount of student financial assistance paid directly to the student or educational institution
- Amounts received under training programs funded by HUD:
- Amounts received by person with a disability that are disregarded for a limited time purposes of SSI eligibility and benefits because they are set aside for use under a Plan to Attain Self-Sufficiency (PASS)
- Amount received by a person in other publicly assisted programs which are specifically for, or in reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses incurred (special equipment, clothing, transportation, child-care, etc) and which are made solely to allow participation in a specific program
- Earning in excess of \$480 for each full-time student 18 years or older (excluding head of household and spouse)
- Deferred periodic amount from supplemental security benefits that are received in a lump sum amount or in prospective monthly amounts

- Amounts received by the family in the form of refund or rebates under state or local law for property taxed paid on the dwelling unit

Other income exclusions:

- The value of the allotment provided under the Food Stamp Act of 1977
- Payments received under programs funded under the Job Training Partnership Act (Workforce Investment Act of 1998)

Deductions/Allowances resulting in Adjusted Income:

Mandatory deductions (amounts subtracted from the family's annual income to produce the "adjusted income") allowed:

- Dependent allowance: \$480 for each member of the family (excluding head of household or spouse) who is less than 18 years old or who is a student or person with a disability. *(the roommate not considered "head of household" could get this)*
- Elderly/Disabled Household allowance: \$400 for any elderly family or disabled family *(this amount is per family, not per person in family)(the "head of household" roommate could get this)*
- Disability assistance: families are entitled to a deduction for unreimbursed expenses to cover care attendants and auxiliary apparatus (i.e., wheelchairs, ramps, adaptations to vehicles, or special equipment to enable a blind person to read or type) for any family member with disabilities, to the extent these expenses are necessary to enable a family members (including the family member with disabilities) 18 or older to be employed. The sum of the expenses noted above is allowable to the extent the sum exceeds 3% of annual family income.
- Medical expenses: medical expenses of all family members may be counted. Medical expenses are expenses anticipated to be incurred during the 12 months following certification or reexamination which are not covered by an outside source such as insurance. This allowance is intended to give a family an allowance to anticipate regular ongoing and anticipated expenses during the coming year. Medical expenses may include: services of doctors or other healthcare professionals, services of health care facilities, medical insurance premiums, prescription/non-prescription medicines (prescribed by physician), transportation to treatment (cab fare, bus fare, mileage), dental expenses, eyeglasses, hearing aids, batteries, live-in or periodic medical assistance, monthly payment on accumulate medical bills (regular monthly payments on a bill that was previously incurred).
The sum of the expenses noted above is allowable to the extent the sum exceeds 3% of annual family income

Permissive deductions: PHA's may establish other deductions as they wish, however HUD does not provide any additional operating subsidy and the PHA must establish a written policy for the deductions

Hardship: PHA's must waive the minimum monthly rent requirement for any family unable to pay due to financial hardships as described in PHA's written policies. A family paying flat rent may at any time request a switch to payment of income-based rent if the family is unable to pay flat rent because of financial hardships.

Financial hardships include:

- Decrease in income because of changed circumstances including loss or reduction of employment, death in the family, or reduction in or loss of earnings or other assistance
- Increase in expenses, because of changed circumstances, for medical costs, child care, transportation, education, or similar items
- Other situations determined by the PHA to be appropriate

Maximum Initial Rent Burden (Housing Choice Voucher Only):

The family's share may not exceed 40% of the family's monthly adjusted income when the family initially moves into the unit or signs the first assisted lease for a unit. This applies only when the gross rent for the unit exceeds the applicable payment standard.

Use of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) by roommates:

This program was formerly called the Food Stamp program. Per SNAP federal regulations, a "household" is composed of one of the following individuals or groups of individuals:

- 1) An individual living alone
- 2) An individual living with others, but customarily purchasing food and preparing meals for home consumption separate and apart from others; or
- 3) A group of individuals who live together and customarily purchase food and prepare meals together for home consumption.

#2 is an example of two separate "households" living together but each is responsible for purchasing and preparing their meals apart from the other household. Consequently, each "household" or roommate can apply for SNAP benefits separately, even if living together. In these circumstances, each applicant must note on their application that they will be purchasing and preparing their meals separately from the others who live in the household.

#3 is an example of one single household which would consist of everyone living in the home (i.e., 2-3 roommates) and applying together for SNAP benefits. In the application, one of the roommates will be designated as "head of household". In the event of one or more of the roommates moving out, then the "head of household" will need to inform the SNAP agency of the change in household composition and income. The person who moves out will need to reapply for SNAP benefits on their own application, which may take up to 30 days.

Any changes in income, amount paid in rent, amount received via voucher or other housing assistance, or number of people in the household must be reported to the SNAP agency within 10 day of the change.
