



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Public Housing

Cleveland Office, Region V – Midwest Region

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December 23, 2022

Mr. Casey Ricker
Executive Director
Hancock Metropolitan Housing Authority
1800 N. Blanchard St., Suite 114
Findlay, OH 45840

Subject: Hancock MHA 2023 Annual PHA Plan (version #2)

Dear Mr. Ricker:

Hancock Metropolitan Housing Authority's Annual PHA Plan submission (version #2) for the PHA's fiscal year beginning January 1, 2023 is hereby approved.

Approval of the Annual Plan does not constitute an endorsement of the strategies and policies outlined therein.

In providing assistance to families under the Housing Choice Voucher program, Hancock Metropolitan Housing Authority will comply with the rules, standards and policies established in the approved Annual Plan. All required attachments and documents must be made available for review and inspection at the principal office of Hancock Metropolitan Housing Authority during normal business hours.

By signing the *PHA Certifications of Compliance with PHA Plan, Civil Rights, and Related Laws and Regulations including PHA Plan Elements that Have Changed*, you are certifying to affirmatively further fair housing. This means the Authority will (1) examine their programs; (2) identify any impediments to fair housing choice within those programs; (3) address those impediments in a reasonable fashion in view of available resources; (4) and maintain records reflecting any actions to affirmatively further fair housing.

If you have any questions regarding your Annual PHA Plan or the information in this letter, feel free to contact Karen Baird, Portfolio Management Specialist, at Karen.S.Baird@hud.gov or at (216) 357-7783.

Sincerely,

SUSAN
ZANGHI

Digitally signed by SUSAN ZANGHI
DN: cn = SUSAN ZANGHI, c = U.S., o = U.S.
Department of Housing and Urban Development, ou = Office of Administration
Date: 2022.12.23 12:23:17 -0500

Susan M. Zanghi
Division Director
Cleveland Office of Public Housing

B.	Plan Elements.				

B.1

Revision of Existing PHA Plan Elements.

a) Have the following PHA Plan elements been revised by the PHA since its last Annual Plan submission?

Y N

- ☐ ☒ Statement of Housing Needs and Strategy for Addressing Housing Needs.
- ☐ ☒ Deconcentration and Other Policies that Govern Eligibility, Selection, and Admissions.
- ☐ ☒ Financial Resources.
- ☐ ☒ Rent Determination.
- ☐ ☒ Operation and Management.
- ☐ ☒ Informal Review and Hearing Procedures.
- ☐ ☒ Homeownership Programs.
- ☐ ☒ Self Sufficiency Programs and Treatment of Income Changes Resulting from Welfare Program Requirements.
- ☐ ☒ Substantial Deviation.
- ☐ ☒ Significant Amendment/Modification.

(b) If the PHA answered yes for any element, describe the revisions for each element(s):

Housing Needs and Strategy for Addressing Housing Needs.

HMHA currently has 215 eligible households on the Waiting List. HMHA is currently assisting over 680 families.

HMHA has recently conducted a purge of its waiting list in 2021, based on our Administrative Plan every other year to ensure a fresh and updated Waiting List., purging reduced HMHA's Waiting list from 256 to 175 folk, HMHA will be conducting a purge of its waiting list in 2023

HMHA waiting list continues to be open periodically through the year for veterans and non-disabled folks 61 and under, in addition HMHA was utilizing an internet-based waiting list, but due to financial cost of sequestration we have decided to conduct our waiting list in a paper format which individuals would have the opportunity to fill out an application at our location.

HMHA will open the waiting list for families who do not meet preference one or two on the first Wednesday of the month from 8:30am to 12pm that are income eligible on a month-to-month basis

HMHA continues to pull folks from the waiting list and issue vouchers to eligible families. So far this year HMHA has pulled 150 from the waiting list and have issued 91 vouchers to eligible participants. HMHA shall continue to pull from the waiting list and issue vouchers for the duration of 2023, funding permitting. HMHA will looking to expand its area it currently serves to help assist more families in the future.

HMHA is an active participant is the local Housing Consortium as we continue to provide housing solutions to the very low and extremely low-income families with HMHA's jurisdiction. HMHA has also been involved in the area Landlord Association

HMHA is an active partner in the community providing outreach of services available to the following groups/associations. In addition, HMHA is always looking to further outreach to the community at large.

- Collaborating with the local Board of Developmental Disabilities
- ADAHMS Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services,
- Community service providers providing mental health and addiction services
- Probation officers and re-entry programs
- Homeless shelters
- Domestic Violence Shelters

NOTIFICATION REGARDING APPLICABLE PROVISIONS OF THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2005 REAUTHORIZATION 2013 (VAWA)

NOTIFICATION TO PARTICIPANTS

VAWA requires a PHA to notify public housing program participants of their rights under this law, including their right to confidentiality and the limits thereof. The PHA will provide all participants with notification of their protections and rights under VAWA at the time of admission and at annual reexamination. The notice will explain the protections afforded under the law, inform the participant of PHA confidentiality requirements, and provide contact information for local victim advocacy groups or service providers.

The PHA will also include in all assistance termination notices a statement explaining assistance termination protection provided by VAWA.

NOTIFICATION TO APPLICANTS

The PHA will provide all applicants with notification of their protections and rights under VAWA at the time they request an application for housing assistance. The notice will explain the protections afforded under the law, inform each applicant of PHA confidentiality requirements, and provide contact information for local victim advocacy groups or service providers. The PHA will also include in all notices of denial a statement explaining the protection against denial provided by VAWA.

NOTIFICATION TO OWNERS AND MANAGERS

VAWA requires a PHA to notify owners and managers of their rights and responsibilities under this law and to inform property owners and managers of their screening and termination responsibilities related to VAWA. The PHA may utilize any or all of the following means to notify owners of their VAWA responsibilities:

- As appropriate in day-to-day interactions with owners and managers.
- Inserts in HAP payments, 1099s, owner workshops, classes, orientations, and/or newsletters.
- Signs in the PHA lobby and/or mass mailings, which include model VAWA certification forms.

SERVICES AND PROGRAMS OFFERED THROUGH HMHA FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, DATING VIOLENCE, SEXUAL ASSAULT, OR STALKING

The city of Findlay has an agency dedicated to meeting the needs of victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. Open Arms Domestic Violence and Rape Crises Service's mission is assisting when instances of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking occur. HMHA shall refer victims to this

valuable resource for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. Additionally, HMHA's jurisdiction covers three other counties including Putnam, Wyandot, and Hardin in Ohio.

In Putnam County HMHA shall refer victims to the Crime Victims Services sponsored through the United Way of Putnam County. Located at 338 East Third Street in Ottawa Crime Victims Services provides services for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking occur.

In Hardin County the HMHA shall refer a VAWA client to the Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence. This agency is located in Lima at 116 West North Street but represents the Hardin County area. HMHA shall refer clients located in this county to this service agency they handle situations in which domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking occur.

Wyandot County offers no direct service for victims of VAWA situations therefore HMHA shall refer these victims to the Open Arms Domestic Violence and Rape Crises Service located in Findlay.

In the event the Federal Government should announce funding availability for new vouchers, HMHA will be applying for additional vouchers. HMHA currently has targeted funding for disability and will continue to apply for any future funding that might be available.

HMHA maintains a website to increase public awareness of its resources available to low-income households to ensure access to assisted housing regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, familial status, and disability. The site is available in 25 languages.

HMHA Waiting List Statistics

Statistics Report

Waiting List: 1 - HCV 1
Status: Waiting for Assistance, Active

TOTALS

Applicants on the HCV 1 List	201	
Families with Children	62	30.85%
Elderly Families	59	29.35%
Families with Disabilities	76	37.81%

TOTALS BY INCOME PERCENTAGE

Extremely Low Income	132	65.67%
Very Low Income	37	18.41%
Low Income	0	0.00%
Over Income Limit	0	0.00%
Incomplete Income Data	32	15.92%

TOTALS BY ETHNICITY

Hispanic	10	4.98%
Non-Hispanic	190	94.53%

TOTALS BY RACIAL GROUP

Amer. Indian/Alaska Native	3	1.49%	Native Hawaiian/Pac. Island	1	0.50%
Asian	2	1.00%	White	160	79.60%
Black/African American	25	12.44%			

TOTALS BY PREFERENCE

Targeted Preference		Sixth Preference	
First Preference		Seventh Preference	
Second Preference	34	Eighth Preference	
Third Preference		Ninth Preference	
Fourth Preference		Tenth Preference	
Fifth Preference			

Deconcentration and Other Policies that Govern Eligibility, Selection, and Admissions.

Any family that wishes to receive HCV assistance must apply for admission to the program. The PHA initially will require families to provide only the information needed to make an initial assessment of the family's eligibility, and to determine the family's placement on the waiting list. The family will be required to provide all the information necessary to establish family eligibility and level of assistance when the family is selected from the waiting list.

Families may complete application for the voucher only when the waiting list is open. Opening and closing of the waiting list will be advertised in the local newspaper or other media, date, time and location of filling out an application will be included in the news release.

The PHA must take a variety of steps to ensure that the application process is accessible to those people who might have difficulty complying with the normal, standard PHA application process. This could include people with disabilities, certain elderly individuals, as well as persons with

limited English proficiency (LEP). The PHA must provide reasonable accommodation to the needs of individuals with disabilities. The application-taking facility and the application process must be fully accessible, or the PHA must provide an alternate approach that provides full access to the application process. Chapter 2 provides a full discussion of the PHA policy related to providing reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities.

Ineligible for Placement on the Waiting List

If the PHA can determine from the information provided that a family is ineligible, the family will not be placed on the waiting list. Where a family is determined to be ineligible, the PHA will send written notification of the ineligibility determination within 15 business days of receiving a complete application. The notice will specify the reasons for ineligibility and will inform the family of its right to request an informal review and explain the process for doing so.

Eligible for Placement on the Waiting List

The PHA will provide written notification of the preliminary eligibility determination within 15 business days of receiving a complete application. Placement on the waiting list does not indicate that the family is, in fact, eligible for assistance. A final determination of eligibility will be made when the family is selected from the waiting list. Applicants will be placed on the waiting list according to any preference(s) for which they qualify, and the date and time the PHA receives their completed application.

ORGANIZATION OF THE WAITING LIST

The HCV waiting list is organized in such a manner to allow the PHA to accurately identify and select families for assistance in the proper order, according to the admissions policies described in this plan.

The waiting list must contain the following information for each applicant listed:

- Applicant name.
- Family unit size.
- Date and time of application.
- Qualification for any local preference.
- Racial or ethnic designation of the head of household.

The PHA will maintain a single waiting list for the HCV program. The PHA will not merge the HCV waiting list with the waiting list for any other program the PHA operates.

Waiting List preference points are awarded based on the following: Veterans receive 50 points; Non-Elderly Disabled receive 25 points

OPENING AND CLOSING THE WAITING LIST

Closing the Waiting List - The PHA will close the waiting list when the estimated waiting period for housing assistance for applicants on the list reaches 24 months for the most current applicants. Where the PHA has particular preferences or funding criteria that require a specific category of family, the PHA may elect to continue to accept applications from these applicants while closing the waiting list to others.

Reopening the Waiting List - If the waiting list has been closed, it cannot be reopened until the PHA publishes a notice in local newspapers of general circulation, minority media, and other suitable media outlets. The notice must comply with HUD fair housing requirements and must specify who may apply, and where and when applications will be received.

The PHA will announce the reopening of the waiting list at least 10 business days prior to the date applications will first be accepted. If the list is only being reopened for certain categories of families, this information will be contained in the notice. The PHA will give public notice by publishing the relevant information in local newspapers and other media outlets.

Financial Resources: Projected Revenues for 2023

Housing Choice Voucher Program – ACC	\$3,700,000
Five-year Mainstream – ACC	\$ 312,000
Property Management – HCCIL	\$ 3,600
Contracted Processing Fees – AHI	\$ 300
TBRA	\$25,000

Rent Determination

6-III.A. OVERVIEW OF RENT AND SUBSIDY CALCULATIONS

TTP Formula [24 CFR 5.628]

HUD regulations specify the formula for calculating the total tenant payment (TTP) for an assisted family. TTP is the highest of the following amounts, rounded to the nearest dollar:

- 30 percent of the family's monthly adjusted income (adjusted income is defined in Part II)
- 10 percent of the family's monthly gross income (annual income, as defined in Part I, divided by 12)
- The welfare rent (in as-paid states only)
- A minimum rent between \$0 and \$50 that is established by the PHA

The PHA has authority to suspend and exempt families from minimum rent when a financial hardship exists, as defined in section 6-III.B. The amount that a family pays for rent and utilities (the family share) will never be less than the family's TTP but may be greater than the TTP depending on the rent charged for the unit the family selects.

Welfare Rent [24 CFR 5.628]

PHA Policy

Welfare rent does not apply in this locality.

Minimum Rent [24 CFR 5.630]

PHA Policy

The minimum rent for this locality is \$50.

Family Share [24 CFR 982.305(a)(5)]

If a family chooses a unit with a gross rent (rent to owner plus an allowance for tenant-paid utilities) that exceeds the PHA's applicable payment standard: (1) the family will pay more than the TTP, and (2) at initial occupancy the PHA may not approve the tenancy if it would require the family share to exceed 40 percent of the family's monthly adjusted income. The income used for this determination must have been verified no earlier than 60 days before the family's voucher was issued. (For a discussion of the application of payment standards, see section 6-III.C.)

PHA Subsidy [24 CFR 982.505(b)]

The PHA will pay a monthly housing assistance payment (HAP) for a family that is equal to the lower of (1) the applicable payment standard for the family minus the family's TTP or (2) the gross rent for the family's unit minus the TTP. (For a discussion of the application of payment standards, see section 6-III.C.)

Utility Reimbursement [24 CFR 982.514(b); 982.514(c)]

When the PHA subsidy for a family exceeds the rent to owner, the family is due a utility reimbursement. HUD permits the PHA to pay the reimbursement to the family or directly to the utility provider.

PHA Policy

The PHA will make utility reimbursements to the family via a check issued by the PHA.

The PHA may make all utility reimbursement payments to qualifying families monthly or may make quarterly payments when the monthly reimbursement amount is \$15.00 or less. Reimbursements must be made once per calendar-year quarter and must be prorated if the family leaves the program in advance of its next quarterly reimbursement. The PHA must also adopt hardship policies for families for whom receiving quarterly reimbursement would create a financial hardship.

PHA Policy

The PHA will issue all utility reimbursements monthly.

6-III.B. FINANCIAL HARDSHIPS AFFECTING MINIMUM RENT [24 CFR 5.630]

Overview

If the PHA establishes a minimum rent greater than zero, the PHA must grant an exemption from the minimum rent if a family is unable to pay the minimum rent because of financial hardship.

The financial hardship exemption applies only to families required to pay the minimum rent. If a family's TTP is higher than the minimum rent, the family is not eligible for a hardship exemption. If the PHA determines that a hardship exists, the family share is the highest of the remaining components of the family's calculated TTP.

HUD-Defined Financial Hardship

Financial hardship includes the following situations:

- (1) The family has lost eligibility for or is awaiting an eligibility determination for a federal, state, or local assistance program. This includes a family member who is a noncitizen lawfully admitted for permanent residence under the Immigration and Nationality Act who would be entitled to public benefits but for Title IV of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act of 1996.

PHA Policy

A hardship will be considered to exist only if the loss of eligibility has an impact on the family's ability to pay the minimum rent.

For a family waiting for a determination of eligibility, the hardship period will end as of the first of the month following: (1) implementation of assistance, if approved, or (2) the decision to deny assistance. A family whose request for assistance is denied may request a hardship exemption based upon one of the other allowable hardship circumstances.

- (2) The family would be evicted because it is unable to pay the minimum rent.

PHA Policy

For a family to qualify under this provision, the cause of the potential eviction must be the family's failure to pay rent to the owner.

- (3) Family income has decreased because of changed family circumstances, including the loss of employment.

- (4) A death has occurred in the family.

PHA Policy

In order to qualify under this provision, a family must describe how the death has created a financial hardship (e.g., the loss of the family member's income).

- (5) The family has experienced other circumstances determined by the PHA.

PHA Policy

The PHA has not established any additional hardship criteria.

Implementation of Hardship Exemption

Determination of Hardship

When a family requests a financial hardship exemption, the PHA must suspend the minimum rent requirement beginning the first of the month following the family's request. The PHA then determines whether the financial hardship exists and whether the hardship is temporary or long-term.

PHA Policy

The PHA defines temporary hardship as a hardship expected to last 90 days or less. Long-term hardship is defined as a hardship expected to last more than 90 days.

When the minimum rent is suspended, the family share reverts to the highest of the remaining components of the calculated TTP. The example below demonstrates the effect of the minimum rent exemption.

Example: Impact of Minimum Rent Exemption					
Assume the PHA has established a minimum rent of \$35.					
Family Share – No Hardship			Family Share – With Hardship		
\$0	30% of monthly adjusted income		\$0	30% of monthly adjusted income	
\$15	10% of monthly gross income		\$15	10% of monthly gross income	
N/A	Welfare rent		N/A	Welfare rent	
\$35	Minimum rent		\$35	Minimum rent	
Minimum rent applies.			Hardship exemption granted.		
TTP = \$35			TTP = \$15		

PHA Policy

To qualify for a hardship exemption, a family must submit a request for a hardship exemption in writing. The request must explain the nature of the hardship and how the hardship has affected the family's ability to pay the minimum rent.

The PHA will make the determination of hardship within 30 calendar days.

No Financial Hardship

If the PHA determines there is no financial hardship, the PHA will reinstate the minimum rent and require the family to repay the amounts suspended.

PHA Policy

The PHA will require the family to repay the suspended amount within 30 calendar days of the PHA's notice that a hardship exemption has not been granted.

Temporary Hardship

If the PHA determines that a qualifying financial hardship is temporary, the PHA must suspend the minimum rent for the 90-day period beginning the first of the month following the date of the family's request for a hardship exemption.

At the end of the 90-day suspension period, the family must resume payment of the minimum rent and must repay the PHA the amounts suspended. HUD requires the PHA to offer a reasonable repayment agreement, on terms and conditions established by the PHA. The PHA also may determine that circumstances have changed, and the hardship is now a long-term hardship.

PHA Policy

The PHA will enter into a repayment agreement in accordance with the procedures found in Chapter 16 of this plan.

Long-Term Hardship

If the PHA determines that the financial hardship is long-term, the PHA must exempt the family from the minimum rent requirement for so long as the hardship continues. The exemption will apply from the first of the month following the family's request until the end of the qualifying hardship. When the financial hardship has been determined to be long-term, the family is not required to repay the minimum rent.

PHA Policy

The hardship period ends when any of the following circumstances apply:

- (1) At an interim or annual reexamination, the family's calculated TTP is greater than the minimum rent.
- (2) For hardship conditions based on loss of income, the hardship condition will continue to be recognized until new sources of income are received that are at least equal to the amount lost. For example, if a hardship is approved because a family no longer receives a \$60/month child support payment, the hardship will continue to exist until the family receives at least \$60/month in income from another source or once again begins to receive the child support.
- (3) For hardship conditions based upon hardship-related expenses, the minimum rent exemption will continue to be recognized until the cumulative amount exempted is equal to the expense incurred.

6-III.C. APPLYING PAYMENT STANDARDS [24 CFR 982.505]

Overview

The PHA's schedule of payment standards is used to calculate housing assistance payments for HCV families. This section covers the application of the PHA's payment standards. The establishment and revision of the PHA's payment standard schedule are covered in Chapter 16.

Payment standard is defined as "the maximum monthly assistance payment for a family assisted in the voucher program (before deducting the total tenant payment by the family)" [24 CFR 982.4(b)].

The payment standard for a family is the lower of (1) the payment standard for the family unit size, which is defined as the appropriate number of bedrooms for the family under the PHA's subsidy standards [24 CFR 982.4(b)], or (2) the payment standard for the size of the dwelling unit rented by the family.

If the PHA has established an exception payment standard for a designated part of an FMR area and a family's unit is located in the exception area, the PHA must use the appropriate payment standard for the exception area.

The PHA is required to pay a monthly housing assistance payment (HAP) for a family that is the lower of (1) the payment standard for the family minus the family's TTP or (2) the gross rent for the family's unit minus the TTP.

If during the term of the HAP contract for a family's unit, the owner lowers the rent, the PHA will recalculate the HAP using the lower of the initial payment standard or the gross rent for the unit [HCV GB, p. 7-8].

Changes in Payment Standards

When the PHA revises its payment standards during the term of the HAP contract for a family's unit, it will apply the new payment standards in accordance with HUD regulations.

Decreases

If the amount on the payment standard schedule is decreased during the term of the HAP contract, the lower payment standard generally will be used beginning at the effective date of the family's second regular reexamination following the effective date of the decrease in the payment standard. The PHA will determine the payment standard for the family as follows:

Step 1: At the first regular reexamination following the decrease in the payment standard, the PHA will determine the payment standard for the family using the lower of the payment standard for the family unit size or the size of the dwelling unit rented by the family.

Step 2: The PHA will compare the payment standard from step 1 to the payment standard last used to calculate the monthly housing assistance payment for the family. The payment standard used by the PHA at the first regular reexamination following the decrease in the payment standard will be the higher of these two payment standards. The PHA will advise the family that the application of the lower payment standard will be deferred until the second regular reexamination following the effective date of the decrease in the payment standard.

Step 3: At the second regular reexamination following the decrease in the payment standard, the lower payment standard will be used to calculate the monthly housing assistance payment for the family unless the PHA has subsequently increased the payment standard, in which case the payment standard will be determined in accordance with procedures for increases in payment standards described below.

Increases

If the payment standard is increased during the term of the HAP contract, the increased payment standard will be used to calculate the monthly housing assistance payment for the family beginning on the effective date of the family's first regular reexamination on or after the effective date of the increase in the payment standard.

Families requiring or requesting interim reexaminations will not have their HAP payments calculated using the higher payment standard until their next annual reexamination [HCV GB, p. 7-8].

Changes in Family Unit Size

Irrespective of any increase or decrease in the payment standard, if the family unit size increases or decreases during the HAP contract term, the new family unit size must be used to determine the payment standard for the family beginning at the family's first regular reexamination following the change in family unit size.

Reasonable Accommodation

If a family requires a higher payment standard as a reasonable accommodation for a family member who is a person with disabilities, the PHA is allowed to establish a higher payment standard for the family within the basic range.

6-III.D. APPLYING UTILITY ALLOWANCES [24 CFR 982.517]

Overview

A PHA-established utility allowance schedule is used in determining family share and PHA subsidy. The PHA must use the utility allowance for the lower of the actual unit size or the voucher bedroom size. See Chapter 5 for information on the PHA's subsidy standards.

For policies on establishing and updating utility allowances, see Chapter 16.

Reasonable Accommodation

HCV program regulations require a PHA to approve a utility allowance amount higher than shown on the PHA's schedule if a higher allowance is needed as a reasonable accommodation for a family member with a disability. For example, if a family member with a disability requires such an accommodation, the PHA will approve an allowance for air-conditioning, even if the PHA has determined that an allowance for air-conditioning generally is not needed.

The family must request the higher allowance and provide the PHA with an explanation of the need for the reasonable accommodation and information about the amount of additional allowance required [HCV GB, p. 18-8].

Utility Allowance Revisions

At reexamination, the PHA must use the PHA current utility allowance schedule [24 CFR 982.517(d)(2)].

PHA Policy

Revised utility allowances will be applied to a family's rent and subsidy calculations at the first annual reexamination or interim re-certification that is effective after the allowance is adopted.

Operation and Management

Housing Choice Voucher Program Allocations are as follows.....

Name	Description	Vouchers Allocated
Mainstream Vouchers	Non-Elderly or Elderly Disabled, very low-income qualification	75
Certain Development 2000 Vouchers	Non-Elderly Disabled persons, very low-income qualification	200
Certain Development 2001 Vouchers	Non-Elderly Disabled persons, very low-income qualification	200
Certain Development 2002 Vouchers	Non-Elderly Disabled persons, very low-income qualification	200
Fair Share Vouchers	Very low-income families	189
Special Increment Vouchers	Domestic Violence or Families who are homeless	6
Total Vouchers Allocated to HMHA		870

HMHA also implements Tenant Based Rental Assistance through Community Housing Improvement Programs within the State of Ohio for the flowing counties.

Putnam, Hardin, and Hancock County

Informal Review and Hearing Procedures

Informal reviews are provided for program applicants. An applicant is someone who has applied for admission to the program but is not yet a participant in the program. Informal reviews are intended to provide a "minimum hearing requirement" and need not be as elaborate as the informal hearing requirements.

Decisions Subject to Informal Review

The PHA must give an applicant the opportunity for an informal review of a decision denying assistance. The PHA will only offer an informal review to applicants for whom assistance is being denied. Denial of assistance includes denying listing on the PHA waiting list; denying or withdrawing a voucher; refusing to enter into a HAP contract or approve a lease; refusing to process or provide assistance under portability procedures.

A request for an informal review must be made in writing and delivered to the PHA either in person or by first class mail, by the close of the business day, no later than 10 business days from the date of the PHA's denial of assistance.

Except as provided in Section 3-III.G, the PHA must schedule and send written notice of the informal review within 10 business days of the family's request.

Informal Review Procedures

A person other than the one who made or approved the decision under review, or a subordinate of this person must conduct the informal review. The applicant must be provided an opportunity to present written or oral objections to the decision of the PHA. The person conducting the review will make a recommendation to the PHA, but the PHA is responsible for making the final decision as to whether assistance should be granted or denied. The final decision is at the discretion of the Executive Director.

The PHA must notify the applicant of the PHA's final decision, including a brief statement of the reasons for the final decision. In rendering a decision, the PHA will evaluate the following matters:

Whether or not the grounds for denial were stated factually in the Notice.

The validity of grounds for denial of assistance. If the grounds for denial are not specified in the regulations, then the decision to deny assistance will be overturned.

The validity of the evidence. The PHA will evaluate whether the facts presented prove the grounds for denial of assistance. If the facts prove that there are grounds for denial, and HUD requires the denial, the PHA will uphold the decision to deny assistance.

If the facts prove the grounds for denial, and the denial is discretionary, the PHA will consider the recommendation of the person conducting the informal review in making the final decision whether to deny assistance.

The PHA will notify the applicant of the final decision, including a statement explaining the reason(s) for the decision. The notice will be mailed within 10 business days of the informal review, to the applicant and his or her Representative, if any, along with proof of mailing. If the decision to deny is overturned as a result of the informal review, processing for admission will resume. If the family fails to appear for their informal review, the denial of admission will stand, and the family will be so notified.

INFORMAL HEARINGS FOR PARTICIPANTS

A PHA must offer an informal hearing for certain PHA determinations relating to the individual circumstances of a participant family. A participant is defined as a family that has been admitted to the PHA's HCV program and is currently assisted in the program. The purpose of the informal hearing is to consider whether the PHA's decisions related to the family's circumstances are in accordance with the law, HUD regulations and PHA policies.

The PHA will only offer participants the opportunity for an informal hearing when required to by the regulations.

Informal Hearing Procedures -Notice to the Family

When the PHA makes a decision that is subject to informal hearing procedures, the PHA must inform the family of its right to an informal hearing at the same time that it informs the family of the decision.

For decisions related to the family's annual or adjusted income, the determination of the appropriate utility allowance, and the determination of the family unit size, the PHA must notify the family that they may ask for an explanation of the basis of the determination, and that if they do not agree with the decision, they may request an informal hearing on the decision.

For decisions related to the termination of the family's assistance, or the denial of a family's request for an exception to the PHA's subsidy standards, the notice must contain a brief statement of the reasons for the decision, a statement that if the family does not agree with the decision, the family may request an informal hearing on the decision, and a statement of the deadline for the family to request an informal hearing.

In cases where the PHA decides for which an informal hearing must be offered, the notice to the family will include all of the following:

The proposed action or decision of the PHA.

A brief statement of the reasons for the decision including the regulatory reference.

The date the proposed action will take place.

A statement of the family's right to an explanation of the basis for the PHA's decision.

A statement that if the family does not agree with the decision the family may request an informal hearing of the decision.

A deadline for the family to request the informal hearing.

To whom the hearing request should be addressed.

A copy of the PHA's hearing procedures.

Scheduling an Informal Hearing

When an informal hearing is required, the PHA must proceed with the hearing in a reasonably expeditious manner upon the request of the family. A request for an informal hearing must be made in writing and delivered to the PHA either in person or by first class mail, by the close of the business day, no later than 10 business days from the date of the PHA's decision or notice to terminate assistance. The PHA must schedule and send written notice of the informal hearing to the family within 10 business days of the family's request.

The family may request to reschedule a hearing for good cause, or if it is needed as a reasonable accommodation for a person with disabilities. Good cause is defined as an unavoidable conflict, which seriously affects the health, safety, or welfare of the family. Requests to reschedule a hearing must be made orally or in writing prior to the hearing date. At its discretion, the PHA may request documentation of the "good cause" prior to rescheduling the hearing.

If the family does not appear at the scheduled time and was unable to reschedule the hearing in advance due to the nature of the conflict, the family must contact the PHA within 24 hours of the scheduled hearing date, excluding weekends and holidays. The PHA will reschedule the hearing only if the family can show good cause for the failure to appear, or if it is needed as a reasonable accommodation for a person with disabilities.

Pre-Hearing Right to Discovery

Participants and the PHA are permitted pre-hearing discovery rights. The family must be given the opportunity to examine before the hearing any PHA documents that are directly relevant to the hearing. The family must be allowed to copy any such documents at their own expense. If the PHA does not make the document available for examination on request of the family, the PHA may not rely on the document at the hearing.

The PHA hearing procedures may provide that the PHA must be given the opportunity to examine at the PHA offices before the hearing, any family documents that are directly relevant to the hearing. The PHA must be allowed to copy any such document at the PHA's expense. If the family does not make the document available for examination on request of the PHA, the family may not rely on the document at the hearing.

For the purpose of informal hearings, *documents* include records and regulations. The family will be allowed to copy any documents related to the hearing at no cost. The family must request discovery of PHA documents no later than 12:00 p.m. on the business day prior to the scheduled hearing date.

The PHA must be given an opportunity to examine at the PHA offices before the hearing any family documents that are directly relevant to the hearing. Whenever a participant requests an informal hearing, the PHA will automatically mail a letter to the participant requesting a copy of all documents that the participant intends to present or utilize at the hearing. The participant must make the documents available no later than 12:00 pm on the business day prior to the scheduled hearing date.

At its own expense, a lawyer or other representative at the informal hearing may represent the family.

Informal hearings will be conducted by a person or persons approved by the PHA, other than the person who made or approved the decision or a subordinate of the person who made or approved the decision.

A hearing officer and the following applicable persons may attend hearings:

- A PHA representative(s) and any witnesses for the PHA
- The participant and any witnesses for the participant
- The participant's counsel or other representative
- Any other person approved by the PHA as a reasonable accommodation for a person with a disability

The person who conducts the hearing may regulate the conduct of the hearing in accordance with the PHA's hearing procedures. The hearing officer is responsible to manage the order of business and to ensure that hearings are conducted in a professional and businesslike manner. Attendees are expected to comply with all hearing procedures established by the hearing officer and guidelines for conduct. Any person demonstrating disruptive, abusive or otherwise inappropriate behavior will be excused from the hearing at the discretion of the hearing officer.

The PHA and the family must be given the opportunity to present evidence and question any witnesses. In general, all evidence is admissible at an informal hearing. Evidence may be considered without regard to admissibility under the rules of evidence applicable to judicial proceedings. Any evidence to be considered by the hearing officer must be presented at the time of the hearing. There are four categories of evidence.

Oral evidence: the testimony of witnesses

Documentary evidence: a writing, which is relevant to the case, for example, a letter written to the PHA. Writings include all forms of recorded communication or representation, including letters, words, pictures, sounds, videotapes or symbols or combinations thereof.

Demonstrative evidence: Evidence created specifically for the hearing and presented as an illustrative aid to assist the hearing officer, such as a model, a chart or other diagram.

Real evidence: A tangible item relating directly to the case.

Hearsay Evidence is evidence of a statement that was made other than by a witness while testifying at the hearing and that is offered to prove the truth of the matter. Even though evidence, including hearsay, is generally admissible, hearsay evidence alone cannot be used as the sole basis for the hearing officer's decision.

If either the PHA or the family fail to comply with the discovery requirements described above, the hearing officer will refuse to admit such evidence. Other than the failure of a party to comply with discovery, the hearing officer has the authority to overrule any objections to evidence.

The person who conducts the hearing must issue a written decision, briefly stating the reasons for the decision. Factual determinations relating to the individual circumstances of the family must be based on a preponderance of evidence presented at the hearing. A copy of the hearing must be furnished promptly to the family. In rendering a decision, the hearing officer will consider the following matters:

PHA Notice to the Family: The hearing officer will determine if the reasons for the PHA's decision are factually stated in the Notice.

Discovery: The hearing officer will determine if the PHA and the family were given the opportunity to examine any relevant documents in accordance with PHA policy.

PHA Evidence to Support the PHA Decision: The evidence consists of the facts presented. Evidence is not conclusion, and it is not argument. The hearing officer will evaluate the facts to determine if they support the PHA's conclusion.

Validity of Grounds for Termination of Assistance (when applicable): The hearing officer will determine if the termination of assistance is for one of the grounds specified in the HUD regulations and PHA policies. If the grounds for termination are not specified in the regulations or in compliance with PHA policies, then the decision of the PHA will be overturned.

The hearing officer will issue a written decision to the family and the PHA no later than 10 business days after the hearing. The report will contain the following information:

Hearing information:

- Name of the participant.
- Date, time and place of the hearing.
- Name of the hearing officer.
- Name of the PHA representative; and
- Name of family representative (if any).

Background: A brief, impartial statement of the reason for the hearing.

Summary of the Evidence: The hearing officer will summarize the testimony of each witness and identify any documents that a witness produced in support of his/her testimony and that are admitted into evidence.

Findings of Fact: The hearing officer will include all findings of fact, based on a preponderance of the evidence. *Preponderance of the evidence* is defined as evidence which is of greater weight or more convincing than the evidence which is offered in opposition to it; that is, evidence which shows

that the fact sought to be proved is more probable than not. Preponderance of the evidence may not be determined by the number of witnesses, but by the greater weight of all evidence.

Conclusions: The hearing officer will render a conclusion derived from the facts that were found to be true by a preponderance of the evidence. The conclusion will result in a determination of whether these facts uphold the PHA's decision.

Order: The hearing report will include a statement of whether the PHA's decision is upheld or overturned. If it is overturned, the hearing officer will instruct the PHA to change the decision in accordance with the hearing officer's determination. In the case of termination of assistance, the hearing officer will instruct the PHA to restore the participant's program status.

Procedures for Rehearing or Further Hearing

The hearing officer may ask the family for additional information and/or might adjourn the hearing to reconvene later, before reaching a decision. If the family misses an appointment or deadline ordered by the hearing officer, the action of the PHA will take effect and another hearing will not be granted.

In addition, within 10 business days after the date the hearing officer's report is mailed to the PHA and the participant, the PHA or the participant may request a rehearing or a further hearing. Such request must be made in writing and postmarked or hand-delivered to the hearing officer and to the other party within

the 10-business day period. The request must demonstrate cause, supported by specific references to the hearing officer's report, why the request should be granted.

A rehearing or a further hearing may be requested for the purpose of rectifying any obvious mistake of law made during the hearing or any obvious injustice not known at the time of the hearing. It shall be within the sole discretion of the PHA to grant or deny the request for further hearing or rehearing. A further hearing may be limited to written submissions by the parties, in the manner specified by the hearing officer.

PHA Notice of Final Decision

The PHA is not bound by the decision of the hearing officer for matters in which the PHA is not required to provide an opportunity for a hearing, decisions that exceed the authority of the hearing officer, decisions that conflict with or contradict HUD regulations, requirements, or are otherwise contrary to Federal, State, or local laws.

If the PHA determines it is not bound by the hearing officer's decision in accordance with HUD regulations, the PHA must promptly notify the family of the determination and the reason for the determination.

The PHA will mail a "Notice of Final Decision" including the hearing officer's report, to the participant and their representative. This Notice will be sent by first-class mail, postage pre-paid with an affidavit of mailing enclosed. The participant will be mailed the original "Notice of Final Decision" and a copy of the proof of mailing. A copy of the "Notice of Final Decision" along with the original proof mailing will be maintained in the PHA's file.

Homeownership Programs

N/A

Self Sufficiency Programs and Treatment of Income Changes Resulting from Welfare Program Requirements

HMHA currently has graduated all the mandatory slots that was allocated to the agency in November 2022

Community Engagement

HMHA partners with the City of Findlay NEAT (Neighborhood Enhancement and Abatement Team) Program which is responsible for addressing community complaints regarding properties by enforcing city codes concerning maintenance of properties. As a result of a recent HQS failure, neighboring properties were improved because of the cooperation of neighboring property owners, The City of Findlay and HMHA. HMHA maintains membership and participates in local Housing Consortium which addresses the housing needs of the community.

A Speaker's Bureau is available and a HMHA representative has provided information on the HCV Program to Findlay City Schools Independent Living Program, Findlay Area Apartment Association, Findlay City School Principals, various University of Findlay classes, and served on a panel of local agencies to inform community volunteers on the availability of assistance for rent and utilities available to the low-income community.

Substantial Deviation

Substantial Deviation from this plan would be a change in the mission, goals, or objectives of the PHA, which was not a result of changes in HUD regulation, lack of funding causing a reduction in HAP or reduction in administrative fees funding to the PHA that prevented the PHA from carrying out its' missions and goals.

Significant Amendment/Modification

Significant Amendment to this plan would be one that would prove unfavorable to families, which was not a result of changes in HUD regulations, lack of funding causing a reduction in HAP or reduction in administrative fee funding to the PHA.

B.2 New Activities. – Not Applicable

B.3	<p>Progress Report.</p> <p>Provide a description of the PHA's progress in meeting its Mission and Goals described in its 5-Year PHA Plan.</p> <p>Promote personal, economic, and social upward mobility to provide families the opportunity to make the transition from subsidized to non-subsidized housing to be achieved under our Family Self Sufficiency (FSS) Program. HMHA has completed all the mandatory FSS slots allocated, as the last client graduated from the FSS program in November 2022</p> <p>Promote fair housing and the opportunity for very low-income families of all ethnic backgrounds to experience freedom of housing choice. HMHA will continue Fair Housing Training as within the last 12 months of the original submission completed Fair Housing Training "Fair Housing Basics and Beyond" by the Fair Housing Center in Toledo Ohio</p> <p>Promote a housing program which maintains quality service and integrity while providing an incentive to private property owners to rent to very low-income families. HMHA has established with the Cares Act funds ways to promote the program and engage more landlords to the program through new lease up incentives.</p> <p>Train staff concerning HCV Program requirements, SEMAP, and other HUD regulations. Continuing education for HMHA's staff through Nan McKay, will continue for 2023 as funds has been allocated. 2022 we had staff take several classes to enhance their growth.</p> <p>Review existing policies and procedures and develop written recommendations for policy revisions to the Board of Commissioners. HMHA is currently revising its Admin plan</p> <p>Continue to implement electronic imaging system throughout the office. HMHA has successfully implemented going paperless, and will continue to monitor future trends to promote efficiency</p> <p>Continue to provide training to staff and Board of Commissioners regarding new and/or revised policy and/or procedures as mandated by HUD. Each Board meeting HMHA's Board is given a topic to review and sign off on to promote continuing training for the Board of Commissioners. Board has been trained on multiple topics that include, VAWA, Voucher Briefings, Funding, and Fair Housing etc.</p> <p>Participate and/or administer CHIP funding for Hancock, Wyandot and Putnam Counties, if available. HMHA has participated and successfully utilized the funds to help with HAP and Security Deposits for families in the judication that applied for the CHIP/HOME funding. HMHA was successful with managing and reaching the outcomes that was presented to the agency. This helped broaden our Landlord base and community outreach.</p> <p>Continue compliance with Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) 2005/2013, via written notification to all applicants, program participants, and/or landlords; partnering with local Open Arms Domestic Violence Shelter; Landlord meeting(s) advising of tenants' rights under VAWA; and providing Victims of domestic Violence Certification forms in the HMHA office.</p>
B.4	<p>Capital Improvements. – Not Applicable</p>
B.5	<p>Most Recent Fiscal Year Audit.</p> <p>(a) Were there any findings in the most recent FY Audit?</p> <p>Y N N/A <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>(b) If yes, please describe:</p>
C.	<p>Other Document and/or Certification Requirements.</p>
C.1	<p>Resident Advisory Board (RAB) Comments.</p> <p>(a) Did the RAB(s) have comments to the PHA Plan?</p> <p>Y N <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>(b) If yes, comments must be submitted by the PHA as an attachment to the PHA Plan. PHAs must also include a narrative describing their analysis of the RAB recommendations and the decisions made on these recommendations.</p>
C.2	<p>Certification by State or Local Officials.</p> <p><u>Form HUD 50077-SL</u>, <i>Certification by State or Local Officials of PHA Plans Consistency with the Consolidated Plan</i>, must be submitted by the PHA as an electronic attachment to the PHA Plan.</p>
C.3	<p>Civil Rights Certification/ Certification Listing Policies and Programs that the PHA has Revised since Submission of its Last Annual Plan.</p> <p><u>Form HUD-50077-ST-HCV-HP</u>, <i>PHA Certifications of Compliance with PHA Plan, Civil Rights, and Related Laws and Regulations Including PHA Plan Elements that Have Changed</i>, must be submitted by the PHA as an electronic attachment to the PHA Plan.</p>

C.4	<p>Challenged Elements. If any element of the PHA Plan is challenged, a PHA must include such information as an attachment with a description of any challenges to Plan elements, the source of the challenge, and the PHA's response to the public.</p> <p>(a) Did the public challenge any elements of the Plan?</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Y N</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, include Challenged Elements.</p>
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D.	Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH).
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D.1	<p>Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH).</p> <p>Provide a statement of the PHA's strategies and actions to achieve fair housing goals outlined in an accepted Assessment of Fair Housing (AFH) consistent with 24 CFR § 5.154(d)(5). Use the chart provided below. (PHAs should add as many goals as necessary to overcome fair housing issues and contributing factors.) Until such time as the PHA is required to submit an AFH, the PHA is not obligated to complete this chart. The PHA will fulfill, nevertheless, the requirements at 24 CFR § 903.7(o) enacted prior to August 17, 2015. See Instructions for further detail on completing this item.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>Fair Housing Goal:</p> <p><u><i>Describe fair housing strategies and actions to achieve the goal</i></u></p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>Fair Housing Goal:</p> <p><u><i>Describe fair housing strategies and actions to achieve the goal</i></u></p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>Fair Housing Goal:</p> </div>
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Describe fair housing strategies and actions to achieve the goal

Instructions for Preparation of Form HUD-50075-HCV Annual PHA Plan for HCV-Only PHAs

A. PHA Information. All PHAs must complete this section. (24 CFR §903.4)

- A.1** Include the full PHA Name, PHA Code, PHA Type, PHA Fiscal Year Beginning (MM/YYYY), Number of Housing Choice Vouchers (HCVs), PHA Plan Submission Type, and the Availability of Information, specific location(s) of all information relevant to the public hearing and proposed PHA Plan.

PHA Consortia: Check box if submitting a Joint PHA Plan and complete the table. (24 CFR §943.128(a))

B. Plan Elements. All PHAs must complete this section. (24 CFR §903.11(c)(3))

B.1 Revision of Existing PHA Plan Elements. PHAs must:

Identify specifically which plan elements listed below that have been revised by the PHA. To specify which elements have been revised, mark the “yes” box. If an element has not been revised, mark “no.”

☐ **Statement of Housing Needs and Strategy for Addressing Housing Needs.** Provide a statement addressing the housing needs of low-income, very low-income and extremely low-income families and a brief description of the PHA’s strategy for addressing the housing needs of families who reside in the jurisdiction served by the PHA and other families who are on the Section 8 tenant-based assistance waiting lists. The statement must identify the housing needs of (i) families with incomes below 30 percent of area median income (extremely low-income); (ii) elderly families (iii) households with individuals with disabilities, and households of various races and ethnic groups residing in the jurisdiction or on the public housing and Section 8 tenant-based assistance waiting lists. The statement of housing needs shall be based on information provided by the applicable Consolidated Plan, information provided by HUD, and generally available data. The identification of housing needs must address issues of affordability, supply, quality, accessibility, size of units, and location. Once the PHA has submitted an Assessment of Fair Housing (AFH), which includes an assessment of disproportionate housing needs in accordance with 24 CFR 5.154(d)(2)(iv), information on households with individuals with disabilities and households of various races and ethnic groups residing in the jurisdiction or on the waiting lists no longer needs to be included in the Statement of Housing Needs and Strategy for Addressing Housing Needs. (24 CFR § 903.7(a)).

The identification of housing needs must address issues of affordability, supply, quality, accessibility, size of units, and location. (24 CFR §903.7(a)(2)(i)) Provide a description of the ways in which the PHA intends, to the maximum extent practicable, to address those housing needs in the upcoming year and the PHA’s reasons for choosing its strategy. (24 CFR §903.7(a)(2)(ii))

☐ **Deconcentration and Other Policies that Govern Eligibility, Selection, and Admissions.** A statement of the PHA’s policies that govern resident or tenant eligibility, selection and admission including admission preferences for HCV. (24 CFR §903.7(b))

☐ **Financial Resources.** A statement of financial resources, including a listing by general categories, of the PHA’s anticipated resources, such as PHA HCV funding and other anticipated Federal resources available to the PHA, as well as tenant rents and other income available to support tenant-based assistance. The statement also should include the non-Federal sources of funds supporting each Federal program, and state the planned use for the resources. (24 CFR §903.7(c))

☐ **Rent Determination.** A statement of the policies of the PHA governing rental contributions of families receiving tenant-based assistance, discretionary minimum tenant rents, and payment standard policies. (24 CFR §903.7(d))

☐ **Operation and Management.** A statement that includes a description of PHA management organization, and a listing of the programs administered by the PHA. (24 CFR §903.7(e)).

☐ **Informal Review and Hearing Procedures.** A description of the informal hearing and review procedures that the PHA makes available to its applicants. (24 CFR §903.7(f))

☐ **Homeownership Programs.** A statement describing any homeownership programs (including project number and unit count) administered by the agency under section 8y of the 1937 Act, or for which the PHA has applied or will apply for approval. (24 CFR §903.7(k))

☐ **Self Sufficiency Programs and Treatment of Income Changes Resulting from Welfare Program Requirements.** A description of any PHA programs relating to services and amenities coordinated, promoted, or provided by the PHA for assisted families, including those resulting from the PHA's partnership with other entities, for the enhancement of the economic and social self-sufficiency of assisted families, including programs provided or offered as a result of the PHA's partnerships with other entities, and activities subject to Section 3 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1968 (24 CFR Part 135) and under requirements for the Family Self-Sufficiency Program and others. Include the program's size (including required and actual size of the FSS program) and means of allocating assistance to households. (24 CFR §903.7(l)(i)) Describe how the PHA will comply with the requirements of section 12(c) and (d) of the 1937 Act that relate to treatment of income changes resulting from welfare program requirements. (24 CFR §903.7(l)(iii)).

☐ **Substantial Deviation.** PHA must provide its criteria for determining a "substantial deviation" to its 5-Year Plan. (24 CFR §903.7(r)(2)(i))

☐ **Significant Amendment/Modification.** PHA must provide its criteria for determining a "Significant Amendment or Modification" to its 5-Year and Annual Plan.

If any boxes are marked "yes", describe the revision(s) to those element(s) in the space provided.

B.2 New Activities. This section refers to new capital activities which is not applicable for HCV-Only PHAs.

B.3 Progress Report. For all Annual Plans following submission of the first Annual Plan, a PHA must include a brief statement of the PHA's progress in meeting the mission and goals described in the 5-Year PHA Plan. (24 CFR §903.11(c)(3), 24 CFR §903.7(r)(1))

B.4 Capital Improvements. This section refers to PHAs that receive funding from the Capital Fund Program (CFP) which is not applicable for HCV-Only PHAs

B.5 Most Recent Fiscal Year Audit. If the results of the most recent fiscal year audit for the PHA included any findings, mark "yes" and describe those findings in the space provided. (24 CFR §903.7(p))

C. Other Document and/or Certification Requirements.

C.1 Resident Advisory Board (RAB) comments. If the RAB had comments on the annual plan, mark "yes," submit the comments as an attachment to the Plan and describe the analysis of the comments and the PHA's decision made on these recommendations. (24 CFR §903.13(c), 24 CFR §903.19)

C.2 Certification by State of Local Officials. Form HUD-50077-SL, *Certification by State or Local Officials of PHA Plans Consistency with the Consolidated Plan*, must be submitted by the PHA as an electronic attachment to the PHA Plan. (24 CFR §903.15). Note: A PHA may request to change its fiscal year to better coordinate its planning with planning done under the Consolidated Plan process by State or local officials as applicable.

C.3 Civil Rights Certification/ Certification Listing Policies and Programs that the PHA has Revised since Submission of its Last Annual Plan. Provide a certification that the following plan elements have been revised, provided to the RAB for comment before implementation, approved by the PHA board, and made available for review and inspection by the public. This requirement is satisfied by completing and submitting form HUD-50077 ST-HCV-HP, *PHA Certifications of Compliance with PHA Plan, Civil Rights, and Related Laws and Regulations Including PHA Plan Elements that Have Changed*. Form HUD-50077-ST-HCV-HP, *PHA Certifications of Compliance with PHA Plan, Civil Rights, and Related Laws and Regulations Including PHA Plan Elements that Have Changed* must be submitted by the PHA as an electronic attachment to the PHA Plan. This includes all certifications relating to Civil Rights and related regulations. A PHA will be considered in compliance with the certification requirement to affirmatively further fair housing if the PHA fulfills the requirements of §§ 903.7(o)(1) and 903.15(d) and: (i) examines its programs or proposed programs; (ii) identifies any fair housing issues and contributing factors within those programs, in accordance with 24 CFR 5.154; or 24 CFR 5.160(a)(3) as applicable (iii) specifies actions and strategies designed to address contributing factors, related fair housing issues, and goals in the applicable Assessment of Fair Housing consistent with 24 CFR 5.154 in a reasonable manner in view of the resources available; (iv) works with jurisdictions to implement any of the jurisdiction's initiatives to affirmatively further fair housing that require the PHA's involvement; (v) operates programs in a manner consistent with any applicable consolidated plan under 24 CFR part 91, and with any order or agreement, to comply with the authorities specified in paragraph (o)(1) of this section; (vi) complies with any contribution or consultation requirement with respect to any applicable AFH, in accordance with 24 CFR 5.150 through 5.180; (vii) maintains records reflecting these analyses, actions, and the results of these actions; and (viii) takes steps acceptable to HUD to remedy known fair housing or civil rights violations, impediments to fair housing choice within those programs; addresses those impediments in a reasonable fashion in view of the resources available; works with the local jurisdiction to implement any of the jurisdiction's initiatives to affirmatively further fair housing; and assures that the annual plan is consistent with any applicable Consolidated Plan for its jurisdiction. (24 CFR §903.7(o)).

C.4 Challenged Elements. If any element of the Annual PHA Plan or 5-Year PHA Plan is challenged, a PHA must include such information as an attachment to the Annual PHA Plan or 5-Year PHA Plan with a description of any challenges to Plan elements, the source of the challenge, and the PHA's response to the public.

D. Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH).

D.1 Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing. The PHA will use the answer blocks in item D.1 to provide a statement of its strategies and actions to implement each fair housing goal outlined in its accepted Assessment of Fair Housing (AFH) consistent with 24 CFR § 5.154(d)(5) that states, in relevant part: "To implement goals and priorities in an AFH, strategies and actions shall be included in program participants' ... PHA Plans (including any plans incorporated therein) Strategies and actions must affirmatively further fair housing" Use the chart provided to specify each fair housing goal from the PHA's AFH for which the PHA is the responsible program participant – whether the AFH was prepared solely by the PHA, jointly with one or more other PHAs, or in collaboration with a state or local jurisdiction – and specify the fair housing strategies and actions to be implemented by the PHA during the period covered by this PHA Plan. If there are more than three fair housing goals, add answer blocks as necessary.

Until such time as the PHA is required to submit an AFH, the PHA will not have to complete section D., nevertheless, the PHA will address its obligation to affirmatively further fair housing in part by fulfilling the requirements at 24 CFR 903.7(o)(3) enacted prior to August 17, 2015, which means that it examines its own programs or proposed programs; identifies any impediments to fair housing choice within those programs; addresses those impediments in a reasonable fashion in view of the resources available; works with local jurisdictions to implement any of the jurisdiction's initiatives to affirmatively further fair housing that require the PHA's involvement; and maintain records reflecting these analyses and actions. Furthermore, under Section 5A(d)(15) of the U.S. Housing Act of 1937, as amended, a PHA must submit a civil rights certification with its Annual PHA Plan, which is described at 24 CFR 903.7(o)(1) except for qualified PHAs who submit the Form HUD-50077-CR as a standalone document.

This information collection is authorized by Section 511 of the Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act, which added a new section 5A to the U.S. Housing Act of 1937, as amended, which introduced the Annual PHA Plan. The Annual PHA Plan provides a ready source for interested parties to locate basic PHA policies, rules, and requirements concerning the PHA's operations, programs, and services, and informs HUD, families served by the PHA, and members of the public for serving the needs of low-income, very low-income, and extremely low-income families.

Public reporting burden for this information collection is estimated to average 6.02 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. HUD may not collect this information, and respondents are not required to complete this form, unless it displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

Privacy Act Notice. The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development is authorized to solicit the information requested in this form by virtue of Title 12, U.S. Code, Section 1701 et seq., and regulations promulgated thereunder at Title 12, Code of Federal Regulations. Responses to the collection of information are required to obtain a benefit or to retain a benefit. The information requested does not lend itself to confidentiality

**Certifications of Compliance with
PHA Plan and Related Regulations
(Standard, Troubled, HCV-Only, and
High Performer PHAs)**

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Office of Public and Indian Housing
OMB No. 2577-0226
Expires 3/31/2024

**PHA Certifications of Compliance with PHA Plan, Civil Rights, and Related Laws and Regulations
including PHA Plan Elements that Have Changed**

Acting on behalf of the Board of Commissioners of the Public Housing Agency (PHA) listed below, as its Chairperson or other authorized PHA official if there is no Board of Commissioners, I approve the submission of the 5-Year and/or X Annual PHA Plan, hereinafter referred to as "the Plan", of which this document is a part, and make the following certification and agreements with the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the PHA fiscal year beginning 2023, in connection with the submission of the Plan and implementation thereof:

1. The Plan is consistent with the applicable comprehensive housing affordability strategy (or any plan incorporating such strategy) for the jurisdiction in which the PHA is located (24 CFR § 91.2).
2. The Plan contains a certification by the appropriate State or local officials that the Plan is consistent with the applicable Consolidated Plan, which includes a certification that requires the preparation of an Analysis of Impediments (AI) to Fair Housing Choice, or Assessment of Fair Housing (AFH) when applicable, for the PHA's jurisdiction and a description of the manner in which the PHA Plan is consistent with the applicable Consolidated Plan (24 CFR §§ 91.2, 91.225, 91.325, and 91.425).
3. The PHA has established a Resident Advisory Board or Boards, the membership of which represents the residents assisted by the PHA, consulted with this Resident Advisory Board or Boards in developing the Plan, including any changes or revisions to the policies and programs identified in the Plan before they were implemented, and considered the recommendations of the RAB (24 CFR 903.13). The PHA has included in the Plan submission a copy of the recommendations made by the Resident Advisory Board or Boards and a description of the manner in which the Plan addresses these recommendations.
4. The PHA provides assurance as part of this certification that:
 - (i) The Resident Advisory Board had an opportunity to review and comment on the changes to the policies and programs before implementation by the PHA;
 - (ii) The changes were duly approved by the PHA Board of Directors (or similar governing body); and
 - (iii) The revised policies and programs are available for review and inspection, at the principal office of the PHA during normal business hours.
5. The PHA made the proposed Plan and all information relevant to the public hearing available for public inspection at least 45 days before the hearing, published a notice that a hearing would be held and conducted a hearing to discuss the Plan and invited public comment.
6. The PHA certifies that it will carry out the public housing program of the agency in conformity with title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d-2000d-4), the Fair Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 3601-19), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794), title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.), and other applicable civil rights requirements and that it will affirmatively further fair housing in the administration of the program. In addition, if it administers a Housing Choice Voucher Program, the PHA certifies that it will administer the program in conformity with the Fair Housing Act, title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, and other applicable civil rights requirements, and that it will affirmatively further fair housing in the administration of the program.
7. The PHA will affirmatively further fair housing, which means that it will take meaningful actions to further the goals identified in the Assessment of Fair Housing (AFH) conducted in accordance with the requirements of 24 CFR § 5.150 through 5.180, that it will take no action that is materially inconsistent with its obligation to affirmatively further fair housing, and that it will address fair housing issues and contributing factors in its programs, in accordance with 24 CFR § 903.7(o)(3). The PHA will fulfill the requirements at 24 CFR § 903.7(o) and 24 CFR § 903.15(d). Until such time as the PHA is required to submit an AFH, the PHA will fulfill the requirements at 24 CFR § 903.7(o) promulgated prior to August 17, 2015, which means that it examines its programs or proposed programs; identifies any impediments to fair housing choice within those programs; addresses those impediments in a reasonable fashion in view of the resources available; works with local jurisdictions to implement any of the jurisdiction's initiatives to affirmatively further fair housing that require the PHA's involvement; and maintains records reflecting these analyses and actions.
8. For PHA Plans that include a policy for site-based waiting lists:
 - The PHA regularly submits required data to HUD's 50058 PIC/IMS Module in an accurate, complete and timely manner (as specified in PIH Notice 2011-65);

- The system of site-based waiting lists provides for full disclosure to each applicant in the selection of the development in which to reside, including basic information about available sites; and an estimate of the period of time the applicant would likely have to wait to be admitted to units of different sizes and types at each site;
 - Adoption of a site-based waiting list would not violate any court order or settlement agreement or be inconsistent with a pending complaint brought by HUD;
 - The PHA shall take reasonable measures to assure that such a waiting list is consistent with affirmatively furthering fair housing; and
 - The PHA provides for review of its site-based waiting list policy to determine if it is consistent with civil rights laws and certifications, as specified in 24 CFR 903.7(o)(1).
9. The PHA will comply with the prohibitions against discrimination on the basis of age pursuant to the Age Discrimination Act of 1975.
 10. In accordance with 24 CFR § 5.105(a)(2), HUD's Equal Access Rule, the PHA will not make a determination of eligibility for housing based on sexual orientation, gender identify, or marital status and will make no inquiries concerning the gender identification or sexual orientation of an applicant for or occupant of HUD-assisted housing.
 11. The PHA will comply with the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 and 24 CFR Part 41, Policies and Procedures for the Enforcement of Standards and Requirements for Accessibility by the Physically Handicapped.
 12. The PHA will comply with the requirements of Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968, Employment Opportunities for Low-or Very-Low Income Persons, and with its implementing regulation at 24 CFR Part 135.
 13. The PHA will comply with acquisition and relocation requirements of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 and implementing regulations at 49 CFR Part 24 as applicable.
 14. The PHA will take appropriate affirmative action to award contracts to minority and women's business enterprises under 24 CFR 5.105(a).
 15. The PHA will provide the responsible entity or HUD any documentation that the responsible entity or HUD needs to carry out its review under the National Environmental Policy Act and other related authorities in accordance with 24 CFR Part 58 or Part 50, respectively.
 16. With respect to public housing the PHA will comply with Davis-Bacon or HUD determined wage rate requirements under Section 12 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 and the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act.
 17. The PHA will keep records in accordance with 2 CFR 200.333 and facilitate an effective audit to determine compliance with program requirements.
 18. The PHA will comply with the Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act, the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992, and 24 CFR Part 35.
 19. The PHA will comply with the policies, guidelines, and requirements of 2 CFR Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Financial Assistance, including but not limited to submitting the assurances required under 24 CFR §§ 1.5, 3.115, 8.50, and 107.25 by submitting an SF-424, including the required assurances in SF-424B or D, as applicable.
 20. The PHA will undertake only activities and programs covered by the Plan in a manner consistent with its Plan and will utilize covered grant funds only for activities that are approvable under the regulations and included in its Plan.
 21. All attachments to the Plan have been and will continue to be available at all times and all locations that the PHA Plan is available for public inspection. All required supporting documents have been made available for public inspection along with the Plan and additional requirements at the primary business office of the PHA and at all other times and locations identified by the PHA in its PHA Plan and will continue to be made available at least at the primary business office of the PHA.
 22. The PHA certifies that it is in compliance with applicable Federal statutory and regulatory requirements, including the Declaration of Trust(s).

Hancock Metropolitan Housing Auth
PHA Name

04082
PHA Number/HA Code

2 Annual PHA Plan for Fiscal Year 2023

 5-Year PHA Plan for Fiscal Years 20 - 20

I hereby certify that all the information stated herein, as well as any information provided in the accompaniment herewith, is true and accurate. **Warning:** HUD will prosecute false claims and statements. Conviction may result in criminal and/or civil penalties. (18 U.S.C. 1001, 1010, 1012; 31 U.S.C. 3729, 3802).

Name of Executive Director

Lacey Ricker

Signature

[Signature]

Date

10-30-22

Name Board Chairman

DONNA Ruse

Signature

[Signature]

10/31/22

Civil Rights Certification (Qualified PHAs)

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Office of Public and Indian Housing
OMB Approval No. 2577-0226
Expires 3/31/2024

Civil Rights Certification

Annual Certification and Board Resolution

Acting on behalf of the Board of Commissioners of the Public Housing Agency (PHA) listed below, as its Chairperson or other authorized PHA official if there is no Board of Commissioners, I approve the submission of the 5-Year PHA Plan, hereinafter referred to as "the Plan", of which this document is a part, and make the following certification and agreements with the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the fiscal year beginning 2023 in which the PHA receives assistance under 42 U.S.C. 1437f and/or 1437g in connection with the mission, goals, and objectives of the public housing agency and implementation thereof:

The PHA certifies that it will carry out the public housing program of the agency in conformity with title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d-2000d-4), the Fair Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 3601-19), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794), title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. 12101 *et seq.*), and other applicable civil rights requirements and that it will affirmatively further fair housing in the administration of the program. In addition, if it administers a Housing Choice Voucher Program, the PHA certifies that it will administer the program in conformity with the Fair Housing Act, title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, and other applicable civil rights requirements, and that it will affirmatively further fair housing in the administration of the program. The PHA will affirmatively further fair housing, which means that it will take meaningful actions to further the goals identified in the Assessment of Fair Housing (AFH) conducted in accordance with the requirements of 24 CFR § 5.150 through 5.180, that it will take no action that is materially inconsistent with its obligation to affirmatively further fair housing, and that it will address fair housing issues and contributing factors in its programs, in accordance with 24 CFR § 903.7(o)(3). The PHA will fulfill the requirements at 24 CFR § 903.7(o) and 24 CFR § 903.15(d). Until such time as the PHA is required to submit an AFH, the PHA will fulfill the requirements at 24 CFR § 903.7(o) promulgated prior to August 17, 2015, which means that it examines its programs or proposed programs; identifies any impediments to fair housing choice within those programs; addresses those impediments in a reasonable fashion in view of the resources available; works with local jurisdictions to implement any of the jurisdiction's initiatives to affirmatively further fair housing that require the PHA's involvement; and maintains records reflecting these analyses and actions.

Hancock Metropolitan Housing Authority

OH082

PHA Name

PHA Number/HA Code

I hereby certify that all the statement above, as well as any information provided in the accompaniment herewith, is true and accurate. **Warning:** HUD will prosecute false claims and statements. Conviction may result in criminal and/or civil penalties. (18 U.S.C. 1001, 1010, 1012; 31 U.S.C. 3729, 3802)

Name of Executive Director:

Name of Board Chairperson:

Casey J. Ricker

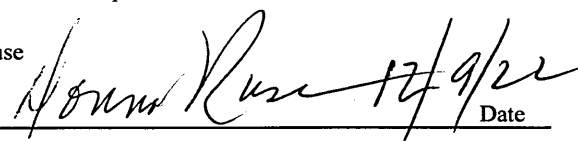
Donna Ruse

Signature



Date 12-8-22

Signature



Date

The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development is authorized to collect the information requested in this form by virtue of Title 12, U.S. Code, Section 1701 *et seq.*, and regulations promulgated thereunder at Title 12, Code of Federal Regulations. Responses to the collection of information are required to obtain a benefit or to retain a benefit. The information requested does not lend itself to confidentiality. The information is collected to ensure that PHAs carry out applicable civil rights requirements.

Public reporting burden for this information collection is estimated to average 0.16 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering, and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. HUD may not collect this information, and respondents are not required to complete this form, unless it displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

**Certification by State or Local
Official of PHA Plans Consistency
with the Consolidated Plan or
State Consolidated Plan
(All PHAs)**

U. S Department of Housing and Urban Development

Office of Public and Indian Housing

OMB No. 2577-0226

Expires 3/31/2024

**Certification by State or Local Official of PHA Plans
Consistency with the Consolidated Plan or State Consolidated Plan**

I, The Honorable Tim K. Bechtol, the

Commissioner of Hancock County Ohio

Official's Name

Official's Title

certify that the 5-Year PHA Plan for fiscal years and/or Annual PHA Plan for fiscal year
2023 of the Hancock Metropolitan Housing Authority is consistent with the
PHA Name

Consolidated Plan or State Consolidated Plan including the Analysis of Impediments (AI) to Fair
Housing Choice or Assessment of Fair Housing (AFH) as applicable to the

Hancock County Ohio

Local Jurisdiction Name

pursuant to 24 CFR Part 91 and 24 CFR §§ 903.7(o)(3) and 903.15.

Provide a description of how the PHA Plan's contents are consistent with the Consolidated Plan or
State Consolidated Plan.

The PHA Plan is consistent with the State of Ohio Consolidated Plan and Local CHIS by
formulating strategies to improve the lives of low-income renters with the greater Hancock County
to provide decent, safe and sanitary housing.

I hereby certify that all the information stated herein, as well as any information provided in the accompaniment herewith, is true and accurate. **Warning:** HUD will
prosecute false claims and statements. Conviction may result in criminal and/or civil penalties. (18 U.S.C. 1001, 1010, 1012; 31 U.S.C. 3729, 3802)

Name of Authorized Official:

Timothy K Bechtol

Title:

Hancock Co. Commissioner

Signature:

Timothy K Bechtol

Date:

12-12-22

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**Certification by State or Local
Official of PHA Plans Consistency
with the Consolidated Plan or
State Consolidated Plan
(All PHAs)**

U. S Department of Housing and Urban Development

Office of Public and Indian Housing

OMB No. 2577-0226

Expires 3/31/2024

**Certification by State or Local Official of PHA Plans
Consistency with the Consolidated Plan or State Consolidated Plan**

I, Christina Muryn, the

Mayor of the City of Findlay Ohio

Official's Name

Official's Title

certify that the 5-Year PHA Plan for fiscal years and/or Annual PHA Plan for fiscal year
2023 of the Hancock Metropolitan Housing Authority is consistent with the
PHA Name

Consolidated Plan or State Consolidated Plan including the Analysis of Impediments (AI) to Fair
Housing Choice or Assessment of Fair Housing (AFH) as applicable to the

Hancock County Ohio
Local Jurisdiction Name

pursuant to 24 CFR Part 91 and 24 CFR §§ 903.7(o)(3) and 903.15.

Provide a description of how the PHA Plan's contents are consistent with the Consolidated Plan or
State Consolidated Plan.

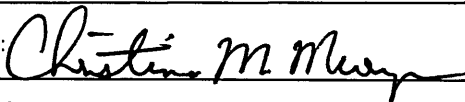
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prosecute false claims and statements. Conviction may result in criminal and/or civil penalties. (18 U.S.C. 1001, 1010, 1012; 31 U.S.C. 3729, 3802)

Name of Authorized Official: Christina Muryn

Title: Mayor

Signature:



Date:

12/09/2022

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**Certification by State or Local
Official of PHA Plans Consistency
with the Consolidated Plan or
State Consolidated Plan
(All PHAs)**

U. S Department of Housing and Urban Development
Office of Public and Indian Housing
OMB No. 2577-0226
Expires 3/31/2024

**Certification by State or Local Official of PHA Plans
Consistency with the Consolidated Plan or State Consolidated Plan**

I, The Honorable William L. Bateson, the

Commissioner of Hancock County Ohio

Official's Name

Official's Title

certify that the 5-Year PHA Plan for fiscal years and/or Annual PHA Plan for fiscal year
2023 of the Hancock Metropolitan Housing Authority is consistent with the
PHA Name

Consolidated Plan or State Consolidated Plan including the Analysis of Impediments (AI) to Fair
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Hancock County Ohio
Local Jurisdiction Name

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Name of Authorized Official:

William Bateson

Title:

Commissioner

Signature:

William L. Bateson

Date:

12-12-22

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**Certification by State or Local
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with the Consolidated Plan or
State Consolidated Plan
(All PHAs)**

U. S Department of Housing and Urban Development

Office of Public and Indian Housing

OMB No. 2577-0226

Expires 3/31/2024

**Certification by State or Local Official of PHA Plans
Consistency with the Consolidated Plan or State Consolidated Plan**

I, The Honorable Mike W. Pebble, the

Commissioner of Hancock County Ohio

Official's Name

Official's Title

certify that the 5-Year PHA Plan for fiscal years and/or Annual PHA Plan for fiscal year
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Local Jurisdiction Name

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Name of Authorized Official:

Michael Pepple

Title:

Board President

Signature:

Michael W Pepple

Date:

12-12-22

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