

EXTENDED COVID-19 POLICY

(Referenced Notice: PIH 2020-33 issued November 30, 2020 supersedes PIH 2020-13

COVID-19 Statutory and Regulatory Waiver Notice)

BINGHAMTON HOUSING AUTHORITY (NY016) PUBLIC HOUSING
COVID-19 WAIVER POLICIES

November 30, 2020-Effective Immediately

- **PH and HCV-3: Family Income and Composition: Annual Examination; Income Verification Requirements**

HUD is waiving the requirements to use the income hierarchy described by Notice PIH 2018-18 and will allow PHAs to forgo third-party income verification requirements for annual reexaminations, including the use of EIV, if the PHA wishes to conduct the annual recertification rather than delaying the family's annual recertification (as permitted under PH and HCV-2 above).

During the allowable period of availability, BHA will accept self-certification as the highest form of income verification to process annual reexaminations. This may occur over the telephone (but must be documented by BHA staff with a contemporaneous written record), through an email or postal mail with a self-certification form by the tenant, or through other electronic communications.

Period of Availability: The period of availability ends on June 30, 2021.

- **PH and HCV-4: Family Income and Composition: Interim Examinations**

To assist PHAs that may be prioritizing the processing of interim reexaminations due to decreases in family income and mitigate the challenges of transferring documentation during periods of shelter-in-place/stay-at-home efforts in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, BHA will waive the requirements to use the income verification hierarchy as described by

Notice PIH 2018-18. HUD will allow PHAs to forgo third-party income verification requirements for interim reexaminations, including the required use of EIV. During the allowable period of eligibility, PHAs will consider self-certification as the highest form of income verification to process interim reexaminations. This may occur over the telephone (with a contemporaneous written record by the BHA staff person), through an email with a self-certification form by the family, or through other electronic communications.

- **PH-5: Community Service and Self-Sufficiency Requirement (CSSR)**

The statute and regulations require that each adult resident of public housing, except for any family member that is exempt, must contribute 8 hours per month of community service or participate in an economic self-sufficiency program or a combination of both. A family's noncompliance with the service requirement is grounds for non-renewal of the lease at the end of the lease term. BHA will waive this requirement and is alternatively suspending the community service and self-sufficiency requirement. , tenants will not be subject to this requirement at the family's next annual reexamination.

Period of Availability: The period of availability ends on June 30, 2021

- **PH-14: Annual Choice of Rent**

Families experiencing a financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic because of a change in circumstances, for example a loss of employment, may no longer be experiencing such hardship and want to continue paying a flat rent. BHA is waiving the requirement that a family may not be offered a choice of rent more than once a year. BHA will give families no more than two opportunities to choose between a flat rent and an income-based rent within the same one year period.

Period of Availability: The period of availability ends on June 30, 2021.