

# **COMMUNITY SERVICE AND CONTINUED OCCUPANCY**

## **14.0 CONTINUED OCCUPANCY AND COMMUNITY SERVICE**

### **14.1 GENERAL**

In order to be eligible for continued occupancy, each adult family member must either (1) contribute eight hours per month of community service (not including political activities) within the community in which the public housing development is located, or (2) participate in an economic self-sufficiency program unless they are exempt from this requirement

### **14.2 EXEMPTIONS**

The following adult family members of tenant families are exempt from this requirement.

- A. Family members who are 62 or older
- B. Family members who are blind or disabled
- C. Family members who are the primary care giver for someone who is blind or disabled
- D. Family members engaged in work activity
- E. Family members who are exempt from work activity under part A title IV of the Social Security Act or under any other State welfare program, including the welfare-to-work program
- F. Family members receiving assistance under a State program funded under part A title IV of the Social Security Act or under any other State welfare program, including welfare-to-work and who are in compliance with that program

### **14.3 NOTIFICATION OF THE REQUIREMENT**

The Fall River Housing Authority shall identify all adult family members who are apparently not exempt from the community service requirement.

The Fall River Housing Authority shall notify all such family members of the community service requirement and of the categories of individuals who are exempt from the requirement. The notification will provide the opportunity for family members to claim

and explain an exempt status. The Fall River Housing Authority shall verify such claims.

The notification will advise families that their community service obligation will begin upon the effective date of their first annual reexamination on or after 4/1/2002. For family's paying a flat rent, the obligation begins on the date their annual reexamination would have been effective had an annual reexamination taken place. It will also advise them that failure to comply with the community service requirement will result in ineligibility for continued occupancy at the time of any subsequent annual reexamination.

#### **14.4 VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AND ECONOMIC SELF SUFFICIENCY**

Community service includes performing work or duties in the public benefit that serve to improve the quality of life and/or enhance resident self-sufficiency, and/or increase the self-responsibility of the resident within the community.

An economic self sufficiency program is one that is designed to encourage, assist, train or facilitate the economic independence of participants and their families or to provide work for participants. These programs may include programs for job training, work placement, basic skills training, education, English proficiency, work fare, financial or household management, apprenticeship, and any program necessary to ready a participant to work (such as substance abuse or mental health treatment).

The Fall River Housing Authority will coordinate with social service agencies, local schools, and the Human Resources Office in identifying a list of volunteer community service positions.

Together with the resident advisory councils, the Fall River Housing Authority may create volunteer positions such as hall monitoring, litter patrols, and supervising and record keeping for volunteers.

#### **14.5 THE PROCESS**

At the first annual reexamination on or after April 1, 2002 and each annual reexamination thereafter, the Fall River Housing Authority will do the following:

- A. Provide a list of volunteer opportunities to the family members.
- B. Provide information about obtaining suitable volunteer positions.
- C. Provide a volunteer time sheet to the family member. Instructions for the time sheet require the individual to complete the form and have a supervisor date and sign for each period of work.

- D. Assign family members to a volunteer coordinator who will assist the family members in identifying appropriate volunteer positions and in meeting their responsibilities. The volunteer coordinator will track the family member's progress monthly and will meet with the family member as needed to best encourage compliance.
- E. Thirty (30) days before the family's next lease anniversary date, the volunteer coordinator will advise the Fall River Housing Authority whether each applicable adult family member is in compliance with the community service requirement.

#### **14.6 NOTIFICATION OF NON-COMPLIANCE WITH COMMUNITY SERVICE REQUIREMENT**

The Fall River Housing Authority will notify any family found to be in noncompliance of the following:

- A. The family member(s) has been determined to be in noncompliance;
- B. That the determination is subject to the grievance procedure; and
- C. That, unless the family member(s) enter into an agreement to comply, the lease will not be renewed or will be terminated;

#### **14.7 OPPORTUNITY FOR CURE**

The Fall River Housing Authority will offer the family member(s) the opportunity to enter into an agreement prior to the anniversary of the lease. The agreement shall state that the family member(s) agrees to enter into an economic self-sufficiency program or agrees to contribute to community service for as many hours as needed to comply with the requirement over the past 12-month period. The cure shall occur over the 12-month period beginning with the date of the agreement and the resident shall at the same time stay current with that year's community service requirement. The first hours a resident earns goes toward the current commitment until the current year's commitment is made.

The volunteer coordinator will assist the family member in identifying volunteer opportunities and will track compliance on a monthly basis.

If any applicable family member does not accept the terms of the agreement, does not fulfill their obligation to participate in an economic self-sufficiency program, or falls behind in their obligation under the agreement to perform community service by more than three (3) hours after three (3) months, the Fall River Housing Authority shall take action to terminate the lease.

## 14.8 OPPORTUNITIES TO PERFORM THE SERVICE REQUIREMENTS

The Fall River Housing Authority in conjunction with the Resident Advisory Board has determined that the FRHA and our residents will best be served if we liberally define what constitutes Community Service and Economic Self Sufficiency activities. The following partial list of activities, are suggestions only and are not meant to be all inclusive. Any activity which benefits the residents' economic self sufficiency will be accepted and any activity that reasonable provides the FRHA developments or the general public with a needed service will also be accepted. All opportunities to perform community service will be provided and performed with pride and dignity.

- GED Program
- High School completion
- ESL English as a Second Language Program
- Vocational School
- College Courses
- Participation in Foster Grandparent program
- Provide arts and crafts for elderly residents
- Provide arts and crafts for children
- Gardening around FRHA sites
- Volunteering with Food Kitchens or programs to help low income residents of Fall River
- Visit Nursing homes or Hospitals
- Run Errands for Elderly or Handicapped City residents
- Peer Leadership
- Red Cross
- Tutoring
- Volunteer participation in after school childcare program
- Working with FR Joint Tenants to educate residents on their rights and organization, as well as passing out flyers and otherwise assisting the FRJTC in its mission
- Other activities as may from time to time be added by the FRHA or agreed to with the Resident Advisory Board
- Volunteer work in the public sector
- Volunteer work in the FRHA and the FRHAJTC
- Attendance at monthly resident meetings