

Tenancy Addendum
Section 8 Project-based
Voucher Program
(To be attached to Tenant Lease)

**U.S. Department of Housing
and Urban Development**
Office of Public and Indian Housing

Part B: Tenancy Addendum

1. Section 8 Project-based Voucher (PBV) Program

- a. The owner is leasing the contract unit to the tenant for occupancy by the tenant's family with assistance for a tenancy under the Section 8 PBV program of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).
- b. The owner has entered into a Housing Assistance Payments Contract (HAP contract) with the public housing agency (PHA) under the PBV program. Under the HAP contract, the PHA will make housing assistance payments to the owner to assist the tenant in leasing the unit from the owner.

2. Lease

- a. The owner has given the PHA a copy of the lease, including any revisions agreed to by the owner and the tenant. The owner certifies that the terms of the lease are in accordance with HUD requirements and the lease includes the tenancy addendum.
- b. The tenant shall have the right to enforce the tenancy addendum against the owner. If there is any conflict between the tenancy addendum and any other provisions of the lease, the language of the tenancy addendum shall control.

3. Use of Contract Unit

- a. During the lease term, the family will reside in the contract unit with assistance under the PBV program.
- b. The composition of the household must be approved by the PHA. The family must promptly inform the PHA of the birth, adoption or court-awarded custody of a child. Other persons may not be added to the household without prior written approval of the owner and the PHA.
- c. The contract unit may only be used for residence by the PHA-approved household members. The unit must be the family's only residence. Members of the household may engage in legal profit making activities incidental to primary use of the unit for residence by members of the family.
- d. The tenant may not sublease or let the unit.
- e. The tenant may not assign the lease or transfer the unit.

4. Rent to Owner

- a. The initial and redetermined rent to owner are established in accordance with HUD requirements.
- b. During the term of the lease (including the initial term of the lease and any extension term), the rent to owner may at no time exceed:
 - (1) The reasonable rent for the unit as most recently determined or redetermined by the

PHA in accordance with HUD requirements, or

- (2) Rent charged by the owner for comparable unassisted units in the premises.

5. Family Payment to Owner

- a. The tenant rent is the portion of the monthly rent to owner paid by the family. The PHA determines the tenant rent in accordance with HUD requirements. Any changes in the amount of the tenant rent will be effective on the date stated in a notice by the PHA to the family and the owner.
- b. Each month, the PHA will make a housing assistance payment to the owner on behalf of the family in accordance with the HAP contract. The amount of the monthly housing assistance payment will be determined by the PHA in accordance with HUD requirements for a tenancy under the Section 8 PBV program.
- c. The monthly housing assistance payment shall be credited against the monthly rent to owner for the contract unit.
- d. The tenant is not responsible for paying the portion of rent to owner covered by the PHA housing assistance payment under the HAP contract between the owner and the PHA. A PHA failure to pay the housing assistance payment to the owner is not a violation of the lease. The owner may not terminate the tenancy for nonpayment of the PHA housing assistance payment.
- e. The owner may not charge or accept, from the family or from any other source, any payment for rent of the unit in addition to the rent to owner. The rent to owner includes all housing services, maintenance, utilities and appliances to be provided and paid by the owner in accordance with the lease. The rent to owner does not include charges for non-housing services such as food, furniture or supportive services provided by the owner.
- f. The owner must immediately return any excess rent payment to the tenant.

6. Other Fees and Charges

- a. With the exception of families receiving PBV assistance in assisted living developments (see paragraph b. below), the owner may not require the tenant or family members to pay charges for any meals or supportive services which may be provided by the owner. Nonpayment of any such charges is not grounds for termination of tenancy.
- b. In assisted living developments receiving project-based assistance, the owner may charge tenants, family members, or both for meals or supportive services. Any such charges must be specified in the lease. These charges may not be included in the rent to owner, nor may the value of meals and supportive services be included in the calculation of the

reasonable rent. Non-payment of such charges is grounds for termination of the lease by the owner in assisted living developments.

- d. The owner may not charge the tenant extra amounts for items customarily included in rent to owner in the locality, or provided at no additional cost to unsubsidized tenants in the premises.

7. Maintenance, Utilities, and Other Services

a. Maintenance

- (1) The owner must maintain the unit and premises in accordance with the HQS.
- (2) Maintenance and replacement (including redecoration) must be in accordance with the standard practice for the building concerned as established by the owner.

b. Utilities and Appliances

- (1) The owner must provide all utilities needed to comply with the HQS.
- (2) The owner is not responsible for a breach of the HQS caused by the tenant's failure to:
 - (a) Pay for any utilities that are to be paid by the tenant.
 - (b) Provide and maintain any appliances that are to be provided by the tenant.

- c. **Family Damage.** The owner is not responsible for a breach of the HQS because of damages beyond normal wear and tear caused by any member of the household or by a guest.

- d. **Housing Services.** The owner must provide all housing services as agreed to in the lease.

8. Termination of Tenancy by Owner

- a. **Requirements.** The owner may only terminate the tenancy in accordance with the lease and HUD requirements.

- b. **Grounds.** During the term of the lease (the initial term of the lease or any extension term), the owner may only terminate the tenancy because of:

- (1) Serious or repeated violation of the lease;
- (2) Violation of Federal, State, or local law that imposes obligations on the tenant in connection with the occupancy or use of the unit and the premises;
- (3) Criminal activity or alcohol abuse (as provided in paragraph c);
- (4) Failure of a family in a supportive service excepted unit to complete its Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Contract of Participation or other supportive services requirement without good cause; or
- (5) Other good cause (as provided in paragraph d).

c. Criminal Activity or Alcohol Abuse

- (1) The owner may terminate the tenancy during the term of the lease if any member of the household, a guest or another person under a resident's control commits any of the following types of criminal activity:

- (a) Any criminal activity that threatens the health or safety of, or the right to peaceful enjoyment of the premises by, other residents (including property management staff residing on the premises);
 - (b) Any criminal activity that threatens the health or safety of, or the right to peaceful enjoyment of their residences by, persons residing in the immediate vicinity of the premises;
 - (c) Any violent criminal activity on or near the premises; or
 - (d) Any drug-related criminal activity on or near the premises.
- (2) The owner may terminate the tenancy during the term of the lease if any member of the household is:
 - (a) Fleeing to avoid prosecution, or custody or confinement after conviction, for a crime, or attempt to commit a crime, that is a felony under the laws of the place from which the individual flees, or that, in the case of the State of New Jersey, is a high misdemeanor; or
 - (b) Violating a condition of probation or parole under Federal or State law.
 - (3) The owner may terminate the tenancy for criminal activity by a household member in accordance with this section if the owner determines that the household member has committed the criminal activity, regardless of whether the household member has been arrested or convicted for such activity.
 - (4) The owner may terminate the tenancy during the term of the lease if any member of the household has engaged in abuse of alcohol that threatens the health, safety or right to peaceful enjoyment of the premises by other residents.

d. Other Good Cause for Termination of Tenancy

- (1) During the initial lease term, other good cause for termination of tenancy must be something the family did or failed to do.
- (2) During the initial lease term or during any extension term, other good cause includes:
 - (a) Disturbance of neighbors,
 - (b) Destruction of property, or
 - (c) Living or housekeeping habits that cause damage to the unit or premises.
- (3) After the initial lease term, such good cause includes the tenant's failure to accept the owner's offer of a new lease or revision.

e. Lease Expiration

Upon lease expiration, an owner may renew the lease or refuse to renew the lease for good cause. In addition, the owner may refuse to renew the lease without good cause, in which case the PHA will provide the family with a tenant-based voucher, and the unit will be removed from the PBV HAP contract.

f. Protections for Victims of Abuse

- (1) Incidents or threats of abuse will not be construed as serious or repeated violations of the lease or other “good cause” for termination of the assistance, tenancy, or occupancy rights of a victim of abuse.
- (2) Criminal activity directly relating to abuse, engaged in by a member of a tenant’s household or any guest or other person under the tenant’s control, shall not be cause for termination of assistance, tenancy, or occupancy rights if the tenant or an immediate member of the tenant’s family is the victim or threatened victim of that abuse.
- (3) Notwithstanding any restrictions on admission, occupancy, or terminations of occupancy or assistance, or any Federal, State or local law to the contrary, a PHA, owner or manager may “bifurcate” a lease, or otherwise remove a household member from a lease, without regard to whether a household member is a signatory to the lease, in order to evict, remove, terminate occupancy rights, or terminate assistance to any individual who is a tenant or lawful occupant and who engages in criminal acts of physical violence against family members or others. This action may be taken without evicting, removing, terminating assistance to, or otherwise penalizing the victim of the violence who is also a tenant or lawful occupant. Such eviction, removal, termination of occupancy rights, or termination of assistance shall be effected in accordance with the procedures prescribed by Federal, State, and local law for the termination of leases or assistance under the housing choice voucher program.
- (4) Nothing in this section may be construed to limit the authority of a PHA, owner, or manager, when notified, to honor court orders addressing rights of access or control of the property, including civil protection orders issued to protect the victim and issued to address the distribution or possession of property among the household members in cases where a family breaks up.
- (5) Nothing in this section limits any otherwise available authority of an owner or manager to evict or the PHA to terminate assistance to a tenant for any violation of a lease not premised on the act or acts of violence in question against the tenant or a member of the tenant’s household, provided that the owner, manager, or PHA does not subject an individual who is or has been a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking to a more demanding standard than other tenants in determining whether to evict or terminate.
- (6) Nothing in this section may be construed to limit the authority of an owner or manager to evict, or the PHA to terminate assistance, to any tenant if the owner, manager, or PHA can demonstrate an actual and imminent threat to other tenants or those employed at or providing service to the property if

the tenant is not evicted or terminated from assistance.

- (7) Nothing in this section shall be construed to supersede any provision of any Federal, State, or local law that provides greater protection than this section for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking.

g. Eviction by Court Action. The owner may only evict the tenant by a court action.

h. Owner Notice of Grounds

- (1) At or before the beginning of a court action to evict the tenant, the owner must give the tenant a notice that specifies the grounds for termination of tenancy. The notice may be included in or combined with any owner eviction notice.
- (2) The owner must give the PHA a copy of any owner eviction notice at the same time the owner notifies the tenant.
- (3) Eviction notice means a notice to vacate, or a complaint or other initial pleading used to begin an eviction action under State or local law.

9. PHA Termination of Assistance

The PHA may terminate program assistance for the family for any grounds authorized in accordance with HUD requirements. If the PHA terminates program assistance for the family, the lease terminates automatically.

10. Lease: Relation to HAP Contract

If the HAP contract terminates for any reason, the lease terminates automatically.

11. Family Right to Move

- a. The family may terminate its lease at any time after the first year of occupancy. The family must give the owner advance written notice of intent to vacate (with a copy to the PHA) in accordance with the lease. If the family has elected to terminate the lease in this manner, the PHA must offer the family the opportunity for tenant-based rental assistance in accordance with HUD requirements.
- b. Before providing notice to terminate the lease under paragraph a, the family must first contact the PHA to request tenant-based rental assistance if the family wishes to move with continued assistance. If tenant-based rental assistance is not immediately available upon lease termination, the PHA shall give the family priority to receive the next available opportunity for tenant-based rental assistance.

12. Security Deposit

- a. The owner may collect a security deposit from the tenant. (However, the PHA may prohibit the owner from collecting a security deposit in excess of private market practice, or in excess of amounts charged by the owner to unassisted tenants.)
- b. When the family moves out of the contract unit, the owner, subject to State and local law, may use the

security deposit, including any interest on the deposit, as reimbursement for any unpaid rent payable by the tenant, any damages to the unit or any other amounts that the tenant owes under the lease.

- c. The owner must give the tenant a list of all items charged against the security deposit, and the amount of each item. After deducting the amount, if any, used to reimburse the owner, the owner must promptly refund the full amount of the unused balance to the tenant.
- d. If the security deposit is not sufficient to cover amounts the tenant owes under the lease, the owner may collect the balance from the tenant.

13. Prohibition of Discrimination

In accordance with applicable equal opportunity statutes, Executive Orders, and regulations, the owner must not discriminate against any person because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, familial status or disability in connection with the lease.

14. Conflict with Other Provisions of Lease

- a. The terms of the tenancy addendum are prescribed by HUD in accordance with Federal law and regulation, as a condition for Federal assistance to the tenant and tenant's family under the Section 8 PBV program.
- b. In case of any conflict between the provisions of the tenancy addendum as required by HUD, and any other provisions of the lease or any other agreement between the owner and the tenant, the requirements of the HUD-required tenancy addendum shall control.

15. Changes in Lease and Rent

- a. The tenant and the owner may not make any change in the tenancy addendum. However, if the tenant and the owner agree to any other changes in the lease, such changes must be in writing, and the owner must immediately give the PHA a copy of such changes. The lease, including any changes, must be in accordance with the requirements of the tenancy addendum.
- b. The owner must notify the PHA in advance of any proposed change in lease requirements governing the allocation of tenant and owner responsibilities for utilities. Such changes may be made only if approved by the PHA and if in accordance with the terms of the lease relating to its amendment. The PHA must redetermine reasonable rent in accordance with HUD requirements, based on any changes in the allocation of responsibility for utilities between the owner and tenant, and the redetermined reasonable rent shall be used in the calculation of the rent to owner from the effective date of the change.

16. Written Notices

Any notice under the lease by the tenant to the owner or by the owner to the tenant must be in writing.

17. Definitions

Contract unit. The housing unit rented by the tenant with assistance under the program.

Excepted Unit. A contract unit not counted against the 25 percent per-project cap on PBV assistance.

Family. The persons who may reside in the unit with assistance under the program.

HAP contract. The housing assistance payments contract between the PHA and the owner. The PHA pays housing assistance payments to the owner in accordance with the HAP contract.

Household. The persons who may reside in the contract unit. The household consists of the family and any PHA-approved live-in aide. (A live-in aide is a person who resides in the unit to provide necessary supportive services for a member of the family who is a person with disabilities.)

Housing quality standards (HQS). The HUD minimum quality standards for housing assisted under the Section 8 PBV program.

HUD. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

HUD requirements. HUD requirements for the Section 8 PBV program. HUD requirements are issued by HUD headquarters as regulations, Federal Register notices or other binding program directives. The Lease Addendum shall be interpreted and implemented in accordance with HUD requirements.

Lease. The written agreement between the owner and the tenant for the lease of the contract unit to the tenant. The lease includes the tenancy addendum prescribed by HUD.

PHA. Public Housing Agency.

Premises. The building or complex in which the contract unit is located, including common areas and grounds.

Program. The Section 8 project-based voucher program.

Rent to owner. The total monthly rent payable to the owner for the contract unit. The rent to owner is the sum of the portion of rent payable by the tenant plus the PHA housing assistance payment to the owner.

Section 8. Section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 United States Code 1437f).

Tenant. The family member (or members) who leases the unit from the owner.