

**ADMISSIONS
AND
CONTINUED OCCUPANCY
POLICY**

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ADMISSIONS AND CONTINUED OCCUPANCY POLICY

This Admissions and Continued Occupancy Policy defines the St. Clair County Housing Authority's policies for the operation for the Public Housing Program, incorporating Federal, State and local law. If there is any conflict between this policy and laws or regulations, the laws and regulations will prevail.

1.0 FAIR HOUSING

It is the policy of the St. Clair County Housing Authority to fully comply with all Federal, State and local nondiscrimination laws; the Americans with Disabilities Act; and the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations governing Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity.

No person shall, on the grounds of race, color, sex, religion, national or ethnic origin, familial status, or disability be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under the St. Clair County Housing Authority's programs.

To further its commitment to full compliance with applicable Civil Rights laws, the St. Clair County Housing Authority will provide Federal/State/local information to applicants/residents of the Public Housing Program regarding discrimination and any recourse available to them if they believe they may be victims of discrimination. Such information will be made available with the application, and all applicable Fair Housing Information and Discrimination Complaint Forms will be made available at the St. Clair County Housing Authority office. In addition, all written information and advertisements will contain the appropriate Equal Opportunity language and logo.

The St. Clair County Housing Authority will assist any family that believes they have suffered illegal discrimination by providing them copies of the appropriate housing discrimination forms. The St. Clair County Housing Authority will also assist them in completing the forms if requested, and will provide them with the address of the nearest HUD office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity.

2.0 REASONABLE ACCOMODATION

Sometimes people with disabilities may need a reasonable accommodation in order to take full advantage of the St. Clair County Housing Authority housing programs and related services. When such accommodations are granted, they do not confer special treatment or advantage for the person with a disability; rather, they make the program accessible to them in a way that would otherwise not be possible due to their disability. This policy clarifies how people can request

accommodations and the guidelines the St. Clair County Housing Authority will follow in determining whether it is reasonable to provide a requested accommodation. Because disabilities are not always apparent, the St. Clair County Housing Authority will ensure that all applicants/residents are aware of the opportunity to request reasonable accommodations.

2.1 COMMUNICATION

Anyone requesting an application will also receive a Request for Reasonable Accommodation form.

Notifications of reexamination, inspection, appointment, or eviction will include information about requesting a reasonable accommodation. Any notification requesting action by the resident will include information about requesting a reasonable accommodation.

All decisions granting or denying requests for reasonable accommodations will be in writing.

2.2 QUESTIONS TO ASK IN GRANTING THE ACCOMMODATION

- A. Is the requestor a person with disabilities? For this purpose the definition of person with disabilities is different than the definition used for admission. The Fair Housing definition used for this purpose is:

A person with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, has a record of such an impairment, or is regarded as having such an impairment. (The disability may not be apparent to others, i.e., a heart condition).

If the disability is apparent or already documented, the answer to this question is yes. It is possible that the disability for which the accommodation is being requested is a disability other than the apparent disability. If the disability is not apparent or documented, the St. Clair County Housing Authority will obtain verification that the person is a person with a disability.

- B. Is the requested accommodation related to the disability? If it is apparent that the request is related to the apparent or documented disability, the answer to this question is yes. If it is not apparent, the St. Clair County Housing Authority will obtain documentation that the requested accommodation is needed due to the disability. The St. Clair County Housing Authority will not inquire as to the nature of the disability.

- C. Is the requested accommodation reasonable? In order to be determined reasonable, the accommodation must meet two criteria:
1. Would the accommodation constitute a fundamental alteration? The St. Clair County Housing Authority's business is housing. If the request would alter the fundamental business that the St. Clair County Housing Authority conducts, that would not be reasonable. For instance, the St. Clair County Housing Authority would deny a request to have the St. Clair County Housing Authority do grocery shopping for a person with disabilities.
 2. Would the requested accommodation create an undue financial hardship or administrative burden? Frequently the requested accommodation costs little or nothing. If the cost would be an undue burden, the St. Clair County Housing Authority may request a meeting with the individual to investigate and consider equally effective alternatives.
- D. Generally the individual knows best what it is they need; however, the St. Clair County Housing Authority retains the right to be shown how the requested accommodation enables the individual to access or use the St. Clair County Housing Authority's programs or services.

If more than one accommodation is equally effective in providing access to the St. Clair County Housing Authority's programs and services, the St. Clair County Housing Authority retains the right to select the most efficient or economic choice.

The cost necessary to carry out approved requests, including requests for physical modifications, will be borne by the St. Clair County Housing Authority if there is no one else willing to pay for the modifications. If another party pays for the modification, the St. Clair County Housing Authority will seek to have the same entity pay for any restoration costs.

If the resident requests as a reasonable accommodation that they be permitted to make physical modifications at their own expense, the St. Clair County Housing Authority will generally approve such request if it does not violate codes or affect the structural integrity of the unit.

Any request for an accommodation that would enable a resident to materially violate essential lease terms will not be approved, i.e. allowing nonpayment of rent, destruction of property, disturbing the peaceful enjoyment of others, etc.

3.0 SERVICES FOR NON-ENGLISH SPEAKING APPLICANTS AND RESIDENTS

The St. Clair County Housing Authority will endeavor to have bilingual staff or access to people who speak languages other than English in order to assist non-English speaking families.

4.0 FAMILY OUTREACH

The St. Clair County Housing Authority will publicize the availability and nature of the Public Housing Program for extremely low-income, very low and low-income families in a newspaper of general circulation, minority media, and by other suitable means.

To reach people who cannot or do not read the newspapers, the St. Clair County Housing Authority will distribute fact sheets to the broadcasting media and initiate personal contacts with members of the news media and community service personnel. The St. Clair County Housing Authority will also try to utilize public service announcements.

The St. Clair County Housing Authority will communicate the status of housing availability to other service providers in the community and inform them of housing eligibility factors and guidelines so they can make proper referrals for the Public Housing Program.

5.0 RIGHT TO PRIVACY

All adult members of both applicant and resident households are required to sign HUD Form 9886, Authorization for Release of Information and Privacy Act Notice. The Authorization for Release of Information and Privacy Act Notice states how family information will be released and includes the Federal Privacy Act Statement.

Any request for applicant or resident information will not be released unless there is a signed release of information request from the applicant or resident.

6.0 REQUIRED POSTINGS

In each of its offices, the St. Clair County Housing Authority will post, in a conspicuous place and at a height easily read by all persons including persons with mobility disabilities, the following information:

- A. Statement of Policies and Procedures governing Admission and Continued Occupancy
- B. Notice of the status of the waiting list (opened or closed)
- C. A listing of all the developments by name, address, number of units, units designed with special accommodations, address of all project offices, office hours, telephone numbers, TDD numbers, and Resident Facilities and operation hours
- D. Income Limits for Admission
- E. Utility Allowance Schedule
- F. Current Schedule of Routine Maintenance Charges And Service Charge Policy
- G. Dwelling Lease
- H. Grievance Procedure
- I. Fair Housing Poster
- J. Equal Opportunity in Employment Poster
- K. Any current St. Clair County Housing Authority Notices

7.0 TAKING APPLICATIONS

Families wishing to apply for the Public Housing Program will be required to complete an application for housing assistance. Applications may be made in person:

St. Clair County Housing Authority
1790 S. 74th Street
Belleville, IL 62223

Applications are taken to compile a waiting list. Due to the demand for housing in the St. Clair County Housing Authority jurisdiction, the St. Clair County Housing Authority may take applications on an open enrollment basis, depending on the length of the waiting list.

To be accepted, applications must be fully complete and include proof of address (i.e. occupancy permit, utility bill, lease agreement, etc.).

Applications will be mailed to interested families upon request.

The completed application will be dated and time stamped upon its return to the St. Clair County Housing Authority.

Persons with disabilities who require a reasonable accommodation in completing an application may call the St. Clair County Housing Authority to make special arrangements. A Telecommunication Device for the Deaf (TDD) is available for the deaf. The TDD telephone number is 618-277-3290.

The application process will involve two phases. The first phase is the initial application for housing assistance or the pre-application. The pre-application requires the family to provide limited basic information establishing any preferences to which they may be entitled. This first phase results in the family's placement on the waiting list.

Upon receipt of the family's pre-application, the St. Clair County Housing Authority will make a preliminary determination of eligibility. The St. Clair County Housing Authority will notify the family in writing of the date and time of placement on the waiting list, and the approximate wait before housing may be offered. If the St. Clair County Housing Authority determines the family to be ineligible, the notice will state the reasons therefore and will offer the family the opportunity of an informal review of the determination.

The applicant may at any time report changes in their applicant status including changes in family composition, income, or preference factors. The St. Clair County Housing Authority will annotate the applicant's file and will update their place on the waiting list. Confirmation of the changes will be confirmed with the family in writing.

The second phase is the final determination of eligibility, referred to as the full application. The full application takes place when the family nears the top of the waiting list. The St. Clair County Housing Authority will ensure that verification of all preferences, eligibility, suitability and selection factors are current in order to determine the family's final eligibility for admission into the Public Housing Program.

8.0 ELIGIBILITY FOR ADMISSION

8.1 INTRODUCTION

There are five eligibility requirements for admission to public housing:

- A) qualifies as a family
- B) has an income within the income limits;
- C) meets citizenship/eligible immigrant criteria;
- D) provides documentation of Social Security numbers;
- E) and signs consent authorization documents.

In addition to the eligibility criteria, families must also meet the St. Clair County Housing Authority screening criteria in order to be admitted to public housing.

8.2 **ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

A. Family status.

1. **A family with or without children.** Such a family is defined as a group of people related by blood, marriage, adoption or affinity that live together in a stable family relationship.
 - a. Children temporarily absent from the home due to placement in foster care are considered family members.
 - b. Unborn children and children in the process of being adopted are considered family members for the purpose of determining bedroom size but are not considered family members for determining income limit.
2. An **elderly family**, which is:
 - a. A family whose head, spouse, or sole member is a person who is at least 62 years of age;
 - b. Two or more persons who are at least 62 years of age living together; or
 - c. One or more persons who are at least 62 years of age living with one or more live-in aides.
3. A **near-elderly family**, which is:
 - a. A family whose head, spouse, or sole member is a person who is at least 50 years of age but below the age of 62;
 - b. Two or more persons, who are at least 50 years of age but below the age of 62, living together; or
 - c. One or more persons, who are at least 50 years of age but below the age of 62, living with one or more live-in aides.
4. A **disabled family**, which is:
 - a. A family whose head, spouse, or sole member is a person with disabilities;

- b. Two or more persons with disabilities living together; or
 - c. One or more persons with disabilities living with one or more live-in aides.
5. A **displaced family**, which is a family in which each member, or whose sole member, has been displaced by governmental action, or whose dwelling has been extensively damaged or destroyed as a result of a disaster declared or otherwise formally recognized pursuant to Federal disaster relief laws.
 6. A **remaining member of a resident family**.
 7. A **single person** who is not an elderly or displaced person, a person with disabilities, or the remaining member of a resident family.
- B. Income eligibility
1. The St. Clair County Housing Authority shall follow the statutory requirement that at least 40% of newly admitted families in any fiscal year be families whose annual income is at or below 30% of the area median income.
 2. Income limits apply only at admission and are not applicable for continued occupancy.
 3. A family may not be admitted to the public housing program from another assisted housing program (e.g., resident-based Section 8) or from a public housing program operated by another housing authority without meeting the income requirements of the St. Clair County Housing Authority.
 4. If the St. Clair County Housing Authority acquires a property for federal public housing purposes, the families living there must have incomes within the low-income limit in order to be eligible to remain as public housing residents.
 5. Income limit restrictions do not apply to families transferring within our Public Housing Program.
- C. Citizenship/Eligibility Status
1. To be eligible each member of the family must be a citizen, national, or a noncitizen who has eligible immigration status under

one of the categories set forth in Section 214 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1980 (see 42 U.S.C. 1436a(a)).

2. Family eligibility for assistance.

- a. A family shall not be eligible for assistance unless every member of the family residing in the unit is determined to have eligible status, with the exception noted below.
- b. Despite the ineligibility of one or more family members, a mixed family may be eligible for one of three types of assistance. (See Section 13.6 for calculating rents under the noncitizen rule)
- c. A family without any eligible members and receiving assistance on June 19, 1995 may be eligible for temporary deferral of termination of assistance.

D. Social Security Number Documentation

To be eligible, all family members 6 years of age and older must provide a Social Security number or certify that they do not have one.

E. Signing Consent Forms

- 3. In order to be eligible, each member of the family who is at least 18 years of age, and each family head and spouse regardless of age, shall sign one or more consent forms.
- 2. The consent form must contain, at a minimum, the following:
 - a. A provision authorizing HUD or the St. Clair County Housing Authority to obtain from State Wage Information Collection Agencies (SWICAs) any information or materials necessary to complete or verify the application for participation or for eligibility for continued occupancy; and
 - b. A provision authorizing HUD or the St. Clair County Housing Authority to verify with previous or current employers income information pertinent to the family's eligibility for or level of assistance;
 - c. A provision authorizing HUD to request income information from the IRS and the SSA for the sole purpose

of verifying income information pertinent to the family's eligibility or level of benefits; and

- d. A statement that the authorization to release the information requested by the consent form expires 15 months after the date the consent form is signed.

8.3 SUITABILITY

- A. Applicant families will be evaluated to determine whether, based on their recent behavior, such behavior could reasonably be expected to result in noncompliance with the public housing lease. The St. Clair County Housing Authority will look at past conduct as an indicator of future conduct. Emphasis will be placed on whether a family's admission could reasonably be expected to have a detrimental effect on the development environment, other residents, St. Clair County Housing Authority employees, or other people residing in the immediate vicinity of the property. Otherwise eligible families will be denied admission if they fail to meet the suitability criteria.
- B. The St. Clair County Housing Authority will consider objective and reasonable aspects of the family's background, including the following:
 - 1. History of meeting financial obligations, especially rent;
 - 2. Ability to maintain (or with assistance would have the ability to maintain) their housing in a decent and safe condition based on living or housekeeping habits and whether such habits could adversely affect the health, safety, or welfare of other residents;
 - 3. History of criminal activity by any household member involving crimes of physical violence against persons or property and any other criminal activity including drug-related criminal activity that would adversely affect the health, safety, or well being of other residents or staff or cause damage to the property;
 - 4. History of disturbing neighbors or destruction of property;
 - 5. Having committed fraud in connection with any Federal housing assistance program, including the intentional misrepresentation of information related to their housing application or benefits derived there from; and
 - 6. History of abusing alcohol in a way that may interfere with the health, safety, or right to peaceful enjoyment by others.

- C. The St. Clair County Housing Authority will ask applicants to provide information demonstrating their ability to comply with the essential elements of the lease. The St. Clair County Housing Authority will verify the information provided. Such verification may include but may not be limited to the following:
1. A credit check of the head, spouse and co-head, and any family member age 18 and over;
 2. A rental history check of all adult family members;
 3. A criminal background check on all adult household members, including live-in aides. This check will be made through State or local law enforcement or court records in those cases where the household member has lived in the local jurisdiction for the last three years. Where the individual has lived outside the local area, the St. Clair County Housing Authority may contact law enforcement agencies where the individual had lived or request a check through the FBI's National Crime Information Center (NCIC);
 4. A home visit. The home visit provides the opportunity for the family to demonstrate their ability to maintain their home in a safe and sanitary manner. This inspection considers cleanliness and care of rooms, appliances, and appurtenances. The inspection may also consider any evidence of criminal activity; and
 5. A check of the State's lifetime sex offender registration program for each adult household member, including live-in aides. No individual registered with this program will be admitted to public housing.
 6. A check with local and state agencies and/or social service providers currently or previously involved with the household.

8.4 GROUND FOR DENIAL

The St. Clair County Housing Authority is not required or obligated to assist applicants who:

- A. Do not meet any one or more of the eligibility criteria;
- B. Do not supply information or documentation required by the application process;

- C. Have failed to respond to a written request for information or a request to declare their continued interest in the program;
- D. Have a history of not meeting financial obligations, especially rent;
- E. Do not have the ability to maintain (with assistance) their housing in a decent and safe condition where such habits could adversely affect the health, safety, or welfare of other residents;
- F. Have a history of criminal activity by any household member involving crimes of physical violence against persons or property and any other criminal activity including drug-related criminal activity that would adversely affect the health, safety, or well being of other residents or staff or cause damage to the property;
- G. Have a history of disturbing neighbors or destruction of property;
- H. Currently owes rent or other amounts to any housing authority or other provider of federally assisted housing in connection with their public housing, Section 8 or similar programs;
- I. Have committed fraud, bribery or any other corruption in connection with any Federal housing assistance program, including the intentional misrepresentation of information related to their housing application or benefits derived there from;
- J. Were evicted from assisted housing within three years of the projected date of admission because of drug-related criminal activity involving the personal use or possession for personal use;
- K. Were evicted from assisted housing within five years of the projected date of admission because of drug-related criminal activity involving the illegal manufacture, sale, distribution, or possession with the intent to manufacture, sell, distribute a controlled substance as defined in Section 102 of the Controlled Substances Act, 21 U.S.C. 802;
- L. Are illegally using a controlled substance or are abusing alcohol in a way that may interfere with the health, safety, or right to peaceful enjoyment of the premises by other residents. The St. Clair County Housing Authority may waive this requirement if:
 - 1. The person demonstrates to the St. Clair County Housing Authority's satisfaction that the person is no longer engaging in drug-related criminal activity or abuse of alcohol;
 - 2. Has successfully completed a supervised drug or alcohol rehabilitation program;

- 3. Has otherwise been rehabilitated successfully; or
- 4. Is participating in a supervised drug or alcohol rehabilitation program.
- M. Have engaged in or threatened abusive or violent behavior towards any St. Clair County Housing Authority staff or residents;
- N. Have a household member who has ever been evicted from public housing;
- O. Have a family household member who has been terminated under the certificate or voucher program;
- P. **Denied for Life:** If any family member has been convicted of manufacturing or producing methamphetamine (speed);
- Q. **Denied for Life:** Has a lifetime registration under a State sex offender registration program.

8.5 *PROHIBITION AGAINST DENIAL OF ASSISTANCE TO VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, DATING VIOLENCE, AND STALKING [PUB.L. 109-162]*

The Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2005 (VAWA) prohibits denial of admission to an otherwise qualified applicant on the basis that the applicant is or has been a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking. Specifically, Section 606(1) of VAWA adds the following provision to the U. S. Housing Act of 1937:

- A. That an applicant or participant who is or has been a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking is not an appropriate reason for denial of program assistance or for denial of admission, if the applicant otherwise qualifies for assistance or admission.

Definitions

As used in VAWA:

- 1. The term domestic violence includes felony or misdemeanor crimes of violence committed by a current or former spouse of the victim, by a person with whom the victim shares a child in common, by a person who is cohabitating with or has cohabitated with the victim as a spouse, by a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction receiving grant

monies, or by any other person against an adult or youth victim who is protected from that person's acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction.

2. The term *dating violence* means violence committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim; and where the existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on a consideration of the following factors:
 - a. The length of the relationship
 - b. The type of relationship
 - c. The frequency of interaction
3. The term *stalking* means:
 - a. To follow, pursue, or repeatedly commit acts with the intent to kill, injure, harass, or intimidate; or
 - b. To place under surveillance with the intent to kill, injure, harass, or intimidate another person; and
 - c. In the course of, or as a result of, such following, pursuit, surveillance, or repeatedly committed acts, to place a person in reasonable fear of the death of, serious bodily injury to, or to cause substantial emotional harm to (1) that person, (2) a member of the immediate family of that person, or (3) the spouse or intimate partner of that person.
4. The term *immediate family member* means, with respect to a person:
 - a. A spouse, parent, brother or sister, or child of that person, or an individual to whom that person stands in the position or place of a parent; or
 - b. Any other person living in the household of that person and related to that person by blood and marriage.

Notification and Victim Documentation

SCCHA acknowledges that a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking may have an unfavorable history that would warrant denial under the SCCHA's policies. Therefore, if the SCCHA makes a determination to deny admission to an applicant family, SCCHA will issue a written notice of denial, which will include notice of the applicant's right to appeal the decision through the established appeal process. The applicant will be offered the opportunity to provide documentation affirming that the cause of the unfavorable history is that a

member of the applicant family is or has been a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking.

The documentation must include two elements:

- a. A signed statement by the victim that provides the name of the perpetrator and certifies that the incidents in question are bona fide incidents of actual or threatened domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking, and
- b. One of the following:
 1. A police or court record documenting the actual or threatened abuse, or
 2. A statement signed by an employee, agent, or volunteer of a victim service provider, an attorney, a medical professional, or another knowledgeable professional from whom the victim has sought assistance in addressing the actual or threatened abuse. The professional must attest under penalty of perjury that the incidents in question are bona fide incidents of abuse, and the victim must sign or attest to the statement.

The applicant must submit the required documentation within 10 days of the informal review or must request an extension in writing at that time. If the applicant so requests, the SCCHA will grant an extension of 10 business days, and will delay issuance of the informal review determination until after it has received the documentation or the extension period has elapsed. If after reviewing the documentation provided by the applicant the SCCHA determines the family is eligible for assistance, a favorable decision notice will be issued and SCCHA will proceed with admission of the applicant family. If SCCHA determines the family is not eligible for assistance, an adverse decision notice will be issued.

Perpetrator Removal or Documentation of Rehabilitation

In cases where an applicant family includes the perpetrator as well as the victim of domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking, SCCHA will proceed as above but will require, in addition, either (a) that the perpetrator be removed from the applicant household and not reside in the assisted housing unit or (b) that the family provide documentation that the perpetrator has successfully completed, or is successfully undergoing rehabilitation or treatment.

If the family elects the second option, the documentation must be signed by an employee or agent of a domestic violence service provider or by a medical or other knowledgeable professional from whom the perpetrator has sought or is

receiving assistance in addressing the abuse. The signer must attest under penalty of perjury to his or her belief that the rehabilitation was successfully completed or is progressing successfully. The victim and perpetrator must also sign or attest to the documentation. This additional documentation must be submitted within the same time frame as the documentation required from the victim.

Confidentiality Requirements

All information provided to SCCHA regarding domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking, including the fact that an individual is a victim of such violence or stalking, must be retained in confidence and may neither be entered into any shared database nor provided to any related entity, except to the extent that the disclosure (a) is requested or consented to by the individual in writing, (b) is required for use in an eviction proceeding, or (c) is otherwise required by applicable law.

8.6 *INFORMAL REVIEW*

- A. If the St. Clair County Housing Authority determines that an applicant does not meet the criteria for receiving public housing assistance, the St. Clair County Housing Authority will promptly provide the applicant with written notice of the determination. The notice must contain a brief statement of the reason(s) for the decision and state that the applicant may request an informal review of the decision within 10 business days of the denial. The St. Clair County Housing Authority will describe how to obtain the informal review.

The informal review may be conducted by any person designated by the St. Clair County Housing Authority, other than a person who made or approved the decision under review or subordinate of this person. The applicant must be given the opportunity to present written or oral objections to the St. Clair County Housing Authority's decision. The St. Clair County Housing Authority must notify the applicant of the final decision within 14 calendar days after the informal review (or upon receipt of documentation/information requested at the informal hearing) including a brief statement of the reasons for the final decision.

- B. The participant family may request that the St. Clair County Housing Authority provide for an Informal Hearing after the family has notification of an INS decision on their citizenship status on appeal, or in lieu of request of appeal to the INS. This request must be made by the participant family within 30 days of receipt of the Notice of Denial or Termination of Assistance, or within 30 days of receipt of the INS appeal decision.

For the participant families, the Informal Hearing Process above will be utilized with the exception that the participant family will have up to 30 days of receipt of the Notice of Denial or Termination of Assistance, or of the INS appeal decision.

9.0 MANAGING THE WAITING LIST

9.1 *OPENING AND CLOSING THE WAITING LIST*

Opening of the waiting list will be announced with a public notice stating that applications for public housing will again be accepted. The public notice will state where, when, and how to apply. The notice will be published in a local newspaper of general circulation and also by any available minority media. The public notice will state any limitations to who may apply.

The notice will state that applicants already on waiting lists for other housing programs must apply separately for this program and such applicants will not lose their place on other waiting lists when they apply for public housing. The notice will include the Fair Housing logo and slogan and will be in compliance with Fair Housing requirements.

Closing of the waiting list will also be announced with a public notice. The public notice will state the date the waiting list will be closed and for what bedroom sizes. The public notice will be published in a local newspaper of general circulation and also by any available minority media.

9.2 *ORGANIZATION OF THE WAITING LIST*

A. Site-Based Waiting List Plan

In an effort to improve efficiency and better serve households interested in public housing, the St. Clair County Housing Authority (SCCHA) adopted a site-based waiting list in conjunction with the start of the new fiscal year, July 1, 2003.

Prior practice was to maintain the waiting list on a countywide basis, providing applicants with up to three unit offers before removing them from the waiting list for failure to accept a unit. Given the geographical diversity of SCCHA's public housing inventory, the countywide waiting list has resulted in gross inefficiencies.

Allowing interested households to submit an application on a site-specific basis has improved service to applicants and increased staff efficiency.

SCCHA attests:

- That it is eligible to adopt site-based waiting lists in that it regularly submits required occupancy data to HUD's Multifamily Tenant Characteristics Systems (MTCS) in an accurate, complete and timely manner;
- The system of site-based waiting lists provides for full disclosure to each applicant of any option available to the applicant in the selection of the development in which to reside including basic information about available sites (location, occupancy, number and size of accessible units, amenities such as day care, security, transportation and training programs) 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 (e.g., regular or accessible) at each site;
- Adoption of site-based waiting lists would not violate any court order or settlement agreement, or be inconsistent with a pending complaint brought by HUD;
- SCCHA has included reasonable measures to assure that adoption of site-based waiting lists is consistent with affirmatively furthering fair housing, such as reasonable marketing activities to attract applicants regardless of race or ethnicity;
- SCCHA has provided for review of its site-based waiting list policy to determine if the policy is consistent with civil rights laws and certifications through the following steps;

SCCHA shall as part of the submission of the Annual Plan assess changes in racial, ethnic or disability-related tenant composition at each site that may have occurred during the implementation of the site-based waiting list, based upon MTCS occupancy data that has been confirmed to be complete and accurate by an independent audit (which may be the annual independent audit) or is otherwise satisfactory to HUD;

At least every three years, SCCHA shall use independent testers or other means satisfactory to HUD, to assure that the site-based waiting list is not being implemented in a discriminatory manner, and that no patterns or practices of discrimination exist, and providing the results to HUD.

SCCHA shall take any steps necessary to remedy the problems surfaced during the review; and

SCCHA shall take the steps necessary to affirmatively further fair housing.

Significant procedural matters related to the initial implementation and continued administration of the site-based waiting lists are summarized below:

- Eighteen separate public housing waiting lists shall be maintained, as listed below:

Hawthorne Terrace, Alorton
Thomas Terry Apts., Brooklyn
Amber Court, Belleville
Bel-Plaza I (114 S. Church St.), Belleville
Bel-Plaza II (115 N. 47th St.), Belleville
Ernest Smith Sr. Apts., Centreville
Adeline James Building, Centreville
Private Mathison Manor, Centreville
Bluffside Apartments, Dupo
Scattered Sites, Lebanon
Lakeview Apts., Lenzburg
Heritage Manor, Millstadt
Clayton Manor, Marissa
Jefferson Square, O'Fallon
Becker Park and Rickert Station, New Athens
Smithton Apts., Smithton
Fullerton Road, Swansea
Scattered Sites, Washington Park

- Applicants can choose to be on as many waiting lists as they desire.
- Applicants who cannot attend a briefing session (the initial step in the screening process) may remain on the waiting list provided they contact the staff and have “good cause” (as determined by staff) for not attending. Failure to attend a subsequent briefing, regardless of cause, shall result in the applicant’s removal from the waiting list.
- Once an applicant is approved for housing for a particular location, they can with good cause (as determined by SCCHA) decline one unit offer. Upon a second “good cause” or the first “without cause” declination, the application shall be withdrawn from the waiting list.
- Any applicant removed from a waiting list shall not be eligible to re-apply for the same location for a period of six months from the withdrawn date, with the exception being when there are no other applications of the appropriate unit size for the location.

- Notices returned to SCCHA by the postal service because the notice was undeliverable for any other than SCCHA error in addressing the notice (i.e. insufficient address, applicant moved, etc.), shall result in the applicant being removed **from all waiting lists**. An applicant can be reinstated to the waiting list(s) at anytime upon contacting SCCHA, with their application being assigned a new date and time.
- Once an applicant accepts a federally subsidized unit operated by SCCHA, the applicant shall be removed from all other waiting lists for properties operated by SCCHA (this does not include the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program).

Excepting the aforementioned provisions, there shall be no other changes in the existing application and waiting list administration procedures.

B. Unit Type/Bedroom Categories

SCCHA shall organize the waiting list by the following bedroom categories:

Elderly (as defined in 8.2, A, 2)

- Efficiency
- 1 Bedroom
- 2 Bedroom

Family (as defined in 8.2, A, 1)

- 1 Bedroom
- 2 Bedroom
- 3 Bedroom
- 4 Bedroom
- 5 Bedroom

C. Applicants with Disabilities

Within each bedroom category listed above, the waiting list will be maintained to reflect the type of disability possessed by the applicant, if any, as it relates to their special needs:

- W = Wheelchair user
- M = Mobility Impaired
- V = Vision Impaired
- H = Hearing Impaired
- O = Other

Persons under age 62 with a disability shall be placed on Family Waiting Lists with the nature of their disability noted.

D. Order of Selection

The waiting list will be computer generated according to the following hierarchical order.

- a) *Unit Category (Elderly/Family) and bedroom size needed by applicants according to occupancy standard;*
- b) *Total number of Preference Points;*
- c) *Date and time of application or reinstatement.*

NOTE: When a unit becomes available that has been modified to accommodate a person with a disability that impacts their housing needs (i.e. wheelchair confined or mobility, vision, or hearing impaired), SCCHA shall select for screening in priority order from the waiting list generated in accordance with the three criteria listed above, applicants who have indicated on their preliminary application that they or a household member has a disability of that nature.

E. Maintaining the Waiting List

After the preliminary eligibility determination has been made, applicants are placed on the appropriate waiting list in order of preference. SCCHA will maintain an accurate waiting list which conforms to HUD requirements.

The waiting list will contain at least the following information on apparently eligible households who have an active preapplication:

- a) *Name of head of household;*
- b) *Date and time the preapplication was received;*
- c) *Type and Number of Preference Points assigned.*

9.3 FAMILIES NEARING THE TOP OF THE WAITING LIST

When a family appears to be within three (3) months of being offered a unit, the family will be invited to a briefing and the verification process will begin. It is at this point in time that the family's waiting list preference will be verified. If the family no longer qualifies to be near the top of the list, the family's name will be returned to the appropriate spot on the waiting list. The St. Clair County Housing Authority must notify the family in writing of this determination and give the family the opportunity for an informal review.

Once the preference has been verified, the family will complete a full application, present Social Security number information, citizenship/eligible immigrant information, and sign the Consent for Release of Information forms.

9.4 PURGING THE WAITING LIST

SCCHA will periodically update the waiting list to ensure that it is current and accurate.

A letter will be mailed to the applicant's last known address, requesting information regarding their continued interest in maintaining a place on the waiting list.

If the applicant did not notify SCCHA of a move as required, SCCHA is not responsible for applicant's failure to receive the update request.

The request letter will include a deadline date by which applicants must notify SCCHA of their continued interest. If SCCHA does not receive the applicant's notice by the deadline date, the applicant's name will be removed from the waiting list. SCCHA is not responsible for mail delays. Should the applicant subsequently notify SCCHA of their current status, their application will be reinstated using the date they contacted SCCHA.

9.5 REMOVAL OF APPLICANTS FROM THE WAITING LIST

The St. Clair County Housing Authority will not remove an applicant's name from the waiting list unless:

- A. The applicant requests in writing that the name be removed;
- B. The applicant fails to respond to a written request for information or a request to declare their continued interest in the program; or
- C. The applicant does not meet either the eligibility or suitability criteria for the program.

9.6 MISSED APPOINTMENTS

All applicants who fail to keep a scheduled appointment with the St. Clair County Housing Authority will be sent a notice of termination of the process for eligibility.

The St. Clair County Housing Authority will allow the family to reschedule for good cause. Generally, no more than one opportunity will be given to reschedule without good cause, and no more than two opportunities will be given for good cause. When good cause exists for missing an appointment, the St. Clair County Housing Authority will work closely with the family to find a more suitable time. Applicants will be offered the right to an informal review before being removed from the waiting list.

9.7 NOTIFICATION OF NEGATIVE ACTIONS

Any applicant whose name is being removed from the waiting list will be notified by the St. Clair County Housing Authority, in writing, that they have ten (10) calendar days from the date of the written correspondence to present mitigating circumstances or request an informal review. The letter will also indicate that their name will be removed from the waiting list if they fail to respond within the timeframe specified. The St. Clair County Housing Authority system of removing applicant names from the waiting list will not violate the rights of persons with disabilities. If an applicant claims that their failure to respond to a request for information or updates was caused by a disability, the St. Clair County Housing Authority will verify that there is in fact a disability and the disability caused the failure to respond, and provide a reasonable accommodation. An example of a reasonable accommodation would be to reinstate the applicant on the waiting list based on the date and time of the original application.

10.0 RESIDENT SELECTION AND ASSIGNMENT PLAN

10.1 PREFERENCES

The St. Clair County Housing Authority will select families based on the following preferences within each bedroom size category:

- A. **Preferences** – used to determine rank order of applications among the group of applicants qualifying for routine admission.
- a) ***Jurisdictional – 10 points***
Applicants who live, work or who have a bona fide offer to work in SCCCHA’s jurisdiction (i.e. all of St. Clair County, excluding the City of East St. Louis).
 - b) ***Veteran Status – 1 point***
Applicants who are a Veteran or survivor of a Veteran who actively served in a branch of the United States Armed Services. The term Survivor includes the spouse or widow (Unless remarried) of a veteran.
 - c) ***Earned Income or Education/Training Program – 2 points***
Applicant households in which the Head of Household and/or Spouse has an earned income source. An applicant household shall be given the benefit of preference if the head and spouse, or sole member, are age 62 or older, or are receiving any payments based on their inability to work (i.e. SS Disability, SSI, etc.)

If this preference is award to applicant based upon employment, applicant must have worked a minimum average often (10) hours per week for a period of three months. If the preference is

awarded to applicant based upon participation in education program, applicant must be a full-time student (as determined by the institution) at a recognized institution of higher learning as defined by HUD.

- d) **Excessive Rent / Housing Cost Burden – 1 point**
Excessive shelter costs is defined as situations when the applicant is paying 50% or more of their gross monthly income for rent and utilities, with the utilities being based upon the Section 8 Program’s Utility Allowance Schedule for the appropriate bedroom size. To be considered “rent” the applicants name must appear on the lease agreement and/or occupancy permit, if applicable. A family under foreclosure may also qualify for this preference following the same process outlined (i.e. mortgage payment plus utility estimate exceeds 50% of monthly gross income).
- e) **Inter-Program Transfers/Accommodations – 7 points – Applied as described below:**
- i) *Transfers (i.e. Between Public Housing, Section 8 HCVP, and other federally assisted properties owned /managed by SCCHA and/or other PHAs/Owners due to identifiable need that can not be adequately accommodated within the constraints of the program under which the participant is currently being assisted or other circumstances approved by the Executive Director.*
- ii) *Admissions to accommodate referrals from the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and other agencies. Awarding of these points shall be considered on a case-by-case basis upon the written request of the agency/organization, with SCCHA retaining the sole discretion to award the preference points to any particular application. Admissions under this provision shall be limited to no more than 5% of annual admissions.*
- f) **Law Enforcement Officials/Teachers – 6 points**
Given to full-time law enforcement personnel and/or teachers to encourage residency in public housing.
- g) **Local Disaster Victim – 5 points**
These preference points shall only be granted when a recognized disaster occurs within St. Clair County Housing Authority’s jurisdictional boundaries as designated by St. Clair County Housing Authority’s Executive Director.

h) ***Self-Sufficiency Re-Admission – 10 points***

This preference is granted to a family that has vacated a public housing unit within the last 12 months for self-sufficiency purposes but experiences a change in circumstance that results in a renewed need for federally assisted housing. This preference is also granted to elderly or disabled families who had to give up their unit due to placement in a medical institution.

10.2 ASSIGNMENT OF BEDROOM SIZES

The following guidelines will determine each family’s unit size without overcrowding or over-housing:

Number of Bedrooms	Number of Persons	
	Minimum	Maximum
0	1	1
1	1	2
2	2	4
3	3	6
4	4	8
5	5	10

These standards are based on the assumption that each bedroom will accommodate no more than two (2) persons. Zero bedroom units will only be assigned to one-person families.

Dwelling units will be assigned so that persons of different generations, persons of the opposite sex (other than husband and wife or cohabiting individuals and small children under the age of 10) and unrelated adults will not occupy the same bedroom.

In determining bedroom size, the St. Clair County Housing Authority will include the presence of children to be born to a pregnant woman, children who are in the process of being adopted, children whose custody is being obtained, children who are temporarily away at school, or children who are temporarily in foster-care.

In addition, the following considerations may be taken in determining bedroom size:

- A. Children of the same sex may share a bedroom.

- B. Children of the opposite sex, both under the age of 10 will share a bedroom.
- C. Adults and children will not be required to share a bedroom.
- D. Foster – adults and/or foster - children will not be required to share a bedroom with family members (but SCCHA is under no obligation to transfer a family to accommodate newly placed foster children).
- E. Dwelling units will also be assigned as not to require use of the living room for sleeping purposes.

Exceptions to normal bedroom size standards include the following:

- A. Units smaller than assigned through the above guidelines – A family may request a smaller unit size than the guidelines allow. The St. Clair County Housing Authority will allow the smaller size unit so long as generally no more than two (2) people per bedroom are assigned. In such situations, the family will sign a certification stating they understand they will be ineligible for a larger size unit for 3 years unless necessitated sooner by subsequent changes in family composition.
- B. Units larger than assigned through the above guidelines – A family may request a larger unit size than the guidelines allow. The St. Clair County Housing Authority will allow the larger size unit if the family provides a verified medical need that the family be housed in a larger unit.
- C. If there are no families on the waiting list for a larger size, smaller families may be housed if they sign a release form stating they will transfer (at the family’s own expense) to the appropriate size unit when an eligible family needing the larger unit applies. The family transferring will be given a 30-day notice before being required to move.
- D. Larger units may be offered in order to improve the marketing of a development suffering a high vacancy rate.

10.3 ANNUAL ADMISSIONS

A) Statutory Requirements

The St. Clair County Housing Authority shall follow the statutory requirement that at least 40% of newly admitted families in any fiscal year be families whose annual income is at or below 30% of the area median income. To insure this requirement is met we shall quarterly monitor the incomes of newly admitted families and the incomes of the families on the waiting list. If it appears that the requirement to house extremely low-income families will not be met, we will skip

higher income families on the waiting list to reach extremely low-income families.

If there are not enough extremely low-income families on the waiting list we will conduct outreach on a non-discriminatory basis to attract extremely low-income families to reach the statutory requirement.

B) Local Criteria

The selection of eligible families will be completed so that at least 50% of the annual admissions will be applicants qualifying on the basis of a ranking preference and not more than 50% of the annual admissions will be applicants qualifying on the basis of local preferences.

10.4 DECONCENTRATION POLICY

It is St. Clair County Housing Authority's policy to provide for deconcentration of poverty and encourage income mixing by bringing higher income families into lower income developments and lower income families into higher income developments. Toward this end, we will skip families on the waiting list to reach other families with a lower or higher income. We will accomplish this in a uniform and non-discriminating manner.

The St. Clair County Housing Authority will affirmatively market our housing to all eligible income groups. Lower income residents will not be steered toward lower income developments and higher income people will not be steered toward higher income developments.

Prior to the beginning of each fiscal year, we will analyze the income levels of families residing in each of our developments, and compare them to the Housing Authority wide average household income. Developments that fall outside the allowable 85%-115% range, will be identified as low or high income concentrated. Based on this analysis, we will determine the waiting list actions, marketing strategies, and deconcentration incentives to implement. The worksheet for the analysis can be found in **Appendix D**.

10.5 DECONCENTRATION INCENTIVES

The St. Clair County Housing Authority may offer one or more incentives to encourage applicant families whose income classification would help to meet the deconcentration goals of a particular development.

Various incentives may be used at different times, or under different conditions, but will always be provided in a consistent and nondiscriminatory manner.

10.6 SCREENING PROCESS

a) *Briefing Session*

Upon selection from the waiting list, generally in groups of 20-50, applicants are scheduled to attend a group “briefing” session. The briefing session is designed to acquaint the applicants with the Public Housing Program, ensure their continued interest, and to initiate the process of determining eligibility.

b) *Files In Process*

All applicants being screened remain “In Process” until the preliminary determination regarding eligibility is made in accordance with the criteria established in Section 8 of this document. Files categorized as “In Process” are not considered for unit offers. Eligibility determinations are made promptly upon receipt of all needed information/documentation. SCCHA is not responsible for applicants’ delay in submitting required information/documentation.

c) *Conditionally Approved Applicants*

Applicants determined preliminarily eligible are listed on the “Conditionally Approved List” (CAA) by bedroom size/category, preference points, date/time of application. The CAA, which is updated on a regular basis, is used by staff to make conditional offers to applicants.

10.7 OFFER OF A UNIT

When making offers to fill vacancies (actual or anticipated) the St. Clair County Housing Authority will contact the first family on the waiting list (CAA) who has the highest priority for this type of unit or development and whose income category would help to meet the deconcentration goal and/or the income targeting goal.

The St. Clair County Housing Authority will contact the family first by telephone to make the unit offer. If the family cannot be reached by telephone, the family will be notified of a unit offer via first class mail. The family will be given five (5) business days from the date the letter was mailed to contact the St. Clair County Housing Authority regarding the offer.

The family will be offered the opportunity to view the unit, provided they are available on a timely basis. After having the opportunity to view the unit, the family will have two (2) business days to accept or reject the unit. This verbal offer and the family’s decision must be documented in the resident file. If the

family rejects the offer of the unit, the St. Clair County Housing Authority will send the family a letter documenting the offer and the rejection.

10.8 REJECTION OF UNIT

If in making the offer to the family the St. Clair County Housing Authority skipped over other families on the waiting list in order to meet their deconcentration goal or offered the family any other deconcentration incentive and the family rejects the unit, the family will not lose their place on the waiting list and will not be otherwise penalized.

If the St. Clair County Housing Authority did not skip over other families on the waiting list to reach this family, did not offer any other deconcentration incentive, and the family rejects the unit without good cause, the family will be given a rejection. Upon the third “without cause” rejection the family will be returned to the waiting list, keeping their preferences, but the date and time of application will be changed to the date and time the third unit was rejected.

If the family rejects with good cause any unit offered, they will not lose their place on the waiting list. Good cause includes reasons related to health, proximity to work, school, and childcare (for those working or going to school). The family will be offered the right to an informal review of the decision to alter their application status.

10.9 ACCEPTANCE OF UNIT

Upon an applicant’s acceptance of a conditional offer, the applicant file is subject to review by the Property Manager and/or the Resident Council Screening Committee (RCSC), when applicable.

Review By Property Manager and/or Resident Council Screening Committee

All adult members (age 18 and over) of the applicant family must meet with the Property Manager and attend an interview with the RCSC with jurisdiction over the development. The purposes of the review and interview are:

- 1) It offers the potential for providing SCCHA with previously unobtained or unavailable information that may provide a legitimate basis for rejecting an undesirable applicant;
- 2) It gives the RCSC the opportunity to meet all new residents, inform the prospective resident of neighborhood values and expectations, acquaint the applicant with the RC’s activities, and recruit new members.

Applicants that receive a favorable determination from the PM and RCSC are given final approval for occupancy. If either the PM or RCSC recommend rejection, the file is reviewed by the Management Director to determine if the rejection recommendation is consistent with established policy. Both the applicants and the RCSC have the opportunity to have the determination reviewed in accordance with the established Grievance Policy.

a) *Lease Execution and Orientations*

The family will be required to sign a lease that will become effective no later than three (3) business days after the date of acceptance or the business day after the day the unit becomes available, whichever is later.

Prior to or within 30 days of signing the lease all families (head of household) and other adult family members will be required to attend the Lease and Occupancy Orientation. The family will not be housed if they have not attended the orientation, unless management has waived the requirement. Applicants who provide prior notice of an inability to attend the orientation will be rescheduled. Failure of an applicant to attend the orientation, without good cause, may result in the cancellation of the occupancy process or lease termination (if housed).

The applicant will be provided a copy of the lease (including any addendum thereto), the grievance procedure, utility allowances, service charge policy, maintenance request procedures, collection policy, and a request for reasonable accommodation form. These documents will be explained in detail. The applicant will sign a certification that they have received these documents and that they have reviewed them with Housing Authority personnel. The certification will be filed in the resident's file.

1. The signing of the lease and the review of financial information are to be privately handled. The head of household and all adult family members will be required to execute the lease prior to admission. One executed copy of the lease will be furnished to the head of household and the St. Clair County Housing Authority will retain the original executed lease in the resident's file. A copy of the grievance procedure will be attached to the resident's copy of the lease.

b. *Security Deposits*

2.

3. The family will pay a security deposit at the time of lease signing. The security deposit will be equal to:

A. **Greater of \$200 or NTP (net tenant payment or one month's rent) for all apartments.**

B. **The greater of \$300.00 or NTP for all single-family houses.**

In exceptional situations, the St. Clair County Housing Authority reserves the right to allow a new resident to pay their security deposit in up to three (3) payments. One third shall be paid in advance, one-third with their second rent payment, and one-third with their third rent payment. This shall be at the sole discretion of the Housing Authority.

In the case of a move within public housing, the security deposit for the first unit will be transferred to the second unit. Additionally, if the security deposit for the second unit is greater than that for the first, the difference will be collected from the family. Once collected, the security deposit or portion thereof shall not be refunded until the family vacates, and then is subject to applicable charges.

In the event there are costs attributable to the family for bringing the first unit into condition for re-renting, the family shall be billed for these charges.

The Security Deposit required from families in occupancy may be increased based upon

documented damage to the premises and/or an established pattern of poor housekeeping and property damage. The Security Deposit required shall not exceed 150% of the Section 8 Fair Market Rent limit for the unit size.

The security deposit required of families upon move-in may be increased above the amounts listed herein if it is determined that the family is “high risk” based upon pertinent screening factors (i.e. lack of previous or unsuccessful prior rental experience, poor credit, etc.). The Security Deposit Schedule is included as Appendix E.

10.10 PRE AND POST LEASING REQUIREMENTS

A) The Lease Agreement

A Lease Agreement is to be entered into between the Housing Authority and each Family. The Agreement (which is contained in Appendix F of this Policy) is to be kept current at all times and are to reflect the obligations of the Families and SCCHA.

1. The Head of Household, Spouse, and all adult household members and the authorized SCCHA staff person, shall execute an Agreement prior to actual admission. A copy shall be given to the resident and the original shall be filed in the permanent record folder established for the Family.
2. If, through any cause, the signer of the Agreement ceases to be the Head of Household, the Agreement is to be voided and a new one executed and signed by the new Head of Household; provided that the Family is eligible for continued occupancy as set forth in this Policy.

3. The established Head of Household shall at anytime reserve the right to remove any household member, including a co-head or other adult member, from the agreement. When an adult member leaves the household, evidence of the new residency must be submitted to Management before the person is removed from the lease and/or his/her income is deleted from the rent calculation. SCCHA also reserves the right to require documentation regarding the new residency of minors who have reportedly left the household.
4. A leasehead wanting to add a person(s) to their lease agreement, must submit a fully completed "Lease Add-On Application" before the person in question establishes residency at the leased premises. SCCHA reserves the right to approve or disapprove the addition of any person(s) for occupancy based upon the selection procedures used to screen new applicants, and subject to all other applicable provisions contained in the ACO Policy (i.e. maximum occupancy levels, care of foster children, live-in aids, etc.).
5. If for any reason a Family transfers to a different dwelling unit, the existing Agreement is to be voided and a new Agreement executed for the dwelling unit into which the Family is moving.
6. If the Authority desires to change, amend or waive any provision of the Agreement with respect to any individual or group of residents, an appropriate rider is to be prepared, signed by the Head of Household and the Authority, and attached to and made part of the Agreement.

B) PHOTOGRAPHS

For identification purposes, all new residents at the time of their move-in and all existing residents at the time of their next scheduled rent review shall have their photograph taken for inclusion in SCCHA's resident file. Photographs are required for all household members age 12 and older. It is desirable to have a photograph on file of every household member, regardless of age. If household members are not readily available during business hours to have their photograph taken, a recent photograph the resident obtained may be submitted to Management.

C) PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE

All families must use the dwelling unit for their principal place of residence. Ownership or use of a secondary residence is prohibited and sufficient grounds for lease termination.

D) EMANCIPATED MINORS

The Authority will enter into a Lease Agreement with a minor only if the minor has been declared legally emancipated through verifiable court action.

E) RE-ADMISSION

The St. Clair County Housing Authority shall have the right to re-admit within twelve (12) months of their move-out residents who vacated upon their own initiative and left in good standing. The intent is to offer some level of protection to families that pursue self-sufficiency, but subsequently experience unexpected financial problems beyond their control and to allow residents who must give up their unit due to medical/health problems to return once their health improves. Residents determined eligible for re-admission under this provision shall be eligible for immediate assignment on the Conditionally Approved Applicants' Listing and shall by-pass the waiting list.

F) ABSENCE FROM UNIT DUE TO MEDICAL REASONS

A resident may maintain their apartment for up to six months in the event that they are temporarily absent from the unit due to verifiable medical conditions (i.e. hospitalization, convalescent center, etc.), provided the monthly rent (and any other charges) are paid and utility service is maintained.

G) BANNING OF CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS

Due to drug related and violent criminal activity and as part of its effort to provide decent and safe housing, SCCHA reserves the right to ban certain individuals from its properties. The procedure for doing this are contained in the Ban and Bar Policy (Appendix G).

11.0 INCOME, EXCLUSIONS FROM INCOME, AND DEDUCTIONS FROM INCOME

To determine annual income, the St. Clair County Housing Authority counts the income of all family members, excluding the types and sources of income that are specifically excluded. Once the annual income is determined, the St. Clair County Housing Authority subtracts all allowable deductions (allowances) to determine the Total Resident Payment.

11.1 INCOME

Annual income means all amounts, monetary or not, that:

- A. Go to (or on behalf of) the family head or spouse (even if temporarily absent) or to any other family member; or
- B. Are anticipated to be received from a source outside the family during the 12-month period following admission or annual reexamination effective date; and
- C. Are not specifically excluded from annual income.

Annual income includes, but is not limited to:

- A. The full amount, before any payroll deductions, of wages and salaries, overtime pay, commissions, fees, tips and bonuses, and other compensation for personal services.
- B. The net income from the operation of a business or profession. Expenditures for business expansion or amortization of capital indebtedness are not used as deductions in determining net income. An allowance for depreciation of assets used in a business or profession may be deducted, based on straight-line depreciation, as provided in Internal Revenue Service regulations. Any withdrawal of cash or assets from the operation of a business or profession is included in income, except to the extent the withdrawal is a reimbursement of cash or assets invested in the operation by the family.
- C. Interest, dividends, and other net income of any kind from real or personal property. Expenditures for amortization of capital indebtedness are not used as deductions in determining net income. An allowance for depreciation of assets used in a business or profession may be deducted, based on straight-line depreciation, as provided in Internal Revenue Service regulations. Any withdrawal of cash or assets from an investment is included in income, except to the extent the withdrawal is reimbursement of cash or assets invested by the family. Where the family has net family assets in excess of \$5,000, annual income includes the greater of the actual income derived from all net family assets or a percentage of the value of such assets based on the current passbook savings rate, as determined by HUD.
- D. The full amount of periodic amounts received from Social Security, annuities, insurance policies, retirement funds, pensions, disability or death benefits, and other similar types of periodic receipts, including a lump-sum amount or prospective monthly amounts for the delayed start of

a periodic amount. (However, deferred periodic amounts from supplemental security income and Social Security benefits that are received in a lump sum amount or in prospective monthly amounts are excluded.)

- E. Payments in lieu of earnings, such as unemployment and disability compensation, worker's compensation, and severance pay. (However, lump sum additions such as insurance settlement payments from worker's compensation are excluded.)
- F. Welfare assistance.
 - 1. If the welfare assistance payment includes an amount specifically designated for shelter and utilities that is subject to adjustment by the welfare assistance agency in accordance with the actual cost of shelter and utilities, the amount of welfare assistance income to be included as income consists of:
 - a. The amount of the allowance or grant exclusive of the amount specifically designated for shelter or utilities; plus
 - b. The maximum amount that the welfare assistance agency could in fact allow the family for shelter and utilities. If the family's welfare assistance is ratably reduced from the standard of need by applying a percentage, the amount calculated under this requirement is the amount resulting from one application of the percentage.
 - 2. If the amount of welfare is reduced due to an act of fraud by a family member or because of any family member's failure to comply with requirements to participate in an economic self-sufficiency program or work activity, the amount of rent required to be paid by the family will not be decreased. In such cases, the amount of income attributable to the family will include what the family would have received had they complied with the welfare requirements and/or had not committed an act of fraud.
 - 3. If the amount of welfare assistance is reduced as a result of a lifetime time limit, the reduced amount is the amount that shall be counted as income.
- G. Periodic and determinable allowances, such as alimony, child support payments, and regular contributions or gifts received from organizations or from persons not residing in the dwelling.
- H. All regular pay, special pay, and allowances of a member of the Armed

Forces. (Special pay to a member exposed to hostile fire is excluded.)

11.2 ANNUAL INCOME EXCLUSIONS

Annual income does not include the following:

- A. Income from employment of children (including foster children) under the age of 18 years;
- B. Payments received for the care of foster children or foster adults (usually persons with disabilities, unrelated to the resident family, who are unable to live alone);
- C. Lump-sum additions to family assets, such as inheritances, insurance settlement payments (including payments under health and accident insurance and worker's compensation), capital gains, and settlement for personal or property losses;
- D. Amounts received by the family that are specifically for, or in reimbursement of, the cost of medical expenses for any family member;
- E. Income of a live-in aide;
- F. The full amount of student financial assistance paid directly to the student or to the educational institution;
- G. The special pay to a family member serving in the Armed Forces who is exposed to hostile fire;
- H. The amounts received from the following programs:
 - 1. Amounts received under training programs funded by HUD;
 - 2. Amounts received by a person with a disability that are disregarded for a limited time for purposes of Supplemental Security Income eligibility and benefits because they are set aside for use under a Plan to Attain Self-Sufficiency (PASS);
 - 3. Amounts received by a participant in other publicly assisted programs that are specifically for or in reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses incurred (special equipment, clothing, transportation, child care, etc.) and that are made solely to allow participation in a specific program;
 - 4. Amounts received under a resident service stipend. A resident service stipend is a modest amount (not to exceed \$200 per month)

received by a resident for performing a service for the Housing Authority or owner, on a part-time basis, that enhances the quality of life in the development. Such services may include, but are not limited to, fire patrol, hall monitoring, lawn maintenance, and resident initiatives coordination. No resident may receive more than one such stipend during the same period of time;

5. Incremental earnings and benefits resulting to any family member from participation in qualifying State or local employment training programs (including training programs not affiliated with a local government) and training of a family member as resident management staff. Amounts excluded by this provision must be received under employment training programs with clearly defined goals and objectives and are excluded only for the period during which the family member participates in the employment training program;
6. Temporary, nonrecurring or sporadic income (including gifts);
7. Reparation payments paid by a foreign government pursuant to claims filed under the laws of that government by persons who were persecuted during the Nazi era;
8. Earnings in excess of \$480 for each full-time student 18 years old or older (excluding the head of household and spouse);
9. Adoption assistance payments in excess of \$480 per adopted child;
10. For family members who enrolled in certain training programs prior to 10/1/99, the earnings and benefits resulting from the participation if the program provides employment training and supportive services in accordance with the Family Support Act of 1988, Section 22 of the 1937 Act (42 U.S.C. 1437t), or any comparable Federal, State, or local law during the exclusion period. For purposes of this exclusion the following definitions apply:
 - a. Comparable Federal, State or local law means a program providing employment training and supportive services that:
 - i. Is authorized by a Federal, State or local law;
 - ii. Is funded by the Federal, State or local government;
 - iii. Is operated or administered by a public agency; and
 - iv. Has as its objective to assist participants in acquiring employment skills.

- b. Exclusion period means the period during which the family member participates in a program described in this section, plus 18 months from the date the family member begins the first job acquired by the family member after completion of such program that is not funded by public housing assistance under the 1937 Act. If the family member is terminated from employment with good cause, the exclusion period shall end.
 - c. Earnings and benefits means the incremental earnings and benefits resulting from a qualifying employment training program or subsequent job.
11. The incremental earnings due to employment during the 12-month period following date of hire shall be excluded. This exclusion (paragraph 11) will not apply for any family who concurrently is eligible for exclusion #10. Additionally, this exclusion is only available to the following families:
- a. Families whose income increases as a result of employment of a family member who was previously unemployed for one or more years.
 - b. Families whose income increases during the participation of a family member in any family self-sufficiency program.
 - c. Families who are or were, within 6 months, assisted under a State TANF program. TANF includes both regular monthly income and one-time benefits and/or services that total at least \$500 over a six-month period.

(While HUD regulations allow for the housing authority to offer an escrow account in lieu of having a portion of their income excluded under this paragraph, it is the policy of this housing authority to provide the exclusion in all cases.)

12. **Earned Income Disallowance (EID)**

- The regulations governing the earned income disallowance (EID) in the public housing program are located at 24 CFR 960.255.
- The EID calls for the exclusion of increases in income attributable to new employment or increased earnings over income received prior to qualifying for the disallowance.

QUALIFICATIONS

- To qualify for the EID, a family must be receiving assistance under the public housing program.
 - Applicant families are not eligible for the EID.
- In addition, to qualify for the EID, a family must experience an increase in annual income that is the result of **one** of the following three events:
 1. Employment by a family member who was “previously unemployed” for one or more years prior to employment.
 - The definition of *previously employed* includes a person who has earned not more than could be earned working 10 hours per week for 50 weeks at the established minimum wage-i.e., the minimum wage applicable to the locality in which the EID determination is made.
 2. Increased earnings by a family member **during** participation in an economic self-sufficiency program or other job-training program.
 - Note the emphasis on the word *during*. The increase in earnings must occur *while* the individual is enrolled in the program.
 - An *economic self-sufficiency program* (as defined at 24 CFR 5.603(b)) is any program designed to encourage, assist, train, or facilitate the economic independence of HUD-assisted families or to provide work for such families. Economic self-sufficiency programs include:
 - Job Training
 - Employment counseling
 - Work placement
 - Basic skills training
 - Education
 - English proficiency
 - Workfare
 - Financial or household management
 - Apprenticeship
 - Any program necessary to ready a participant for work (including a

substance abuse or mental health
treatment program)
-Other work activities

3. New employment or increased earnings by a family member who has received TANF benefits or services within the past six months.

- If the TANF is received in the form of monthly maintenance, there is no minimum amount.
- If the TANF is received in the form of one-time payments, wage subsidies, or transportation assistance, the total amount received over a six-month period must be at least \$500.

INITIAL 12-MONTH EXCLUSION

- During the initial 12-month exclusion period, the full amount of the increase in income attributable to employment or increased earnings is excluded.
- The initial full exclusion period begins on the date the family member who qualifies is employed or first experiences an increase in income due to employment.
- The initial full exclusion extends for a total of 12 cumulative months.

- The months do not have to be consecutive.

SECOND 12-MONTH EXCLUSION AND PHASE-IN

- During the second 12-month exclusion and phase-in period, the exclusion is reduced to half, or 50 percent, of the increase in income attributable to employment or increased earnings.
- The second 12-month exclusion period begins after the family member who qualifies has received 12 cumulative months of full exclusion.
- Like the initial period, the phase-in period extends for a total of 12 cumulative months.

- Again, the months need not be consecutive.

MAXIMUM FOUR-YEAR DISALLOWANCE

- EID regulations call for a four-year (48-month) **lifetime** maximum on the disallowance.
 - The four-year maximum exclusion clock starts ticking at the beginning of the initial exclusion period and ends exactly 48 months later.
 - No exclusion may be given after this lifetime limit has been reached.
 - The EID regulations also call for a maximum of 12 cumulative months for each of the two exclusion periods (full and phase in).
 - Thus, an individual theoretically can “max out” after receiving the EID for only two years-12 consecutive full-exclusion months followed immediately by 12 consecutive phase-in exclusion months.
13. Deferred periodic amounts from supplemental security income and Social Security benefits that are received in a lump sum amount or in prospective monthly amounts;
 14. Amounts received by the family in the form of refunds or rebates under State or local law for property taxes paid on the dwelling unit;
 15. Amounts paid by a State agency to a family with a member who has a developmental disability and is living at home to offset the cost of services and equipment needed to keep the developmentally disabled family member at home; or
 16. Amounts specifically excluded by any other Federal statute from consideration as income for purposes of determining eligibility or benefits. These exclusions include:
 - a. The value of the allotment of food stamps
 - b. Payments to volunteers under the Domestic Volunteer Services Act of 1973

- c. Payments received under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act
- d. Income from submarginal land of the U.S. that is held in trust for certain Indian tribes
- e. Payments made under HHS's Low-Income Energy Assistance Program
- f. Payments received under the Job Training Partnership Act
- g. Income from the disposition of funds of the Grand River Band of Ottawa Indians
- h. The first \$2000 per capita received from judgment funds awarded for certain Indian claims
- i. Amount of scholarships awarded under Title IV including Work Study
- j. Payments received under the Older Americans Act of 1965
- k. Payments from Agent Orange Settlement
- l. Payments received under the Maine Indian Claims Act
- m. The value of child care under the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990
- n. Earned income tax credit refund payments
- o. Payments for living expenses under the Americorps Program
- p. Additional income exclusions provided by and funded by the St. Clair County Housing Authority

The St. Clair County Housing Authority will not provide exclusions from income in addition to those already provided for by HUD.

11.3 DEDUCTIONS FROM ANNUAL INCOME

The following deductions will be made from annual income:

- A. \$480 for each dependent;

- B. \$400 for any elderly family or disabled family;
- C. The sum of the following, to the extent that the sum exceeds three percent of annual income: (i) Unreimbursed medical expenses of any elderly family or disabled family; (ii) Unreimbursed reasonable attendant care and auxiliary apparatus expenses for each member of the family who is a person with disabilities, to the extent necessary to enable any member of the family (including the member who is a person with disabilities) to be employed. This deduction may not exceed the earned income received by family members who are 18 years of age or older and who are able to work because of such attendant care or auxiliary apparatus; and
- D. Any reasonable child care expenses necessary to enable a member of the family to be employed or to further his or her education.

11.4 Qualifying Medical Expenses

HUD regulations define medical expenses at 24 CFR 5.603(b) to mean “medical expenses, including medical insurance premiums, that are anticipated during the period for which annual income is computed, and that are not covered by insurance.” SCCHA will use the most current IRS Publication 502, Medical and Dental Expenses to determine the costs that qualify as medical expenses.

Summary of Allowable Medical Expenses from IRS Publication 502

Services medical professionals;
 Surgery and medical procedures that are necessary, legal, non-cosmetic;
 Services of medical facilities;
 Hospitalization, long-term care, and in-home nursing services;
 Prescription medicines and insulin, but not non-prescription medicines even if recommended by a doctor;
 Improvements to housing directly related to medical needs (e.g. ramps for a wheel chair, handrails);
 Substance abuse treatment programs;
 Psychiatric treatment;
 Ambulance services and some costs of transportation related to medical treatment;
 The cost and care of necessary equipment related to a medical condition (e.g. eye-glasses, contact lenses, hearing aids, crutches, and artificial teeth);
 Cost and continuing care of necessary service animals;
 Medical insurance premiums or the costs of health maintenance organization (HMO)

Notes:

#1 This chart provides a summary of potentially eligible expenses only. Detailed information is provided in IRS Publication 502. Medical expenses are considered

only to the extent they are not reimbursed by insurance or some other source.

#2 Cell phone expenses will not be counted as medical expenses. SCCHA will recognize the cost of “emergency response” services / products (i.e. Life Line Services) as medical expenses.

11.4 Qualifying Disability Assistance Expenses

Reasonable expenses for attendant care and auxiliary apparatus for a disabled family member may be deducted if they: (1) are necessary to enable a family member 18 years or older to work, (2) are not paid to a family member or reimbursed by an outside source, (3) in combination with any medical expenses, exceed three percent of annual income, and (4) do not exceed the earned income received by the family member who is enabled work.

Earned Income Limit on the Disability Assistance Expense deduction

A family can qualify for the disability assistance expenses deduction only if at least one family member (who may be the person with disabilities) is enabled to work (24 CFR 5.603(b)). The disability expense deduction is capped by the amount of “earned income received by family members who are 18 years of age or older and who are able to work” because of the expense. The earned income used for this purpose is the amount verified before any earned income disallowances or income exclusions are applied.

The family must identify the family member(s) enabled to work as a result of the disability assistance expenses. In evaluating the family’s request, SCCHA will consider factors such as how the work schedule of the relevant family members relates to the hours of care provided, the time required for transportation, the relationship of the family members to the person with disabilities, and any special needs of the person with disabilities that might determine which family members are enabled to work. When SCCHA determines that the disability assistance expenses enable more than one family member to work, the expenses will be capped by the sum of the family members’ incomes.

Eligible Disability Expenses

Examples of auxiliary apparatus are items such as wheelchairs, ramps, adaptations to vehicles, or special equipment to enable a blind person to read or type, but only if these items are directly related to permitting the disabled person or other family member to work. Expenses incurred for maintaining or repairing an auxiliary apparatus are eligible. In case of an apparatus that is specially adapted to accommodate a person with disabilities (e.g., a vehicle or computer), the cost to maintain the special adaptations (but not maintenance of the apparatus itself) is an eligible expense. The cost of service animals trained to give assistance to persons with disabilities, including the costs of acquiring the animal, veterinary care, food,

grooming, and other continuing costs of care, will be included.

Eligible Attendant Care

Attendant care includes, but is not limited to, reasonable costs for home medical care, nursing services, in-home or center-based care services, interpreters for persons with hearing impairments, and readers for persons with visual impairments.

Attendant care expenses will be included for the period that the person enabled to work is employed plus reasonable transportation time. The cost of general housekeeping and personal services is not an eligible attendant care expense. However, if the person enabled to work is the person with disabilities, personal services necessary to enable the person with disabilities to work are eligible.

If the care attendant also provides other services to the family, SCCHA will prorate the cost and allow only that portion of the expenses attributable to attendant care that enables a family member to work.

12.0 VERIFICATION

The St. Clair County Housing Authority will verify information related to waiting list preferences, eligibility, admission, and level of benefits prior to admission. Periodically during occupancy, items related to eligibility and rent determination shall also be reviewed and verified. Income, assets, and expenses will be verified, as well as disability status, need for a live-in aide and other reasonable accommodations; full time student status of family members 18 years of age and older; Social Security numbers; and citizenship/eligible noncitizen status. Age and relationship will only be verified in those instances where needed to make a determination of level of assistance.

12.1 METHODS OF VERIFICATION

The SCCHA will verify information through the five methods of verification acceptable to HUD in the following order:

1. HUD's Enterprise Income Verification (EIV) and other Upfront Income Verification (UIV) System
2. Third-party written verification
3. Third-party oral verification
4. Review of documents
5. Certification/self-declaration

EIV and UIV Verification

The SCCHA will utilize up-front income verification tools, including Tenant Income Data (TID) reports, Electronic Verification from the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDPA) for TANF, the Work Number, and other electronic verification tools when available.

SCCHA will pursue other computer matching agreements with federal, state, and local government agencies.

Use of Third Party Verification to Supplement Up-Front Income Verification

Up-front income verification replaces, to the maximum extent possible, the more time-consuming and less accurate third-party verification process of contacting individual employers identified by families or reviewing outdated income verification documents. However, third-party verification may continue to be necessary to complement up-front income verification. Up-front income verification should not be considered an automatic substitute for other third-party verification. Rather, up-front income verification may supplement other verification documentation, such as original, current tenant-provided documents.

Third Party Written Verification

Third-party verification is used to verify information directly with the source.

Third-party written verification forms will be sent and returned via first-class mail. The family will be required to sign an authorization allowing the information source to release the specified information.

Two attempts to obtain third party verification will be made before relying on another method.

Verifications received electronically directly from the source are considered third-party written verifications.

Third-party verification forms, including computerized printouts, will not be hand-carried by the family under any circumstances. SCCHA will send requests for third-party written verifications to the source at all times regardless of whether the family provides a computerized printout.

SCCHA will allow four weeks for return of third-party verifications.

If third-party verification is not used, SCCHA will document the reasons in the file. ***Third party verification will not be pursued when verifying assets (i.e. checking / savings accounts, etc.) with an anticipated market value of less than \$1,000. Document / statement review will be used.***

Verifications are valid for 90 days from date of receipt.

Third-Party Oral Verification

Oral third-party verification will be used when written third-party verification is delayed or impossible. When third-party oral verification is used, staff will be required to complete a Certification of Document Viewed or Person Contacted form, noting with whom they spoke, the date of the conversation, and the facts provided. If oral third-party verification is provided by telephone, SCCHA must originate the call. If third-party verification is not available, SCCHA will compare the specified information to any documents provided by the family.

Review of Documents

In the event that third-party written or oral verification is unavailable or information has not been verified by a third party within four weeks, SCCHA will annotate the file accordingly and utilize documents provided by the family as the primary source if the documents contain complete information.

All such documents, excluding government checks, will be photocopied and retained in the family file. When documents cannot be photocopied, staff viewing the documents will complete a Certification of Document Viewed or Person Contacted form.

SCCHA will accept the following documents from families providing that tampering can be easily noted:

- Printed wage stubs
- Computer printouts from employers
- Signed letter (provided that the information is confirmed by phone)
- Periodic statements issued by an independent source (i.e. bank statements)
- Other documents identified by SCCHA as acceptable verification

SCCHA will accept faxed documents.

SCCHA will not accept photocopies.

If third-party verification is received after documents have been accepted as provisional verification and there is a discrepancy, SCCHA will contact the third-party source and the family to resolve differences.

SCCHA will allow up to one week for families to provide documents when third-party verification is impossible to obtain.

SCCHA will not delay the processing of an application beyond 45 days because a third-party information provider does not return a verification in a timely manner.

Self-Certification / Self –Declaration

When information cannot be verified by a third party or by review of documents, families will be required to submit a self-certification.

Self-certification means a notarized statement signed under penalty of perjury in the presence of a witness.

SCCHA will allow up to one week for a family to provide a self-certification or self-declaration if other forms of verification are impossible to obtain.

Procedural Matters

Age, relationship, U.S. citizenship, and Social Security numbers will generally be verified with documentation provided by the family. SCCHA shall require applicants/residents to document legal guardianship/custody for minor household members who are not children of the head of household or other adult family member listed on the application/lease agreement. For citizenship, the family's certification will be accepted. (Or for citizenship documentation such as listed below will be required.) Verification of these items will include photocopies of the Social Security cards and other documents presented by the family, the INS SAVE approval code, and forms signed by the family.

To the fullest extent possible employment income and social security benefit information shall be verified using HUD's EIV system. Other information will be verified by third party verification. This type of verification includes written documentation with forms sent directly to and received directly by a source, not passed through the hands of the family. This verification may also be direct contact with the source, in person or by telephone. It may also be a report generated by a request from the St. Clair County Housing Authority or automatically by another government agency, i.e. the Social Security Administration. Verification forms and reports received will be contained in the applicant/resident file. Oral third party documentation will include the same information as if the documentation had been written, i.e. name date of contact, amount received, etc.

When third party verification cannot be obtained, the St. Clair County Housing Authority will accept documentation received from the applicant/resident. Hand-carried documentation will be accepted if the St. Clair County Housing Authority has been unable to obtain third party verification in a 4-week period of time. Photocopies of the documents provided by the family will be maintained in the file.

When neither third party verification nor hand-carried verification can be obtained, the St. Clair County Housing Authority will accept a notarized

statement signed by the head, spouse or co-head. Such documents will be maintained in the file.

12.2 TYPES OF VERIFICATION

The chart below outlines the factors that may be verified and gives common examples of the verification that will be sought. To obtain written third party verification, the St. Clair County Housing Authority will send a request form to the source along with a release form signed by the applicant/resident via first class mail.

Verification Requirements for Individual Items		
Item to Be Verified	3 rd party verification	Hand-carried verification
General Eligibility Items		
Social Security Number	Letter from Social Security, electronic reports	Social Security card
Citizenship	N/A	Signed certification, voter's registration card, birth certificate, etc.
Eligible immigration status	INS SAVE confirmation #	INS card
Disability	Letter from medical professional, SSI, etc	Proof of SSI or Social Security disability payments
Full time student status (if >18)	Letter from school	For high school students, any document evidencing enrollment
Need for a live-in aide	Letter from doctor or other professional knowledgeable of condition	N/A
Child care costs	Letter from care provider	Bills and receipts
Disability assistance expenses	Letters from suppliers, care givers, etc.	Bills and records of payment
Medical expenses	Letters from providers, Prescription record from pharmacy, medical professional's letter stating assistance or a companion animal is needed	Bills, receipts, records of payment, dates of trips, mileage log, receipts for fares and tolls

Verification Requirements for Individual Items		
Item to Be Verified	3 rd party verification	Hand-carried verification
Value of and Income from Assets		
Savings, checking accounts	Letter from institution	Passbook, most current statements
CDS, bonds, etc	Letter from institution	Tax return, information brochure from institution, the CD, the bond
Stocks	Letter from broker or holding company	Stock or most current statement, price in newspaper or through Internet
Real property	Letter from tax office, assessment, etc.	Property tax statement (for current value), assessment, records or income and expenses, tax return
Personal property	Assessment, bluebook, etc	Receipt for purchase, other evidence of worth
Cash value of life insurance policies	Letter from insurance company	Current statement
Assets disposed of for less than fair market value	N/A	Original receipt and receipt at disposition, other evidence of worth
Income		
Earned income	Electronically from HUD's EIV system. Letter from employer	Multiple pay stubs
Self-employed	N/A	Tax return from prior year, books of accounts
Regular gifts and contributions	Letter from source, letter from organization receiving gift (i.e., if grandmother pays day care provider, the day care provider could so state)	Bank deposits, other similar evidence
Alimony/child support	Court order, letter from source, letter from Human Services	Record of deposits, divorce decree
Periodic payments (i.e.,	Letter or electronic reports from the	Award letter, letter announcing

County Housing Authority will mail information to the INS in order that a manual check can be made of INS records.

Family members who do not claim to be citizens, nationals, or eligible noncitizens must be listed on a statement of noneligible members and the list must be signed by the head of the household.

Noncitizen students on student visas, though in the country legally, are not eligible to be admitted to public housing.

Any family member who does not choose to declare their status must be listed on the statement of noneligible members.

If no family member is determined to be eligible under this section, the family's eligibility will be denied.

The family's assistance will not be denied, delayed, reduced, or terminated because of a delay in the process of determining eligible status under this section, except to the extent that the delay is caused by the family.

If the St. Clair County Housing Authority determines that a family member has knowingly permitted an ineligible noncitizen (other than any ineligible noncitizens listed on the lease) to permanently reside in their public housing unit, the family will be evicted. Such family will not be eligible to be readmitted to public housing for a period of 24 months from the date of eviction or termination.

12.4 VERIFICATION OF SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS

Prior to admission, each family member who has a Social Security number and who is at least 6 years of age must provide verification of their Social Security number. New family members at least 6 years of age must provide this verification prior to being added to the lease. Children in assisted households must provide this verification at the first regular reexamination after turning six.

The best verification of the Social Security number is the original Social Security card. If the card is not available, the St. Clair County Housing Authority will accept letters from the Social Security Agency that establishes and states the number. Documentation from other governmental agencies will also be accepted that establishes and states the number. Driver's licenses, military IDs, passports, or other official documents that establish and state the number are also acceptable.

If an individual states that they do not have a Social Security number, they will be required to sign a statement to this effect. The St. Clair County Housing Authority will not require any individual who does not have a Social Security number to obtain a Social Security number.

If a member of an applicant family indicates they have a Social Security number, but cannot readily verify it, the family cannot be housed until verification is provided.

If a member of a resident family indicates they have a Social Security number, but cannot readily verify it, they shall be asked to certify to this fact and shall have up to sixty (60) days to provide the verification. If the individual is at least 62 years of age, they will be given one hundred and twenty (120) days to provide the verification. If the individual fails to provide the verification within the time allowed, the family will be evicted.

12.5 TIMING OF VERIFICATION

Verification information must be dated within ninety (90) days of certification or reexamination. If the verification is older than this, the source will be contacted and asked to provide information regarding any changes.

When an interim reexamination is conducted, the Housing Authority will verify and update all information related to family circumstances and level of assistance. (Or, the Housing Authority will only verify and update those elements reported to have changed.)

12.6 FREQUENCY OF OBTAINING VERIFICATION

For each family member, citizenship/eligible noncitizen status will be verified only once. This verification will be obtained prior to admission. If the status of any family member was not determined prior to admission, verification of their status will be obtained at the next regular reexamination. Prior to a new member joining the family, their citizenship/eligible noncitizen status will be verified.

For each family member age 6 and above, verification of Social Security number will be obtained only once. This verification will be accomplished prior to admission. When a family member who did not have a Social Security number at admission receives a Social Security number, that number will be verified at the next regular reexamination. Likewise, when a child turns six, their verification will be obtained at the next regular reexamination.

Information needed for rent determination and other program purposes (i.e. disability, need for live-in aide, etc.), shall be verified as determined necessary by the St. Clair County Housing Authority.

12.7 Upfront Income Verification Guidelines and Security Procedures

SCCHA has adopted “HUD Guidelines for Projecting Annual Income When Upfront Income Verification (UIV) Data is Available” as it appears in Appendix H. SCCHA has also adopted HUD’s UIV System Security Procedure as it

appears in Appendix I to ensure the proper handling and security of income data obtained through the UIV system.

13.0 DETERMINATION OF TOTAL RESIDENT PAYMENT AND RESIDENT RENT

13.1 FAMILY CHOICE

At admission and each year in preparation for their annual reexamination, each family is given the choice of having their rent determined under the formula method or having their rent set at the flat rent amount.

- A. Families who opt for the flat rent will be required to go through the income reexamination process every three years, rather than the annual review they would otherwise undergo.
- B. Families who opt for the flat rent may request to have a reexamination and return to the formula based method at any time for any of the following reasons:
 - 1. The family's income has decreased.
 - 2. The family's circumstances have changed increasing their expenses for child care, medical care, etc.
 - 3. Other circumstances creating a hardship on the family such that the formula method would be more financially feasible for the family.

13.2 THE FORMULA METHOD

The total resident payment is equal to the highest of:

- A. 10% of monthly income;
- B. 30% of adjusted monthly income; or
- C. The welfare rent.

The family will pay the greater of the total resident payment or the minimum rent of \$50, but never more than the ceiling rent.

In the case of a family who has qualified for the income exclusion at Section 11.2(H)(11), upon the expiration of the 12-month period described in that section, an additional rent benefit accrues to the family. If the family member's employment continues, then for the 12-month period following the 12-month

period of disallowance, the resulting rent increase will be capped at 50 percent of the rent increase the family would have otherwise received.

13.3 MINIMUM RENT

The St. Clair County Housing Authority has set the minimum rent at \$50. However if the family requests a hardship exemption, the St. Clair County Housing Authority will immediately suspend the minimum rent for the family until the Housing Authority can determine whether the hardship exists and whether the hardship is of a temporary or long-term nature.

- A. A hardship exists in the following circumstances:
 - 1. When the family has lost eligibility through no fault of their own for or is awaiting an eligibility determination for a Federal, State, or local assistance program;
 - 2. When the family would be evicted as a result of the imposition of the minimum rent requirement;
 - 3. When the income of the family has decreased because of changed circumstances, including loss of employment;
 - 4. When the family has an increase in expenses because of changed circumstances, for medical costs, childcare, transportation, education, or similar items;
 - 5. When a death has occurred in the family.
- B. No hardship. If the Housing Authority determines there is no qualifying hardship, the minimum rent will be reinstated, including requiring back payment of minimum rent for the time of suspension.
- C. Temporary hardship. If the Housing Authority reasonably determines that there is a qualifying hardship but that it is of a temporary nature, the minimum rent will be not be imposed for a period of 90 days from the date of the family's request. At the end of the 90-day period, the minimum rent will be imposed retroactively to the time of suspension. The Housing Authority will offer a repayment agreement in accordance with the Section 19 of this policy for any rent not paid during the period of suspension. During the suspension period the Housing Authority will not evict the family for nonpayment of the amount of resident rent owed for the suspension period.

- D. Long-term hardship. If the Housing Authority determines there is a long-term hardship, the family will be exempt from the minimum rent requirement until the hardship no longer exists.
- E. Appeals. The family may use the grievance procedure to appeal the Housing Authority's determination regarding the hardship. No escrow deposit will be required in order to access the grievance procedure.

13.4 THE FLAT RENT

The St. Clair County Housing Authority has set a flat rent for each public housing unit. In doing so, it considered the size and type of the unit, as well as its condition, amenities, services, and neighborhood. The St. Clair County Housing Authority determined the market value of the unit and set the rent at the market value. The amount of the flat rent will be reevaluated annually and adjustments applied. Affected families will be given a 30-day notice of any rent change. Adjustments are applied on the anniversary date for each affected family (for more information on flat rents, see Section 15.3).

The St. Clair County Housing Authority will post the flat rents at each of the developments and at the central office and are incorporated in this policy upon approval by the Board of Commissioners. See Appendix H.

13.5 RENT FOR FAMILIES UNDER THE NONCITIZEN RULE

A mixed family will receive full continuation of assistance if all of the following conditions are met:

- B. The family was receiving assistance on June 19, 1995;
- C. The family was granted continuation of assistance before November 29, 1996;
- D. The family's head or spouse has eligible immigration status; and
- E. The family does not include any person who does not have eligible status other than the head of household, the spouse of the head of household, any parent of the head or spouse, or any child (under the age of 18) of the head or spouse.

If a mixed family qualifies for prorated assistance but decides not to accept it, or if the family has no eligible members, the family may be eligible for temporary deferral of termination of assistance to permit the family additional time for the orderly transition of some or all of its members to locate other affordable housing. Under this provision, the family receives full assistance. If assistance is granted under this provision prior to November 29, 1996, it may last no longer than three

(3) years. If granted after that date, the maximum period of time for assistance under the provision is eighteen (18) months. The St. Clair County Housing Authority will grant each family a period of six (6) months to find suitable affordable housing. If the family cannot find suitable affordable housing, the St. Clair County Housing Authority will provide additional search periods up to the maximum time allowable.

Suitable housing means housing that is not substandard and is of appropriate size for the family. Affordable housing means that it can be rented for an amount not exceeding the amount the family pays for rent, plus utilities, plus 25%.

The family's assistance is prorated in the following manner:

- F. Determine the 95th percentile of gross rents (resident rent plus utility allowance) for the St. Clair County Housing Authority. The 95th percentile is called the maximum rent.
- G. Subtract the family's total resident payment from the maximum rent. The resulting number is called the maximum subsidy.
- H. Divide the maximum subsidy by the number of family members and multiply the result times the number of eligible family members. This yields the prorated subsidy.
- I. Subtract the prorated subsidy from the maximum rent to find the prorated total resident payment. From this amount subtract the full utility allowance to obtain the prorated resident rent.

13.6 UTILITY ALLOWANCE

A. Utility Allowance Schedule

The St. Clair County Housing Authority shall establish a utility allowance for all resident-paid utilities. The allowance will be based on a reasonable consumption of utilities by an energy-conservative household of modest circumstances consistent with the requirements of a safe, sanitary, and healthful environment. In setting the allowance, the St. Clair County Housing Authority will review the actual consumption of resident families as well as changes made or anticipated due to modernization (weatherization efforts, installation of energy-efficient appliances, etc). Allowances will be evaluated at least annually as well as any time utility rate changes by 10% or more since the last revision to the allowances.

The utility allowance will be subtracted from the family's formula or flat rent to determine the amount of the Resident Rent. The Resident Rent is the amount the family owes each month to the St. Clair County Housing Authority. The amount of the utility allowance is then still available to the family to pay the cost of their

utilities. Any utility cost above the allowance is the responsibility of the resident. Any savings resulting from utility costs below the amount of the allowance belongs to the resident.

Utility allowance revisions based on rate changes shall be effective retroactively to the first day of the month following the month in which the last rate change took place. Revisions based on changes in consumption or other reasons shall become effective the first of the month following approval by the Board of Commissioners.

Families with high utility costs are encouraged to contact the St. Clair County Housing Authority for an energy analysis. The analysis may identify problems with the dwelling unit that once corrected will reduce energy costs. The analysis can also assist the family in identifying ways they can reduce their costs. The Utility Allowance Schedule as established appears in Appendix I.

B. *Individual Relief*

Should a resident incur and pay utility bills in excess of the established allowances as a result of excessive consumption not within the control of the resident, he/she has the right to request individual relief from SCCHA. Individual relief shall be granted in situations where the excess consumption was clearly not within the reasonable control of the resident. Examples include, but are not necessarily limited to: A) leak in water lines not reasonably detectable by the resident; B) A verifiable equipment malfunction (i.e. furnace) not within the reasonable detection of the resident that results in excessive natural gas or electric consumption; C) SCCHA failure to correct within a reasonable time period a condition that causes excessive utility consumption, provided that the condition is properly and timely reported to SCCHA. Relief shall not be granted in situations where the resident could reasonably be expected to detect the condition causing excess consumption and/or failed to report the condition to SCCHA in the proper and timely manner. Individual relief shall not be granted based upon environmental factor (i.e. excess heat or cold spells).

In cases, where it is determined that individual relief is warranted, the amount of the relief shall be determined based on the difference between the actual costs incurred and the average cost for a similar time period prior to the occurrence of the condition that resulted in the excess consumption. The relief determined appropriate shall generally be granted in the form of a check payable either to the resident and/or the appropriate utility company. Residents interested in applying for individual relief must submit a written request explaining in detail the circumstances resulting in their belief that individual relief is warranted. The written requests must be submitted to the Property Manager within 30 days of the date of the billing for which individual relief is sought.

13.7 PAYING RENT

Rent and other charges are due and payable on the first day of the month. All rents should be paid at the SCCHA Central Office...1790 South 74th Street, Belleville, IL 62223 or mailed to P.O. Box 23380, Belleville, IL 62226. Reasonable accommodations for this requirement will be made for persons with disabilities. As a safety measure, no cash shall be accepted as a rent payment.

The procedures used to collect monies due by residents, including rent and all other charges, shall be consistent with SCCHA's established Collection Policy, which appears as Appendix #H.

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 resident 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 St. Clair County Housing Authority shall identify all adult family members who are apparently not exempt from the community service requirement.

The St. Clair County 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 St. Clair County 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 10/1/99. 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

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 St. Clair County 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 St. Clair County 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 October 1, 1999, and each annual

reexamination thereafter, the St. Clair County 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 St. Clair County 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 St. Clair County 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 St. Clair County 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 St. Clair County Housing Authority shall take action to terminate the lease.

15.0 RECERTIFICATIONS

At least annually, the St. Clair County Housing Authority will conduct a reexamination of family income and circumstances. The results of the reexamination determine (1) the rent the family will pay, and (2) whether the family is housed in the correct unit size.

15.1 GENERAL

The St. Clair County Housing Authority will send a notification letter to the family letting them know that it is time for their annual reexamination, giving them the option of selecting either the flat rent or formula method, and scheduling an appointment if they are currently paying a formula rent. If the family thinks they may want to switch from a flat rent to a formula rent, they should request an appointment. At the appointment, the family can make their final decision regarding which rent method they will choose. The letter also includes, for those families paying the formula method, forms for the family to complete in preparation for the interview (i.e. re-exam packet). The letter includes instructions permitting the family to reschedule the interview if necessary. The letter tells families who may need to make alternate arrangements due to a disability that they may contact staff to request an accommodation of their needs.

During the recertification, the St. Clair County Housing Authority will determine whether family composition may require a transfer to a different bedroom size unit, and if so, the family's name will be placed on the transfer list.

15.2 MISSED APPOINTMENTS/FAILURE TO COOPERATE WITH RECERTIFICATION

If the family fails to respond to the letter and fails to attend the interview, a second letter will be mailed. The second letter will advise of a new time and date for the interview, allowing for the same considerations for rescheduling and accommodation as above. The letter will also advise that failure by the family to

return the re-exam packet and/or attend the second scheduled interview will result in the St. Clair County Housing Authority assessing a \$50 fee, taking eviction actions against the family and/or establishing the monthly rent amount at the Flat Rent/Ceiling Rent effective the month the family's recertification was due.

15.3 FLAT RENTS

The annual letter to flat rent payers regarding the reexamination process will state the following:

- A. Each year at the time of the annual reexamination, the family has the option of selecting a flat rent amount in lieu of completing the reexamination process and having their rent based on the formula amount.
- B. The amount of the flat rent
- C. A fact sheet about formula rents that explains the types of income counted, the most common types of income excluded, and the categories allowances that can be deducted from income.
- D. Families who opt for the flat rent will be required to go through the income reexamination process every three years, rather than the annual review they otherwise would undergo.
- E. Families who opt for the flat rent may request to have a reexamination and return to the formula-based method at any time for any of the following reasons:
 - 1. The family's income has decreased.
 - 2. The family's circumstances have changed increasing their expenses for child care, medical care, etc.
 - 3. Other circumstances creating a hardship on the family such that the formula method would be more financially feasible for the family.
- F. The dates upon which the St. Clair County Housing Authority expects to review the amount of the flat rent, the approximate rent increase the family could expect, and the approximate date upon which a future rent increase could become effective.
- G. The name and phone number of an individual to call to get additional information or counseling concerning flat rents.
- H. A certification for the family to sign accepting or declining the flat rent.

Each year prior to their anniversary date, St. Clair County Housing Authority will send a reexamination letter to the family offering the choice between a flat or a formula rent. The opportunity to select the flat rent is available only at this time. At the appointment, the St. Clair County Housing Authority may assist the family in identifying the rent method that would be most advantageous for the family. If the family wishes to select the flat rent method without meeting with the St. Clair County Housing Authority representative, they may make the selection on the form and return the form to the St. Clair County Housing Authority. In such case, the St. Clair County Housing Authority will cancel the appointment.

15.4 THE FORMULA METHOD

During the interview, the family will provide all information regarding income, assets, expenses, and other information necessary to determine the family's share of rent. The family will sign the HUD consent form and other consent forms that later will be mailed to the sources that will verify the family circumstances.

Upon receipt of verification, the St. Clair County Housing Authority will determine the family's annual income and will calculate their rent as follows.

The total resident payment is equal to the highest of:

- A. 10% of monthly income;
- B. 30% of adjusted monthly income; or
- C. The welfare rent.

The family will pay the greater of the total resident payment or the minimum rent of \$50, but never more than the ceiling rent.

If it is determined by SCCHA that a family has established a pattern of starting and stopping employment so that their monthly rent is kept artificially low, SCCHA may base their rent upon historical and projected annual earnings.

15.5 EFFECTIVE DATE OF RENT CHANGES FOR ANNUAL REEXAMINATIONS

The new rent will generally be effective upon the anniversary date with thirty (30) days notice of any rent increase to the family.

If the rent determination is delayed due to a reason beyond the control of the family, then any rent increase will be effective the first of the month after the month in which the family receives a 30-day notice of the amount. If the new rent is a reduction and the delay is beyond the control of the family, the reduction will

be effective as scheduled on the anniversary date.

If the family caused the delay, then any increase will be effective on the anniversary date. Any reduction will be effective the first of the month after the rent amount is determined.

15.6 INTERIM REEXAMINATIONS

During an interim reexamination, only the information affected by the changes being reported will be reviewed and verified.

Families are required to report increases in gross income or decreases in allowable expenses (i.e. deductions to annual income such as child care costs) of \$200 or more between annual reexaminations when any of the following apply:

- The family receives a Utility Reimbursement Payment (i.e. has a negative rent);
- A family member starts receiving a new non-wage benefit amount such as Social Security/SSI, TANF benefits, etc.
- The increase in income or decrease in expense deductions could have reasonably been anticipated by the family at the time of the recertification (e.g. seasonal / temporary employment assignments, pending job application, in an on-the-job training program, etc.).

The change(s) must be reported by the family within 10 days of the date the change takes effect.

Families not impacted by the three scenarios listed above are not required to report increases in income or decreases in allowable expenses between annual reexaminations.

Families may request an interim recertification if there has been a decrease in income or increase in deductions that results in their Total Resident Payment exceeding 30% of monthly income. Short term changes (i.e. those lasting less than 30 days) are excluded. However, the SCCHA has at its sole discretion the right, without completing a full interim recertification, to establish a rent based upon the family's estimated gross monthly income (after deductions) with a \$50.00 minimum rent (net tenant payment) for one month when a family can document an interruption of income (beyond their control and due to no fault of their own) resulting in at least a 50% reduction in their regular monthly income. This alternate rent provision is limited to one time (maximum one month) in any 12-month period.

Resident's rent shall not be reduced if the decrease in the family's annual income is caused by a reduction in the welfare or public assistance benefits received by the family that is a result of the Resident's failure to comply with the conditions

of the assistance program requiring participation in an economic self-sufficiency program or other work activities. In addition, if the decrease in the family's annual income is caused by a reduction in welfare or public assistance benefits received by the family that is the result of an act of fraud, such decrease in income shall not result in a rent reduction. In such cases, the amount of income to be attributed to the family shall include what the family would have received had they complied with the welfare requirements or had not committed an act of fraud.

For the purposes of rent adjustments, the reduction of welfare or public assistance benefits to a family that occurs as a result of the expiration of a time limit for the receipt of assistance will not be considered a failure to comply with program requirements. Accordingly, a Resident's rent will be reduced as a result of such a decrease.

Families requesting an interim recertification due to a decrease in income are obligated to report any subsequent increases in income that may occur prior to the next regularly scheduled recertification. Failure to do so shall be grounds for retroactive charges and/or lease termination as determined appropriate by SCCHA.

Families are required to report the following changes to the St. Clair County Housing Authority between regular reexaminations. If the family's rent is being determined under the formula method, these changes will trigger an interim reexamination. The family shall report these changes within ten (10) days of their occurrence.

- A. A member has been added to the family through birth, adoption or court-awarded custody.
- B. A household member is leaving or has left the family unit.

All other additions to a household (including those resulting from marriage, foster care, personal care attendants, etc.) must be reported to and approved by the St. Clair County Housing Authority prior to the person(s) establishing residency at the leased premises.

Before adding the new member to the lease, the individual must complete an application form stating their income, assets, and all other information required of an applicant. The individual must provide their Social Security number if they have one and must verify their citizenship/eligible immigrant status. (Their housing will not be delayed due to delays in verifying eligible immigrant status other than delays caused by the family.) The new family member will go through the screening process similar to the process for applicants. The St. Clair County Housing Authority will determine the eligibility of the individual before adding them to the lease. If the individual is found to be ineligible or does not pass the

screening criteria, they will be advised in writing and given the opportunity for an informal review. If they are found to be eligible and do pass the screening criteria, their name will be added to the lease. At the same time, if the family's rent is being determined under the formula method, the family's annual income will be recalculated taking into account the circumstances of the new family member. The effective date of the new rent will be in accordance with paragraph below 15.9.

Family members leaving the household must be reported to SCCHA within 30 days of occurrence. SCCHA shall require documentation of the family members' departure prior to removing their name from the lease.

15.7 METHOD OF REPORTING CHANGES BETWEEN ANNUAL RECERTIFICATIONS

Families required to report changes in household income and/or expenses and/or family composition between annual recertifications as described in the previous sections must do so on SCCHA form(s) specifically designated for this purpose and are available in all SCCHA offices. The form must be completed, signed and dated by the Head of the Household and receipt must be acknowledged by an SCCHA staff member's signature and dated. The family is provided a copy to keep for their records as evidence of reporting compliance. Failure to comply with the required reporting method may subject the family to adverse action, including retro-active rent charges and/or lease termination.

15.8 SPECIAL REEXAMINATIONS

If a family's income is too unstable to project for twelve (12) months, including families that temporarily have no income (0 renters) or have a temporary decrease in income, the St. Clair County Housing Authority may schedule special reexaminations every sixty (60) days until the income stabilizes and an annual income can be determined.

15.9 EFFECTIVE DATE OF RENT CHANGES DUE TO INTERIM OR SPECIAL REEXAMINATIONS

Unless there is a delay in reexamination processing caused by the family, any rent increase will be effective the first of the second month after the month in which the family receives notice of the new rent amount. If the family causes a delay, the rent increase will be effective on the date it would have been effective had the process not been delayed (even if this means a retroactive increase).

If the new rent is a reduction and any delay is beyond the control of the family, the reduction will be effective the first of the month after the income decreased (or deductions increased).

If the new rent is a reduction and the family caused the delay or did not report the change in a timely manner, the change will be effective the first of the month after the rent amount is determined.

15.10 ADJUSTMENTS DUE TO ERRORS, MISREPRESENTATION, FAILURE TO REPORT

1. An adjustment in monthly payment shall be retroactive to the first day of the rent period affected when there is:
 - a. *an error due to misrepresentation or failure to report by the Family and the corrected determination results in increased rent;*
 - b. *an error from which the corrected determination results in decreased rent.*
2. An adjustment in monthly payment shall be effective the first day of the second month following the date an error was found if the error was not the fault of the Family and the corrected determination results in increased rent.

15.11 FAILURE TO REPORT INCOME CHANGES AND/OR MISREPRESENTATION

If it is found at the time of reexamination (or any other time) that the family has failed to report changes in family circumstances as they occurred and that such changes would have required the Family to pay a higher monthly payment, the Authority shall collect the increased payment retroactive to the first of the month after the month in which the changes occurred. Unless the St. Clair County Housing Authority approves a Repayment Agreement the amount shall be due and payable thirty (30) days from the date of the notice to the Family specifying the amount owed. Families determined to have misrepresented and/or failed to report income are subject to lease termination

15.12 PAYMENT ALLOCATIONS

Monthly payments made by a resident shall be applied in the following order:

- a) ***Security Deposit***
- b) ***Maintenance***
- c) ***Other Charges***
- d) ***Legal Charges***
- e) ***Current Rent***
- f) ***Delinquent Rent***
- g) ***Excess Utilities***

15.13 FAILURE TO REPORT INCOME CHANGES WITH EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES

The Management Director may allow a Family, who fails to report income changes, to enter into a Repayment Agreement under the following circumstances:

1. The failure to report income changes was not an intentional misrepresentation of income; and,
2. The family does not have the funds available to repay the debt in a lump sum; and,
3. The debt is greater than the Family's gross monthly income.

15.14 AUTHORITY ERRORS

The Housing Authority will not calculate retroactive increases if the income change was reported in a timely manner and the Authority failed to make the appropriate adjustment.

16.0 UNIT TRANSFERS

16.1 OBJECTIVES OF THE TRANSFER POLICY

The objectives of the Transfer Policy include the following:

- A. To address emergency situations.
- B. To fully utilize available housing resources while avoiding overcrowding by insuring that each family occupies the appropriate size unit.
- C. To facilitate a relocation when required for modernization or other management purposes.
- D. To facilitate relocation of families with inadequate housing accommodations.
- E. To provide an incentive for families to assist in meeting the St. Clair County Housing Authority's deconcentration goal.
- B. To eliminate vacancy loss and other expense due to unnecessary transfers.

16.2 INELIGIBLE GROUNDS FOR TRANSFER

The St. Clair County Housing Authority shall not approve transfer requests based upon the following:

- A. Environmental factors associated with a development location,

neighborhood, and/or community. More specifically, the level of criminal activity or fear of criminal activity within a development, neighborhood, and/or community is not grounds for a transfer.

- B. Disputes with neighbors.

16.3 CATEGORIES OF TRANSFERS

Category 1: Emergency transfers. These transfers are necessary when conditions pose an immediate threat to the life, health, or safety of a family or one of its members. Such situations may involve defects of the unit or the building in which it is located, the health condition of a family member, a hate crime, the safety of witnesses to a crime, or a law enforcement matter particular to the neighborhood.

Category 2: Immediate administrative transfers. These transfers are necessary in order to permit a family needing accessible features to move to a unit with such a feature or to enable modernization work to proceed.

Category 3: Regular administrative transfers. These transfers are made to offer incentives to families willing to help meet certain St. Clair County Housing Authority occupancy goals, to adhere to occupancy standards where the unit size is inappropriate for the size and composition of the family, to allow for non-emergency but medically advisable transfers, and other transfers approved by the St. Clair County Housing Authority when a transfer is the only or best way of solving a serious problem.

16.4 DOCUMENTATION

When the transfer is at the request of the family, the family may be required to provide third party verification of the need for the transfer.

16.5 INCENTIVE TRANSFERS

Transfer requests will be encouraged and approved for families who live in a development where their income category (below or above 30% of area median) predominates and wish to move to a development where their income category does not predominate.

Families living in multifamily developments have the opportunity to transfer to scattered-site housing. Families approved for such transfers will meet the following eligibility criteria:

- A. Have been a resident for three years;
- B. For a minimum of one year, at least one adult family member is enrolled in an economic self-sufficiency program or is working at least thirty-five

(35) hours per week, the adult family members are 62 years of age or older or are disabled or are the primary care givers to others with disabilities;

- C. Adult members who are required to perform community service have been current in these responsibilities since the inception of the requirement or for one year which ever is less;
- D. The family is current in the payment of all charges owed the St. Clair County Housing Authority and has not paid late rent for at least one year;
- E. The family passes a current housekeeping inspection and does not have any record of housekeeping problems during the last year;
- F. The family has not materially violated the lease over the past two years by disturbing the peaceful enjoyment of their neighbors, by engaging in criminal or drug-related activity, or by threatening the health or safety of residents or Housing Authority staff.
- G. The family demonstrates the capacity to perform basic home and yard care.

16.6 PROCESSING TRANSFERS

Transfer waiting lists will be maintained by Management District, organized by bedroom size needed and sorted by the above categories and within each category by date and time.

Transfers in category 1 and 2 will be executed ahead of any other families, including those on the applicant waiting list. Transfers in category 1 will be executed ahead of transfers in category 2.

Transfers in category 3 will be executed along with housing applicants for admission at a ratio of one transfer for every nine admissions.

SCCHA specifically reserves the right to suspend transfer activity if occupancy rates fall below 98%

Transfers shall be administered within the development whenever possible. If a unit of appropriate size/design is not contained and/or not expected to be available within the development in which the family resides on a timely basis commensurate with the need for transfer, the transfer shall be considered secondarily within the management district and finally on a PHA-wide basis. Transfers between management districts require the approval of the Management Director and will only be offered to accommodate Category 1 and 2 transfers, unless there are mitigating circumstances..

16.7 ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Families approved for transfers shall meet the following eligibility criteria:

- A. The family must have been in the current unit for at least one year (applicable to Category 3 requests only);
- B. Applicable community service requirements have been met;
- C. The family is current in the payment of all charges owed and has not paid late rent for at least one year;
- D. The family passed the last housekeeping inspection and does not have a record of housekeeping problems during the last year;
- E. The family has not materially violated the lease over the past two years by disturbing the peaceful enjoyment of their neighbors, by engaging in criminal or drug-related activity, or by threatening the health or safety of residents or SCCHA staff.

16.8 COMPLETION OF THE TRANSFER BY THE FAMILY

Upon offer and acceptance of a unit, the family will execute all lease up documents and pay any rent and/or security deposit due within two (2) days of being informed the unit is ready to rent. Residents transferring shall be required to pay the currently required Security Deposit amount if it is more than the deposit they previously paid.

Transfers (i.e. the actual movement of the resident's personal belongings, transfer of utility services, and returning of the keys to the "from" unit) must be fully completed within a maximum seven-day period. When transfers are not fully executed within the seven day period, the resident shall be assessed a daily rental charge equal to the Section 8 Fair Market Rent Limit for the unit size (i.e. number of bedrooms) the resident is transferring from in addition to the resident rent established for the "to" unit.

16.9 REFUSING A TRANSFER

The following is the policy for the rejection of an offer to transfer:

- A. A resident's refusal to transfer to an appropriate sized unit upon the notification of management shall be grounds for lease termination, unless the refusal is based upon verifiable medical reasons or other good cause as determined by management.
- B. If the transfer is being made at the family's request and the rejected offer provides deconcentration incentives, the family will maintain their place on the transfer list and will not otherwise be penalized.

- C. If the transfer is being made at the family's request, the family may, without good cause and without penalty, turn down one offer that does not include deconcentration incentives. After turning down a second such offer without good cause, the family's name will be removed from the transfer list.

16.10 TRANSFER COSTS

A. Unit Preparation Costs

When the family (or others on their behalf) initiate the transfer request, the family must pay prior to the transfer a charge equal to an SCCHA estimate of the cost necessary to make the family's existing unit ready for occupancy. The minimum fee is \$150 and is non-refundable.

B. Moving Costs

The cost of the transfer generally will be borne by the family in the following circumstances:

- a. When the transfer is made at the request of the family or by others on behalf of the family (i.e. by the police);
- b. When the transfer is needed to move the family to an appropriately sized unit, either larger or smaller;
- c. When the transfer is necessitated because a family with disabilities needs the accessible unit into which the transferring family moved (The family without disabilities signed a statement to this effect prior to accepting the accessible unit); or
- d. When the transfer is needed because action or inaction by the family caused the unit to be unsafe or uninhabitable.

The cost of the transfer will be borne by the SCCHA in the following circumstances:

- 1. a. When the transfer is needed in order to carry out rehabilitation activities; or
- b. When action or inaction by the SCCHA has caused the unit to be unsafe or inhabitable.

The responsibility for moving costs in other circumstances will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

16.11 TRANSFER REQUESTS

A resident may request a transfer at any time by completing a transfer request form. In considering the request, the Management may request a meeting with the resident to better understand the need for transfer and to explore possible alternatives. Management will review the request in a timely manner and if a meeting is desired, shall contact the resident within ten (10) business days of receipt of the request to schedule a meeting.

Management will approve or deny the transfer request in writing within thirty (30) business days of receiving the request, or holding the meeting, whichever is later.

If the transfer is approved, the family's name will be added to the transfer waiting list.

If the transfer is denied, the denial letter will advise the family of their right to utilize the grievance procedure.

16.12 RIGHT OF THE ST. CLAIR COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY IN TRANSFER POLICY

The provisions listed above are to be used as a guide to insure fair and impartial means of assigning units for transfers. It is not intended that this policy will create a property right or any other type of right for a resident to transfer or refuse to transfer.

17.0 INSPECTIONS

17.1 MOVE-IN INSPECTIONS

An authorized representative of the St. Clair County Housing Authority will inspect the premises prior to commencement of occupancy. When possible, the resident is notified of the inspection and is encouraged to attend. A written statement of the condition of the premises will be made, all equipment provided will be noted, and the statement will be signed the SCCHA representative with a copy retained in the resident file and a copy given to the resident. The resident will be advised to carefully review the inspection report, immediately notify management if they disagree with the content of the report, and maintain a copy for future reference because the report establishes the condition of the unit upon move-in and will be the basis for any subsequent damage charges.

17.2 POST MOVE-IN INSPECTIONS

A post move-in inspection of the dwelling unit will be completed within three months after initial occupancy to document proper unit care. The resident shall be given appropriate written notice of the date and time of the inspection, as well as an explanation of the reasons for the inspection. An inspection report shall be completed and signed by the resident and the SCCHA representative. Deficiencies shall be discussed with the resident. If the inspection shows adequate care by the resident, the next inspection will be the annual inspection. If inadequacies on the part of the resident are revealed, further housekeeping inspections as discussed below shall be scheduled.

17.3 ANNUAL INSPECTIONS

The St. Clair County Housing Authority will inspect each public housing unit annually to ensure that each unit meets the applicable housing standards. Work orders will be submitted and completed to correct any deficiencies.

17.4 PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE INSPECTIONS

This is generally conducted along with the annual inspection, but may be completed separately. This inspection is intended to keep items in good repair. It checks weatherization; checks the condition of the smoke detectors, water heaters, furnaces, automatic thermostats and water temperatures; checks for leaks; and provides an opportunity to change furnace filters and provide other minor servicing that extends the life of the unit and its equipment.

17.5 SPECIAL INSPECTIONS

A special inspection may be scheduled to enable HUD or others to inspect a sample of the housing stock maintained by the St. Clair County Housing Authority.

17.6 HOUSEKEEPING INSPECTIONS

Generally, at the time of annual inspection, or at other times as necessary, the St. Clair County Housing Authority will conduct a housekeeping inspection to ensure the family is maintaining the unit in a safe and sanitary condition.

17.7 NOTICE OF INSPECTION

For all inspections, except emergency inspections, the St. Clair County Housing Authority will give the resident at least twenty four hour written notice, unless the resident agrees to a shorter notice.

17.8 EMERGENCY INSPECTIONS

If any employee and/or agent of the St. Clair County Housing Authority has reason to believe that an emergency exists within the housing unit, the unit can be entered without notice. The person(s) that enters the unit will leave a written notice to the resident that indicates the date and time the unit was entered and the reason why it was necessary to enter the unit.

17.9 PRE-MOVE-OUT INSPECTIONS

When a resident gives notice that they intend to move, the St. Clair County Housing Authority will upon request of the resident schedule a pre-move-out inspection with the family. The inspection allows the St. Clair County Housing Authority to help the family identify any problems which, if left uncorrected, could lead to vacate charges. This inspection is a courtesy to the family and has been found to be helpful both in reducing costs to the family and in enabling the St. Clair County Housing Authority to ready units more quickly for the future occupants.

17.10 MOVE-OUT INSPECTIONS

The St. Clair County Housing Authority conducts the move-out inspection after the resident vacates to assess the condition of the unit and determine responsibility for any needed repairs. When possible, the resident is notified of the inspection and is encouraged to be present. This inspection becomes the basis for any claims that may be assessed against the security deposit.

18.0 PET POLICY

Residents have the right to have common household pets subject to the terms and conditions of SCCHA's established Pet Policy (Appendix J).

19.0 REPAYMENT AGREEMENTS

When a resident becomes delinquent in the amount owed the St. Clair County Housing Authority and is unable to pay the balance in full, the resident may request that the St. Clair County Housing Authority allow them to enter into a Repayment Agreement. The St. Clair County Housing Authority has the sole discretion of whether to accept such an agreement. Families impacted by the minimum rent provisions of this policy who have had their rent temporarily abated will be afforded a repayment agreement opportunity upon the reinstatement of the minimum rent. All Repayment Agreements must assure that the full payment is made within a period not to exceed twelve (12) months, unless a longer period is determined appropriate by the Management Director. All Repayment Agreements must be in writing and signed by both parties. There shall be a \$25 administrative charge for each repayment agreement, which must be paid at the time of execution. In addition, repayment agreements resulting from

resident caused damages or the resident's failure to properly report income, require an initial down-payment equal to 20%. The down-payment must be paid at the time of execution of the repayment agreement. Failure to comply with the Repayment Agreement terms may subject the Resident to eviction procedures.

20.0 TERMINATION

20.1 *TERMINATION BY RESIDENT*

The resident may terminate the lease at any time upon submitting a 30-day written notice. If the resident vacates prior to the end of the thirty (30) days, they will be responsible for rent through the end of the notice period or until the unit is re-rented, whichever occurs first. If the resident's monthly rent is less than \$100 and less than a 30-day written notice is given a \$100 cancellation fee shall be assessed in addition to the prorated rent amount.

20.2 *TERMINATION BY THE HOUSING AUTHORITY*

The St. Clair County Housing Authority after 10/1/2000 will not renew the lease of any family that is not in compliance with the community service requirement or an approved Agreement to Cure. If they do not voluntarily leave the property, eviction proceedings will begin. Enforcement of the Community Service Requirement is suspended through 9/30/03 by Congressional action.

The St. Clair County Housing Authority will terminate the lease for serious or repeated violations of material lease terms. Such violations include but are not limited to the following:

- A. Nonpayment of rent or other charges;
- B. A history of late rental payments;
- C. Failure to provide timely and accurate information regarding family composition, income circumstances, or other information related to eligibility or rent;
- D. Failure to allow inspection of the unit;
- E. Failure to maintain the unit in a safe and sanitary manner;
- F. Assignment or subletting of the premises;
- G. Use of the premises for purposes other than as a dwelling unit (other than for housing authority approved resident businesses) and/or their primary dwelling;

- H. Destruction of property;
- I. Acts of destruction, defacement, or removal of any part of the premises or failure to cause guests to refrain from such acts;
- J. Any criminal activity on the property or drug-related criminal activity on or off the premises. This includes but is not limited to the manufacture of methamphetamine on the premises of the St. Clair County Housing Authority;
- K. Non-compliance with Non-Citizen Rule requirements;
- L. Permitting persons not on the lease to reside in the unit more than ten (10) consecutive days in any one-month or thirty (30) accumulative days within the last 12 months.
- M. Other good cause.

The St. Clair County Housing Authority will take immediate action to evict any household that includes an individual who is subject to a lifetime registration requirement under a State sex offender registration program.

20.3 *TERMINATING THE TENANCY OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, DATING VIOLENCE, OR STALKING VICTIMS AND PERPETRATORS [PUB.L. 109-162, PUB.L. 109-271]*

The Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2005 (VAWA) provides that “criminal activity directly relating to domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking, engaged in by a member of a tenant’s household or any guest or other person under the tenant’s control shall not be a 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 domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking.”

VAWA also gives SCCHA the authority to “terminate tenancy of any individual who is a tenant or lawful occupant and who engages in criminal acts of physical violence against family members or others, without evicting, removing, terminating assistance to, or otherwise penalizing the victim of such violence who is also a tenant or lawful occupant.”

VAWA does not limit the authority of SCCHA to terminate the assistance of any participant if SCCHA “can demonstrate an actual and imminent threat to other tenants

or those employed at or providing service to the property if that tenant is not evicted or terminated from assistance.”

1. Victim Documentation

When a participant family is facing lease termination because of the actions of a participant, household member, guest, or other person under the participant’s control and a participant or immediate family member of the participant’s family claims that she or he is the victim of such actions and that the actions are related to domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking, SCCHA will require the individual to submit documentation affirming that claim.

The documentation must include two elements:

- a. A signed statement by the victim that provides the name of the perpetrator and certifies that the incidents in question are bona fide incidents of actual or threatened domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking, and
- b. One of the following:
 1. A police or court record documenting the actual or threatened abuse, or
 2. A statement signed by an employee, agent, or volunteer of a victim service provider, an attorney, a medical professional, or another knowledgeable professional from whom the victim has sought assistance in addressing the actual or threatened abuse. The professional must attest under penalty of perjury that the incidents in question are bona fide incidents of abuse, and the victim must sign or attest to the statement.

The required certification and supporting documentation must be submitted to SCCHA within 14 business days after SCCHA issues its written request. The 14-day deadline may be extended at SCCHA’s discretion. If the individual does not provide the required certification and supporting documentation within 14 business days, or the approved extension period, SCCHA may proceed with lease termination.

If SCCHA can demonstrate an actual and imminent threat to other participants or those employed at or providing service to the property if the participant’s tenancy is not terminated, SCCHA will bypass the standard process and proceed with the immediate termination of the family’s tenancy.

2. Terminating the Lease of a Domestic Violence Perpetrator

Although VAWA provides lease termination protection for victims of domestic violence, it does not provide protection for perpetrators. VAWA gives SCCHA the explicit authority to “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...without terminating assistance to, or otherwise penalizing the victim of such violence who is a tenant or lawful occupant.” This authority supersedes any local, state, or federal law to the contrary. However, if SCCHA chooses to exercise this authority, it must follow any procedures prescribed by HUD or applicable local, state, or federal law regarding termination of assistance [Pub.L. 109-271].

When the actions of a participant or other family member result in SCCHA’s decision to terminate the family’s lease and another family member claims that the actions involve criminal acts of physical violence against family members or others, SCCHA will request that the victim submit the above required certification and supporting documentation in accordance with the stated time frame. If the certification and supporting documentation are submitted within the required time frame, or any approved extension period, SCCHA will terminate the perpetrator’s lease right. If the victim does not provide the certification and supporting documentation, as required, SCCHA will proceed with termination of the family’s lease.

If SCCHA can demonstrate an actual and imminent threat to other tenants or those employed at or providing service to the property if the participant’s tenancy is not terminated, SCCHA will bypass the standard process and proceed with the immediate termination of the family’s lease.

3. PHA Confidentiality Requirements

All information provided to SCCHA regarding domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking, including the fact that an individual is a victim of such violence or stalking, must be retained in confidence and may neither be entered into any shared data base nor provided to any related entity, except to the extent that the disclosure (a) is requested or consented to by the individual in writing, (b) is required for use in an eviction proceeding, or (c) is otherwise required by applicable law.

4. Termination Notice

If a family’s lease is to be terminated, involuntarily, SCCHA must give the family written notice that specifies:

- a. The reasons for which the lease has been terminated
- b. The effective date of the termination
- c. The family’s right to an informal hearing

If a criminal record is the basis of the termination, a copy of the record must accompany the notice. A copy of the criminal record also must be provided to the subject of the record [24 CFR 982.553(d)].

When termination is initiated by SCCHA, the notice to terminate will be sent to the family at least 30 calendar days prior to the effective date of the termination. However, if a family vacates the unit without informing SCCHA, 30 days notice will not be given. In these cases, the termination will be effective the date SCCHA learns the family has vacated the unit.

When a family gives notice of lease termination they must do so in writing to SCCHA. SCCHA will then send a confirmation notice to the family.

20.4 ABANDONMENT

A. Dwelling Unit

The St. Clair County Housing Authority will consider a unit to be abandoned when a resident has both fallen behind in rent **AND** has clearly indicated by words or actions an intention not to continue living in the unit (i.e. disconnected utilities, most personal property removed from the unit, resident being absent from the unit, etc.).

When a unit has been declared abandoned, Management shall post on the residence and mail to the person the resident has identified as an emergency contact a “Notice of Intention To Claim Abandonment.” The Abandonment Notice shall indicate the reasons Management believes the property to have been abandoned and shall provide the Resident a minimum ten day period in which to contact Management to refute the abandonment declaration. If no contact is made within the specified time period, Management shall have the right to regain control of the premises.

B. Personal Property

Personal Property of the resident left in the unit after the resident has vacated the unit as a result of:

- a) Lease termination as prescribed in Section 18;
- b) Hazards and/or defects as defined in lease agreement;
- c) The death of the resident when no known survivors and/or heirs can be located; or;
- d) Management declaration of abandonment as discussed in paragraph A above,

shall become the property of St. Clair County Housing Authority. Before disposing of the property, SCCHA shall give the resident written notice to remove the property. This notice will be delivered to the resident at the leased premises in accordance with the applicable provisions in the lease, if a new residence or mailing address is unknown. Any expenses incurred by Management in disposing of abandoned personal property shall be charged to the Resident’s account. Any

net proceeds from the sale of such property shall be credited to the resident's account.

20.5 RETURN OF SECURITY DEPOSIT

After a family moves out, the St. Clair County Housing Authority will within 30 days return the security deposit or give the family a written statement of why all or part of the security deposit is being kept. The rental unit must be restored to the same conditions as when the family moved in, except for normal wear and tear. Deposits will not be used to cover normal wear and tear or damage that existed when the family moved in.

The St. Clair County Housing Authority will be considered in compliance with the above if the required payment, statement, or both, are deposited in the U.S. mail with first class postage paid within 30 days.

21.0 SERVICE CHARGES

Consistent with HUD guidelines, it is SCCHA's policy to charge residents for repair work needed as a result of resident neglect, damage, or other factors that exceed normal wear and tear taking into consideration the length of occupancy and other relevant factors. The Service Charge Policy is included as Appendix K.

22.0 COLLECTION PROCEDURES

The procedure used to collect monies due by residents, including rent and all other charges, shall be consistent with SCCHA's established Collection Policy, which appears as Appendix #L.

23.0 GRIEVANCE POLICY

Applicants and Residents have the right to have any adverse action related to their application or continued occupancy reviewed according to the terms and conditions of SCCHA's established Grievance Policy (Appendix M).

24.0 FIRE LOSS RE-HOUSING POLICY

To guide decisions regarding the re-housing of residents when the leased unit has been damaged by fire resulting from tenant accident or neglect, SCCHA has adopted a Fire Loss Re-housing Policy (Appendix P)

25.0 SMOKING POLICY FOR HI-RISE BUILDINGS

Due to the increasing sensitivity to cigarette smoke among senior residents and given the obvious health concerns, SCCHA has adopted a policy to govern cigarette smoking in its three Hi-rise Senior Buildings. (See Appendix Q)

APPENDIX SUMMARY

A – GLOSSARY

B – ACRONYMS

C - LOW AND VERY LOW INCOME AMOUNTS

D – INCOME DECONCENTRATION WORKSHEET

E – SECURITY DEPOSIT REQUIREMENTS

F- LEASE AGREEMENT

G – BAN AND BAR POLICY

H –HUD’S GUIDELINES FOR PROJECTING ANNUAL INCOME USING
UIV

I – HUD’S UPFRONT INCOME VERIFICATION (UIV) SYSTEM
SECURITY PROCEDURES

J – FLAT RENT AND CEILING RENT SCHEDULES

K – UTILITY ALLOWANCES

L - PET POLICY, PET AGREEMENT AND APPLICATION/PERMIT
FORM

M- SERVICE CHARGE POLICY

N – COLLECTION POLICY

O – GRIEVANCE POLICY

P – FIRE LOSS RE-HOUSING POLICY

Q – SMOKING POLICY FOR HI-RISE BUILDINGS

APPENDIX A

GLOSSARY

50058 Form: The HUD form that housing authorities are required to complete for each assisted household in public housing to record information used in the certification and re-certification process and, at the option of the housing authority, for interim reexaminations.

1937 Housing Act: The United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437 et seq.) (24 CFR 5.100)

Adjusted Annual Income: The amount of household income, after deductions for specified allowances, on which resident rent is based. (24 CFR 5.611)

Adult: A household member who is 18 years or older or who is the head of the household, or spouse, or co-head.

Allowances: Amounts deducted from the household's annual income in determining adjusted annual income (the income amount used in the rent calculation). Allowances are given for elderly families, dependents, medical expenses for elderly families, disability expenses, and child care expenses for children under 13 years of age. Other allowance can be given at the discretion of the housing authority.

Annual Contributions Contract (ACC): The written contract between HUD and a housing authority under which HUD agrees to provide funding for a program under the 1937 Act, and the housing authority agrees to comply with HUD requirements for the program. (24 CFR 5.403)

Annual Income: All amounts, monetary or not, that:

- A. Go to (or on behalf of) the family head or spouse (even if temporarily absent) or to any other family member; or
- B. Are anticipated to be received from a source outside the family during the 12-month period following admission or annual reexamination effective date; and
- C. Are not specifically excluded from annual income.

Annual Income also includes amounts derived (during the 12-month period) from assets to which any member of the family has access. (1937 Housing Act; 24 CFR 5.609)

Applicant (applicant family): A person or family that has applied for admission to a program but is not yet a participant in the program. (24 CFR 5.403)

As-Paid States: States where the welfare agency adjusts the shelter and utility component of the welfare grant in accordance with actual housing costs. Currently, the four as-paid States are New Hampshire, New York, Oregon, and Vermont.

Assets: The value of equity in savings, checking, IRA and Keogh accounts, real property, stocks, bonds, and other forms of capital investment. The value of necessary items of personal property such as furniture and automobiles are not counted as assets. (Also see "net family assets.")

Asset Income: Income received from assets held by family members. If assets total more than \$5,000, income from the assets is "imputed" and the greater of actual asset income and imputed asset income is counted in annual income. (See "imputed asset income" below.)

Ceiling Rent: Maximum rent allowed for some units in public housing projects.

Certification: The examination of a household's income, expenses, and family composition to determine the family's eligibility for program participation and to calculate the family's share of rent.

Child: For purposes of citizenship regulations, a member of the family other than the family head or spouse who is under 18 years of age. (24 CFR 5.504(b))

Child Care Expenses: Amounts anticipated to be paid by the family for the care of children under 13 years of age during the period for which annual income is computed, but only where such care is necessary to enable a family member to actively seek employment, be gainfully employed, or to further his or her education and only to the extent such amounts are not reimbursed. The amount deducted shall reflect reasonable charges for child care. In the case of child care necessary to permit employment, the amount deducted shall not exceed the amount of employment income that is included in annual income. (24 CFR 5.603(d))

Citizen: A citizen or national of the United States. (24 CFR 5.504(b))

Consent Form: Any consent form approved by HUD to be signed by assistance applicants and participants for the purpose of obtaining income information from employers and SWICAs, return information from the Social Security Administration, and return information for unearned income from the Internal Revenue Service. The consent forms may authorize the collection of other information from assistance applicants or participant to determine eligibility or level of benefits. (24 CFR 5.214)

Decent, Safe, and Sanitary: Housing is decent, safe, and sanitary if it satisfies the applicable housing quality standards.

Department: The Department of Housing and Urban Development. (24 CFR 5.100)

Dependent: A member of the family (except foster children and foster adults), other than the family head or spouse, who is under 18 years of age or is a person with a disability or is a full-time student. (24 CFR 5.603(d))

Dependent Allowance: An amount, equal to \$480 multiplied by the number of dependents, that is deducted from the household's annual income in determining adjusted annual income.

Disability Assistance Expenses: Reasonable expenses that are anticipated, during the period for which annual income is computed, for attendant care and auxiliary apparatus for a disabled family member and that are necessary to enable a family member (including the disabled member) to be employed, provided that the expenses are neither paid to a member of the family nor reimbursed by an outside source. (24 CFR 5.603(d))

Disability Assistance Expense Allowance: In determining adjusted annual income, the amount of disability assistance expenses deducted from annual income for families with a disabled household member.

Disabled Family: A family whose head, spouse, or sole member is a person with disabilities; two or more persons with disabilities living together; or one or more persons with disabilities living with one or more live-in aides. (24 CFR 5.403(b)) (Also see "person with disabilities.")

Disabled Person: See "person with disabilities."

Displaced Family: A family in which each member, or whose sole member, is a person displaced by governmental action (such as urban renewal), or a person whose dwelling has been extensively damaged or destroyed as a result of a disaster declared or otherwise formally recognized pursuant to Federal disaster relief laws. (24 CFR 5.403(b))

Displaced Person: A person displaced by governmental action or a person whose dwelling has been extensively damaged or destroyed as a result of a disaster declared or otherwise formally recognized pursuant to Federal disaster relief laws. *[1937 Act]*

Drug-Related Criminal Activity: Drug trafficking or the illegal use, or possession for personal use, of a controlled substance as defined in Section 102 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 802).

Elderly Family: A family whose head, spouse, or sole member is a person who is at least 62 years of age; two or more persons who are at least 62 years of age living together; or one or more persons who are at least 62 years of age living with one or more live-in aides. (24 CFR 5.403)

Elderly Family Allowance: For elderly families, an allowance of \$400 is deducted from the household's annual income in determining adjusted annual income.

Elderly Person: A person who is at least 62 years of age. (1937 Housing Act)

Extremely low-income families: Those families whose incomes do not exceed 30% of the median income for the area, as determined by the Secretary with adjustments for smaller and larger families.

Fair Housing Act: Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, as amended by the Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988 (42 U.S.C. 3601 et seq.). (24 CFR 5.100)

Family includes but is not limited to:

- A. A family with or without children;
- B. An elderly family;
- C. A near-elderly family;
- D. A disabled family;
- E. A displaced family;
- F. The remaining member of a resident family; and
- G. A single person who is not an elderly or displaced person, a person with disabilities, or the remaining member of a resident family. (24 CFR 5.403)

Family Members: All members of the household other than live-in aides, foster children, and foster adults. All family members permanently reside in the unit, though they may be temporarily absent. All family members are listed on the lease.

Family Self-Sufficiency Program (FSS Program): The program established by a housing authority to promote self-sufficiency among participating families, including the coordination of supportive services. (24 CFR 984.103(b))

Flat Rent: A rent amount the family may choose to pay in lieu of having their rent determined under the formula method. The flat rent is established by the housing authority set at the lesser of the market value for the unit or the cost to operate the unit. Families selecting the flat rent option have their income evaluated once every three years, rather than annually.

Formula Method: A means of calculating a family's rent based on 10% of their monthly income, 30% of their adjusted monthly income, the welfare rent, or the minimum rent. Under the formula method, rents may be capped by a ceiling rent. Under this method, the family's income is evaluated at least annually.

Full-Time Student: A person who is carrying a subject load that is considered full-time for day students under the standards and practices of the educational institution attended. An educational institution includes a vocational school with a diploma or certificate program, as well as an institution offering a college degree. (24 CFR 5.603(d))

Head of Household: The adult member of the family who is the head of the household for purposes of determining income eligibility and rent. (24 CFR 5.504(b))

Household Members: All members of the household including members of the family, live-in aides, foster children, and foster adults. All household members are listed on the lease, and no one other than household members are listed on the lease.

Housing Assistance Plan: A housing plan that is submitted by a unit of general local government and approved by HUD as being acceptable under the standards of 24 CFR 570.

Imputed Income: For households with net family assets of more than \$5,000, the amount calculated by multiplying net family assets by a HUD-specified percentage. If imputed income is more than actual income from assets, the imputed amount is used as income from assets in determining annual income.

In-Kind Payments: Contributions other than cash made to the family or to a family member in exchange for services provided or for the general support of the family (e.g., groceries provided on a weekly basis, baby sitting provided on a regular basis).

Interim (examination): A reexamination of a family income, expenses, and household composition conducted between the regular annual recertifications when a change in a household's circumstances warrants such a reexamination.

Live-In Aide: A person who resides with one or more elderly persons, near-elderly persons, or persons with disabilities and who:

- A. Is determined to be essential to the care and well-being of the persons;
- B. Is not obligated for the support of the persons; and
- C. Would not be living in the unit except to provide the necessary supportive services. (24 CFR 5.403(b))

Low-Income Families: Those families whose incomes do not exceed 80% of the median income for the area, as determined by the Secretary with adjustments for smaller and larger families, except that the Secretary may establish income ceilings higher or lower than 80% of the median for the area on the basis of the Secretary's findings that such variations are necessary because of prevailing levels of construction costs or unusually high or low family incomes. (1937Act)

Medical Expenses: Medical expenses (of all family members of an elderly or disabled family), including medical insurance premiums, that are anticipated during the period for which annual income is computed and that are not covered by insurance. (24 CFR 5.603(d)). These expenses include, but are not limited to, prescription and non-prescription drugs, costs for doctors, dentists, therapists, medical facilities, care for a service animals, transportation for medical purposes.

Mixed Family: A family whose members include those with citizenship or eligible immigration status and those without citizenship or eligible immigration status. (24 CFR 5.504(b))

Monthly Adjusted Income: One twelfth of adjusted income. (24 CFR 5.603(d))

Monthly Income: One twelfth of annual income. (24 CFR 5.603(d))

National: A person who owes permanent allegiance to the United States, for example, as a result of birth in a United States territory or possession. (24 CFR 5.504(b))

Near-Elderly Family: A family whose head, spouse, or sole member is a person who is at least 50 years of age but below the age of 62; two or more persons, who are at least 50 years of age but below the age of 62, living together; or one or more persons who are at least 50 years of age but below the age of 62 living with one or more live-in aides. (24 CFR 5.403(b))

Net Family Assets:

- A. Net cash value after deducting reasonable costs that would be incurred in disposing of real property, savings, stocks, bonds, and other forms of capital investment, excluding interests in Indian trust land and excluding equity accounts in HUD homeownership programs. The value of necessary items of personal property such as furniture and automobiles shall be excluded.
- B. In cases where a trust fund has been established and the trust is not revocable by, or under the control of, any member of the family or household, the value of the trust fund will not be considered an asset so long as the fund continues to be held in trust. Any income distributed from the trust fund shall be counted when determining annual income.
- C. In determining net family assets, housing authorities or owners, as applicable, shall include the value of any business or family assets disposed of by an applicant or resident for less than fair market value (including a disposition in trust, but not in a foreclosure or bankruptcy sale) during the two years preceding the date of application for the program or reexamination, as applicable, in excess of the consideration received therefor. In the case of a disposition as part of a separation or

divorce settlement, the disposition will not be considered to be for less than fair market value if the applicant or resident receives important consideration not measurable in dollar terms. (24 CFR 5.603(d))

Non-Citizen: A person who is neither a citizen nor national of the United States. (24 CFR 5.504(b))

Occupancy Standards: The standards that a housing authority establishes for determining the appropriate number of bedrooms needed to house families of different sizes or composition.

Person with Disabilities: A person who:

- A. Has a disability as defined in Section 223 of the Social Security Act, which states:

"Inability to engage in any substantial, gainful activity by reason of any medically determinable physical or mental impairment that can be expected to result in death or that has lasted or can be expected to last for a continuous period of not less than 12 months, or

In the case of an individual who attained the age of 55 and is blind and unable by reason of such blindness to engage in substantial, gainful activity requiring skills or ability comparable to those of any gainful activity in which he has previously engaged with some regularity and over a substantial period of time."

- B. Is determined, pursuant to regulations issued by the Secretary, to have a physical, mental, or emotional impairment that:

1. Is expected to be of long-continued and indefinite duration;
2. Substantially impedes his or her ability to live independently; and
3. Is of such a nature that such ability could be improved by more suitable housing conditions, or

- C. Has a developmental disability as defined in Section 102(7) of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act, which states:

"Severe chronic disability that:

1. Is attributable to a mental or physical impairment or combination of mental and physical impairments;
2. Is manifested before the person attains age 22;
3. Is likely to continue indefinitely;
4. Results in substantial functional limitation in three or more of the following areas of major life activity: (1) self care, (2) receptive and responsive language, (3) learning, (4) mobility, (e) self-direction, (6) capacity for independent living, and (7) economic self-sufficiency; and

5. Reflects the person's need for a combination and sequence of special, interdisciplinary, or generic care, treatment, or other services that are of lifelong or extended duration and are individually planned and coordinated."

This definition does not exclude persons who have the disease of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome or any conditions arising from the etiologic agent for acquired immunodeficiency syndrome. (1937 Act)

No individual shall be considered to be a person with disabilities for purposes of eligibility solely based on any drug or alcohol dependence.

Proration of Assistance: The reduction in a family's housing assistance payment to reflect the proportion of family members in a mixed family who are eligible for assistance. (24 CFR 5.520)

Public Housing Agency (PHA): Any State, county, municipality, or other governmental entity or public body (or agency or instrumentality thereof) which is authorized to engage in or assist in the development or operation of low-income housing under the 1937 Housing Act. (24 CFR 5.100)

Recertification: The annual reexamination of a family's income, expenses, and composition to determine the family's rent.

Remaining Member of a Resident Family: A member of the family listed on the lease who continues to live in the public housing dwelling after all other family members have left. (Handbook 7565.1 REV-2, 3-5b.)

Self-Declaration: A type of verification statement by the resident as to the amount and source of income, expenses, or family composition. Self-declaration is acceptable verification only when third-party verification or documentation cannot be obtained.

Shelter Allowance: That portion of a welfare benefit (e.g., TANF) that the welfare agency designates to be used for rent and utilities.

Single Person: Someone living alone or intending to live alone who does not qualify as an elderly family, a person with disabilities, a displaced person, or the remaining member of a resident family. (Public Housing: Handbook 7465.1 REV-2, 3-5)

State Wage Information Collection Agency (SWICA): The State agency receiving quarterly wage reports from employers in the State or an alternative system that has been determined by the Secretary of Labor to be as effective and timely in providing employment-related income and eligibility information. (24 CFR 5.214)

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF): The program that replaced the Assistance to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) that provides financial assistance to needy families who meet program eligibility criteria. Benefits are limited to a specified time period.

Resident: The person or family renting or occupying an assisted dwelling unit. (24 CFR 5.504(b))

Resident Rent: The amount payable monthly by the family as rent to the housing authority. Where all utilities (except telephone) and other essential housing services are supplied by the housing authority or owner, resident rent equals total resident payment. Where some or all utilities (except telephone) and other essential housing services are supplied by the housing authority and the cost thereof is not included in the amount paid as rent, resident rent equals total resident payment less the utility allowance. (24 CFR 5.603(d))

Third-Party (verification): Written or oral confirmation of a family's income, expenses, or household composition provided by a source outside the household.

Total Resident Payment (TTP):

A. Total resident payment for families whose initial lease is effective on or after August 1, 1982:

1. Total resident payment is the amount calculated under Section 3(a)(1) of the 1937 Act which is the higher of :
 - a. 30% of the family's monthly adjusted income;
 - b. 10% of the family's monthly income; or
 - c. If the family is receiving payments for welfare assistance from a public agency and a part of such payments, adjusted in accordance with the family's actual housing costs, is specifically designated by such agency to meet the family's housing costs, the portion of such payments which is so designated.

If the family's welfare assistance is ratably reduced from the standard of need by applying a percentage, the amount calculated under section 3(a)(1) shall be the amount resulting from one application of the percentage.

2. Total resident payment for families residing in public housing does not include charges for excess utility consumption or other miscellaneous charges.

- B. Total resident payment for families residing in public housing whose initial lease was effective before August 1, 1982: Paragraphs (b) and (c) of 24 CFR 913.107, as it existed immediately before November 18, 1996), will continue to govern the total resident payment of families, under a public housing program, whose initial lease was effective before August 1, 1982.

Utility Allowance: If the cost of utilities (except telephone) and other housing services for an assisted unit is not included in the resident rent but is the responsibility of the family occupying the unit, an amount equal to the estimate made by a housing authority of the monthly cost of a reasonable consumption of such utilities and other services for the unit by an energy-conservative household of modest circumstances consistent with the requirements of a safe, sanitary, and healthful living environment. (24 CFR 5.603)

Utility Reimbursement: The amount, if any, by which the utility allowance for the unit, if applicable, exceeds the total resident payment for the family occupying the unit. (24 CFR 5.603)

Very Low-Income Families: Low-income families whose incomes do not exceed 50% of the median family income for the area, as determined by the Secretary with adjustments for smaller and larger families, except that the Secretary may establish income ceilings higher or lower than 50% of the median for the areas on the basis of the Secretary's findings that such variations are necessary because of unusually high or low family incomes. Such ceilings shall be established in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture for any rural area, as defined in Section 520 of the Housing Act of 1949, taking into account the subsidy characteristics and types of programs to which such ceilings apply. (1937 Act)

Welfare Assistance: Welfare or other payments to families or individuals, based on need, that are made under programs funded by Federal, State or local governments. (24 CFR 5.603(d))

Welfare Rent: In "as-paid" welfare programs, the amount of the welfare benefit designated for shelter and utilities.

APPENDIX B

ACRONYMS

ACC	Annual Contributions Contract
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
FSS	Family Self Sufficiency (program)
HCDA	Housing and Community Development Act
HQS	Housing Quality Standards
HUD	Department of Housing and Urban Development
INS	(U.S.) Immigration and Naturalization Service
NAHA	(Cranston-Gonzalez) National Affordable Housing Act
NOFA	Notice of Funding Availability
OMB	(U.S.) Office of Management and Budget
PHA	Public Housing Agency
QHWR	Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act of 1998
SSA	Social Security Administration
TTP	Total Resident Payment

APPENDIX C

ST. CLAIR COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY

REVISED INCOME LIMITS ALL PROGRAMS

EFFECTIVE MARCH 2008

<u># OF PERSONS</u>	<u>30% OF MEDIAN</u>	<u>VERY LOW INCOME</u>	<u>LOW INCOME</u>
1	\$13,850	\$23,050	\$36,900
2	\$15,800	\$26,350	\$42,200
3	\$17,800	\$29,650	\$47,450
4	\$19,750	\$32,950	\$52,700
5	\$21,350	\$35,600	\$56,950
6	\$22,950	\$38,200	\$61,150
7	\$24,500	\$40,850	\$65,350
8	\$26,100	\$43,500	\$69,600

APPENDIX E

SECURITY DEPOSITS

The following Security Deposits are required to be paid by all tenants at the time a Lease Agreement is signed, and prior to moving in, unless other arrangements are approved by SCCHA.

All units (except single family houses)	Greater of \$200.00 or Net Tenant Payment (one months rent)
Single family houses	Greater of \$300.00 or Net Tenant Payment (one months rent)
Pet Deposit – Elderly	\$200.00
Pet Deposit – Family	\$200.00