

# HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF FALLS CITY COMMUNITY SERVICE AND SELF SUFFICIENCY POLICY

RESOLUTION NO.

DATE ADOPTED

## 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, or (3) perform eight hours per month of combined activities unless they are exempt from this requirement. The eight hours of activity may be completed each month or aggregated across a year, as long as 96 hours are completed by each annual certification.

## EXEMPTIONS

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

- A. Family members who are 62 or older.
- B. Family members who are:
  1. blind or disabled as defined under 216(I)(1) or 1614 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 416(I)(1), Section 1382(c)) and who certify that because of this disability, she or he is unable to comply with the community service requirements; or
  2. Family members who are the primary care giver of such individual.
- C. Family members engaged in work activities as defined in section 407(d) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. Section 607(d)), specified below: (**minimum of ten hours a week**)
  1. Unsubsidized employment;
  2. Subsidized private-sector employment;
  3. Subsidized public-sector employment;
  4. Work experience (including work associated with the refurbishing of publicly assisted housing) if sufficient private sector employment is not available;
  5. On-the-job-training;
  6. Job-search;
  7. Community service programs;
  8. Vocational educational training (not to exceed 12 months with respect to any individual);

9. Job-skills training directly related to employment;
  10. Education directly related to employment in the case of a recipient who has not received a high school diploma or a certificate of high school equivalency; and
  11. Satisfactory attendance at secondary school or in a course of study leading to a certificate of general equivalence, in the case of a recipient who has not completed secondary school or received such a certificate.
- D. Able to meet requirements under a State program funded under Part A of Title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. Section 601 et seq.) or under any other welfare program in our State, including a State-administered Welfare-to-Work program; or
- E. A member of a family receiving assistance, benefits, or services under a State program funded under Part A of Title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. Section 601 et seq.), or under any other welfare program of our State (HUD has determined that the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) qualifies as a welfare program of the state. Therefore, if a tenant is a member of a family receiving assistance under SNAP, and has been found by the State to be in compliance with the program requirements, that tenant is exempt from the CSSR, including a State-administered Welfare-to-Work program, and has not been found by the State or other administering entity to be in non-compliance with such a program.

#### NOTIFICATION OF THE REQUIREMENT

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

The Falls City 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 in writing. The Falls City Housing Authority shall verify such claims. If a resident does not agree with the Falls City Housing Authority's determination, he or she can appeal by following the Grievance Policy. Changes in exempt or non-exempt status of a resident shall be reported by the resident to the Falls City Housing Authority within ten (10) calendar days of the change.

At lease execution or re-examination, all adult members (18 or older) of a public housing resident family must:

- A. Provide all requested documentation, if applicable, that they qualify for an exemption; (Documentation provided by the tenant will be used (and verified if necessary) by the Falls City Housing Authority to determine whether the tenant is

exempt from the CSSR), and

- B. Sign a certification that they have received and read the policy and understand that, if they are not exempt, failure to comply with the community service requirement will result in non-renewal of their lease, per 24 CFR 966.4(1)(2)(iii)(D).

When a non-exempt person becomes exempt, it is his or her responsibility to report this to the Falls City Housing Authority and provide documentation. When an exempt person becomes non exempt, it is his or her responsibility to report this to the Falls City Housing Authority as soon as possible.

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Eligible community service activities include, but are not limited to, serving at:

- A. Local public or non-profit institutions, such as schools, Head Start Programs, before- or after-school programs, childcare centers, hospitals, clinics, hospices, nursing homes, recreation centers, senior centers, adult daycare programs, homeless shelters, feeding programs, food banks (distributing either donated or commodity foods), or clothes closets (distributing donated clothing);
- B. Non-profit organizations serving Falls City Housing Authority residents or their children, such as: Boy or Girl Scouts, 4-H Clubs, organized children's recreation, mentoring, or education programs, community clean-up programs, beautification programs;
- C. Programs funded under the Older American Act, such as Green Thumb, Service Corps of Retired Executives, senior meals programs, senior centers, Meals on Wheels;
- D. Public or non-profit organizations dedicated to seniors, youth, children, residents, citizens, special-needs populations or with missions to enhance the environment, historic resources, cultural identities, neighborhoods or performing arts;
- E. The Falls City Housing Authority may create volunteer positions such as hall monitoring, litter patrol, and supervising and record keeping for volunteers (so long as such work does not alter the Falls City Housing Authority's insurance coverage).
- F. Care for the children of other residents so parents may volunteer.

In order to facilitate easier documentation of the community service provided, residents shall work exclusively for non-profits. Any required court-ordered community service or probation-based work shall not count towards a resident's required 8 hours per month of community service.

Eligible self-sufficiency activities include, but are not limited to:

- A. Job readiness or job training while not employed;
- B. Training programs through local One-Stop Career Centers, Workforce Investment Boards (local entities administered through the U.S. Department of Labor), or other training providers;
- C. Higher education (junior college or college);
- D. Apprenticeships (formal or informal);
- E. Substance abuse or mental health counseling;
- F. Reading, financial and/or computer literacy classes; or
- G. English as a Second Language and/or English proficiency classes.

THE PROCESS

Upon admission and each annual reexamination thereafter, the Falls City 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.

At each regularly scheduled rent re-examination, each non-exempt family member will present a signed certification on a form provided by the Falls City Housing Authority of CSSR activities performed over the previous twelve (12) months. The Falls City Housing Authority will obtain third-party verification of CSSR completion administered through outside organizations.

NOTIFICATION OF NON-COMPLIANCE WITH COMMUNITY SERVICE REQUIREMENT

At least thirty (30) days prior to annual reexamination and/or lease, the Falls City Housing Authority will begin reviewing the exempt or non-exempt status on compliance of family members. The Falls City 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, a right to be represented by counsel, and the opportunity to any available judicial remedy; and

- C. That, unless the family member(s) enter into an agreement to comply, the lease will not be renewed or will be terminated;

OPPORTUNITY FOR CURE

The Falls City Housing Authority will offer the family member(s) the opportunity to enter into an agreement prior to the second annual renewal date 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. It will state the number of hours that the family member is deficient. 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 Housing Authority 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, the Falls City Housing Authority shall take action to terminate the lease unless the noncompliant family member no longer lives in the unit.

PROHIBITION AGAINST REPLACEMENT OF AGENCY EMPLOYEES

In implementing the service requirement, the Falls City Housing Authority may not substitute community service activities performed by residents to replace a Housing Authority employment position at any location.