

Chapter 15

SPECIAL HOUSING TYPES

[24 CFR 982 Subpart M]

INTRODUCTION

MBHA may permit a family to use any of the special housing types discussed in this chapter. However, MBHA is not required to permit families receiving assistance in its jurisdiction to use these housing types, except that MBHA must permit use of any special housing type if needed as a reasonable accommodation for a person with a disability. MBHA also may limit the number of families who receive HCV assistance in these housing types and cannot require families to use a particular housing type. No special funding is provided for special housing types.

MBHA Policy

Families will not be permitted to use any special housing types, unless use is needed as a reasonable accommodation so that the program is readily accessible to a person with disabilities.

Special housing types include single room occupancy (SRO), congregate housing, group homes, shared housing, cooperative housing, manufactured homes where the family owns the home and leases the space, and homeownership [24 CFR 982.601].

This chapter consists of the following seven parts. Each part contains a description of the housing type and any special requirements associated with it. Except as modified by this chapter, the general requirements of the HCV program apply to special housing types.

Part I: Single Room Occupancy

Part II: Congregate Housing

Part III: Group Homes

Part IV: Shared Housing

Part V: Cooperative Housing

Part VI: Manufactured Homes (including manufactured home space rental)

Part VII: Homeownership

PART I: SINGLE ROOM OCCUPANCY

[24 CFR 982.602 through 982.605]

15-I.A. OVERVIEW

A single room occupancy (SRO) unit provides living and sleeping space for the exclusive use of the occupant but requires the occupant to share sanitary and/or food preparation facilities with others. More than one person may not occupy an SRO unit. HCV regulations do not limit the number of units in an SRO facility, but the size of a facility may be limited by local ordinances.

When providing HCV assistance in an SRO unit, a separate lease and HAP contract are executed for each assisted person, and the standard form of the HAP contract is used.

15-I.B. PAYMENT STANDARD, UTILITY ALLOWANCE, AND HAP CALCULATION

The payment standard for SRO housing is 75 percent of the zero-bedroom payment standard amount on MBHA's payment standard schedule.

The utility allowance for an assisted person residing in SRO housing is 75 percent of the zero bedroom utility allowance.

The HAP for an assisted occupant in an SRO facility is the lower of the SRO payment standard amount minus the TTP or the gross rent for the unit minus the TTP.

15-I.C. HOUSING QUALITY STANDARDS (HQS)

HQS requirements described in Chapter 8 apply to SRO housing except as modified below.

- *Access:* Access doors to the SRO unit must have working locks for privacy. The occupant must be able to access the unit without going through any other unit. Each unit must have immediate access to two or more approved means of exit from the building, appropriately marked and leading to safe and open space at ground level. The SRO unit must also have any other means of exit required by State or local law.
- *Fire Safety:* All SRO facilities must have a sprinkler system that protects major spaces. "Major spaces" are defined as hallways, common areas, and any other areas specified in local fire, building, or safety codes. SROs must also have hard-wired smoke detectors, and any other fire and safety equipment required by state or local law.

Sanitary facilities and space and security standards must meet local code requirements for SRO housing. In the absence of local code standards the requirements discussed below apply [24 CFR 982.605].

- *Sanitary Facilities:* At least one flush toilet that can be used in privacy, a lavatory basin, and a bathtub or shower in proper operating condition must be provided for each six persons (or fewer) residing in the SRO facility. If the SRO units are leased only to men, flush urinals may be substituted for up to one half of the required number of toilets. Sanitary facilities must be reasonably accessible from a common hall or passageway, and may not be located more than one floor above or below the SRO unit. They may not be located below grade unless the SRO units are located on that level.
- *Space and Security:* An SRO unit must contain at least 110 square feet of floor space, and at least four square feet of closet space with an unobstructed height of at least five feet, for use by the occupant. If the closet space is less than four square feet, the habitable floor space in the SRO unit must be increased by the amount of the deficiency. Exterior doors and windows accessible from outside the SRO unit must be lockable.

Because no children live in SRO housing, the housing quality standards applicable to lead-based paint do not apply.

PART II: CONGREGATE HOUSING

[24 CFR 982.606 through 982.609]

15-II.A. OVERVIEW

Congregate housing is intended for use by elderly persons or persons with disabilities. A congregate housing facility contains a shared central kitchen and dining area and a private living area for the individual household that includes at least a living room, bedroom and bathroom. Food service for residents must be provided.

If approved by MBHA a family member or live-in aide may reside with the elderly person or person with disabilities. MBHA must approve a live-in aide if needed as a reasonable accommodation so that the program is readily accessible to and usable by persons with disabilities.

When providing HCV assistance in congregate housing, a separate lease and HAP contract are executed for each assisted family, and the standard form of the HAP contract is used.

15-II.B. PAYMENT STANDARD, UTILITY ALLOWANCE, AND HAP CALCULATION

The payment standard for an individual unit in a congregate housing facility is based on the number of rooms in the private living area. If there is only one room in the unit (not including the bathroom or the kitchen, if a kitchen is provided), MBHA must use the payment standard for a zero-bedroom unit. If the unit has two or more rooms (other than the bathroom and the kitchen), MBHA must use the one-bedroom payment standard.

The HAP for an assisted occupant in a congregate housing facility is the lower of the applicable payment standard minus the TTP or the gross rent for the unit minus the TTP.

The gross rent for the unit for the purpose of calculating HCV assistance is the shelter portion (including utilities) of the resident's monthly housing expense only. The residents' costs for food service should not be included in the rent for a congregate housing unit.

15-II.C. HOUSING QUALITY STANDARDS

HQS requirements as described in Chapter 8 apply to congregate housing except for the requirements stated below.

Congregate housing must have (1) a refrigerator of appropriate size in the private living area of each resident; (2) a central kitchen and dining facilities located within the premises and accessible to the residents, and (3) food service for the residents, that is not provided by the residents themselves.

The housing quality standards applicable to lead-based paint do not apply.

PART III: GROUP HOME

[24 CFR 982.610 through 982.614 and HCV GB p. 7-4]

15-III.A. OVERVIEW

A group home is a state-licensed facility intended for occupancy by elderly persons and/or persons with disabilities. Except for live-in aides, all persons living in a group home, whether assisted or not, must be elderly persons or persons with disabilities. Persons living in a group home must not require continuous medical or nursing care.

A group home consists of bedrooms for residents, which can be shared by no more than two people, and a living room, kitchen, dining area, bathroom, and other appropriate social, recreational, or community space that may be shared with other residents.

No more than 12 persons may reside in a group home including assisted and unassisted residents and any live-in aides.

If approved by MBHA, a live-in aide may live in the group home with a person with disabilities. MBHA must approve a live-in aide if needed as a reasonable accommodation so that the program is readily accessible to and usable by persons with disabilities.

When providing HCV assistance in a group home, a separate lease and HAP contract is executed for each assisted family, and the standard form of the HAP contract is used.

15-III.B. PAYMENT STANDARD, UTILITY ALLOWANCE, AND HAP CALCULATION

Unless there is a live-in aide, the family unit size for an assisted occupant of a group home must be zero- or one-bedroom, depending on MBHA's subsidy standard. If there is a live-in aide, the aide must be counted in determining the household's unit size.

The payment standard used to calculate the HAP is the lower of the payment standard for the family unit size or the prorata share of the payment standard for the group home size. The prorata share is calculated by dividing the number of persons in the assisted household by the number of persons (assisted and unassisted) living in the group home.

The HAP for an assisted occupant in a group home is the lower of the payment standard minus the TTP or the gross rent minus the TTP.

The utility allowance for an assisted occupant in a group home is the prorata share of the utility allowance for the group home.

The rents paid for participants residing in group homes are subject to generally applicable standards for rent reasonableness. The rent for an assisted person must not exceed the prorata portion of the reasonable rent for the group home. In determining reasonable rent, MBHA should consider whether sanitary facilities and facilities for food preparation and service are common facilities or private facilities.

15-III.C. HOUSING QUALITY STANDARDS

HQS requirements described in Chapter 8 apply to group homes except for the requirements stated below.

- *Sanitary Facilities:* A group home must have at least one bathroom in the facility, with a flush toilet that can be used in privacy, a fixed basin with hot and cold running water, and a shower or bathtub with hot and cold running water. A group home may contain private or common bathrooms. However, no more than four residents can be required to share a bathroom.
- *Food Preparation and Service:* Group home units must contain a kitchen and dining area with adequate space to store, prepare, and serve food. The facilities for food preparation and service may be private or may be shared by the residents. The kitchen must contain a range, an oven, a refrigerator, and a sink with hot and cold running water. The sink must drain into an approvable public or private disposal system.
- *Space and Security:* Group homes must contain at least one bedroom of appropriate size for every two people, and a living room, kitchen, dining area, bathroom, and other appropriate social, recreational, or community space that may be shared with other residents.
- *Structure and Material:* To avoid any threat to the health and safety of the residents, group homes must be structurally sound. Elevators must be in good condition. Group homes must be accessible to and usable by residents with disabilities.
- *Site and Neighborhood:* Group homes must be located in a residential setting. The site and neighborhood should be reasonably free from hazards to the health, safety, and general welfare of the residents, and should not be subject to serious adverse conditions, such as:
 - Dangerous walks or steps
 - Instability
 - Flooding, poor drainage
 - Septic tank back-ups
 - Sewage hazards
 - Mud slides
 - Abnormal air pollution
 - Smoke or dust
 - Excessive noise
 - Vibrations or vehicular traffic
 - Excessive accumulations of trash
 - Vermin or rodent infestation, and
 - Fire hazards.

The housing quality standards applicable to lead-based paint do not apply.

PART IV: SHARED HOUSING

[24 CFR 982.615 through 982.618]

15-IV.I. OVERVIEW

Shared housing is a single housing unit occupied by an assisted family and another resident or residents. The shared unit consists of both common space for use by the occupants of the unit and separate private space for each assisted family.

An assisted family may share a unit with other persons assisted under the HCV program or with other unassisted persons. The owner of a shared housing unit may reside in the unit, but housing assistance may not be paid on behalf of the owner. The resident owner may not be related by blood or marriage to the assisted family.

If approved by MBHA, a live-in aide may reside with the family to care for a person with disabilities. MBHA must approve a live-in aide if needed as a reasonable accommodation so that the program is readily accessible to and usable by persons with disabilities.

When providing HCV assistance in shared housing, a separate lease and HAP contract are executed for each assisted family, and the standard form of the HAP contract is used.

15-IV.B. PAYMENT STANDARD, UTILITY ALLOWANCE AND HAP CALCULATION

The payment standard for a family in shared housing is the lower of the payment standard for the family unit size or the prorata share of the payment standard for the shared housing unit size.

The prorata share is calculated by dividing the number of bedrooms available for occupancy by the assisted family in the private space by the total number of bedrooms in the unit.

The HAP for a family in shared housing is the lower of the payment standard minus the TTP or the gross rent minus the TTP. The utility allowance for an assisted family living in shared housing is the prorata share of the utility allowance for the shared housing unit.

The rents paid for families living in shared housing are subject to generally applicable standards for rent reasonableness. The rent paid to the owner for the assisted family must not exceed the pro-rata portion of the reasonable rent for the shared unit. In determining reasonable rent, MBHA should consider whether sanitary and food preparation areas are private or shared.

15-IV.C. HOUSING QUALITY STANDARDS

MBHA may not give approval to reside in shared housing unless the entire unit, including the portion of the unit available for use by the assisted family under its lease, meets the housing quality standards.

HQS requirements described in Chapter 8 apply to shared housing except for the requirements stated below.

- *Facilities Available for the Family:* Facilities available to the assisted family, whether shared or private, must include a living room, a bathroom, and food preparation and refuse disposal facilities.
- *Space and Security:* The entire unit must provide adequate space and security for all assisted and unassisted residents. The private space for each assisted family must contain at least one bedroom for each two persons in the family. The number of bedrooms in the private space of an assisted family must not be less than the family unit size. A zero-bedroom or one-bedroom unit may not be used for shared housing.

PART V: COOPERATIVE HOUSING

[24 CFR 982.619]

15-V.A. OVERVIEW

This part applies to rental assistance for a cooperative member residing in cooperative housing. It does not apply to assistance for a cooperative member who has purchased membership under the HCV homeownership option, or to rental assistance for a family that leases a cooperative housing unit from a cooperative member.

A cooperative is a form of ownership (nonprofit corporation or association) in which the residents purchase memberships in the ownership entity. Rather than being charged “rent” a cooperative member is charged a “carrying charge.”

When providing HCV assistance in cooperative housing, the standard form of the HAP contract is used.

15-V.B. PAYMENT STANDARD, UTILITY ALLOWANCE AND HAP CALCULATION

The payment standard and utility allowance are determined according to regular HCV program requirements.

The HAP for a cooperative housing unit is the lower of the payment standard minus the TTP or the monthly carrying charge for the unit, plus any utility allowance, minus the TTP. The monthly carrying charge includes the member’s share of the cooperative debt service, operating expenses, and necessary payments to cooperative reserve funds. The carrying charge does not include down payments or other payments to purchase the cooperative unit or to amortize a loan made to the family for this purpose.

15-V.C. HOUSING QUALITY STANDARDS

All standard HQS requirements apply to cooperative housing units. There are no additional HQS requirements.

PART VI: MANUFACTURED HOMES

[24 CFR 982.620 through 982.624]

15-VI.A. OVERVIEW

A manufactured home is a manufactured structure, transportable in one or more parts, that is built on a permanent chassis, and designed for use as a principal place of residence. HCV-assisted families may occupy manufactured homes in two different ways.

(1) A family can choose to rent a manufactured home already installed on a space and MBHA must permit it. In this instance program rules are the same as when a family rents any other residential housing, except that there are special HQS requirements as provided in 15-VI.D below.

(2) HUD also permits an otherwise eligible family that owns a manufactured home to rent a space for the manufactured home and receive HCV assistance with the rent for the space. MBHA may, but is not required to, provide assistance for such families.

15-VI.B. SPECIAL POLICIES FOR MANUFACTURED HOME OWNERS WHO LEASE A SPACE

Family Income

In determining the annual income of families leasing manufactured home spaces, the value of the family's equity in the manufactured home in which the family resides is not counted as a family asset.

Lease and HAP Contract

There is a separate Tenancy Addendum (**Form 52642-a**) and separate HAP Contract (**Form 52642**) for this special housing type.

15-VI.C. PAYMENT STANDARD, UTILITY ALLOWANCE AND HAP CALCULATION

Payment Standards

The FMR for a manufactured home space is generally 40 percent of the published FMR for a two-bedroom unit or, where approved by HUD, the 40th percentile of the rental distribution of manufactured home spaces for the FMR area. MBHA may establish a payment standard for manufactured home spaces that is between 90-110 percent of the FMR for manufactured home spaces.

Utility Allowance

MBHA must establish utility allowances for manufactured home space rental. For the first 12 months of the initial lease term only, the allowance must include an amount for a utility hook-up charge if the family actually incurred a hook-up charge because of a move. This allowance will not be given to a family that leases in place. Utility allowances for manufactured home space must not include the costs of digging a well or installing a septic system.

Space Rent

The space rent is the sum of the rent to the owner for the manufactured home space, any charges for maintenance and management provided by the owner, and the utility allowance for tenant-paid utilities.

Housing Assistance Payment

The HAP for a manufactured home space under the housing choice voucher program is the lower of the payment standard minus the TTP or the (gross) manufactured home space rent minus the TTP.

Rent Reasonableness

Initially, and annually thereafter MBHA must determine that the rent for the manufactured home space is reasonable based on rents for comparable manufactured home spaces. MBHA must consider the location and size of the space, and any services and maintenance to be provided by the owner. By accepting the monthly HAP check, the owner certifies that the rent does not exceed rents charged by the owner for comparable unassisted spaces in the manufactured home park or elsewhere.

15-VI.D. HOUSING QUALITY STANDARDS

Under either type of occupancy described in 15-VI.A above, the manufactured home must meet all HQS performance requirements and acceptability criteria discussed in Chapter 8 of this plan. In addition, the following requirement applies:

Manufactured Home Tie-Down

A manufactured home must be placed on the site in a stable manner, and must be free from hazards such as sliding or wind damage. The home must be securely anchored by a tie-down device that distributes and transfers the loads imposed by the unit to appropriate ground anchors to resist overturning and sliding.

PART VII: HOMEOWNERSHIP

[24 CFR 982.625 through 982.643]

15-VII.A. OVERVIEW [24 CFR 982.625]

The homeownership option is used to assist a family residing in a home purchased and owned by one or more members of the family. A family assisted under this option may be newly admitted or an existing participant in the HCV program. MBHA must have the capacity to operate a successful HCV homeownership program as defined by the regulations.

There are two forms of homeownership assistance MBHA may offer under this option: monthly homeownership assistance payments, or a single down payment assistance grant. MBHA may choose to offer either or both forms of homeownership assistance, or choose not to offer either. If MBHA offers both forms of assistance, a family must choose which form of assistance to receive.

MBHA must offer either form of homeownership assistance if needed as a reasonable accommodation so that the program is readily accessible to and usable by persons with disabilities. It is the sole responsibility of MBHA to determine whether it is reasonable to implement a homeownership program as a reasonable accommodation. MBHA must determine what is reasonable based on the specific circumstances and individual needs of the person with a disability. MBHA may determine that it is not reasonable to offer homeownership assistance as a reasonable accommodation in cases where MBHA has otherwise opted not to implement a homeownership program.

MBHA must approve a live-in aide if needed as a reasonable accommodation so that the program is readily accessible to and usable by persons with disabilities.

15-VII.B. FAMILY ELIGIBILITY [24 CFR 982.627]

The family must meet all of the requirements listed below before the commencement of homeownership assistance. MBHA may also establish additional initial requirements as long as they are described in MBHA administrative plan.

- The family must have been admitted to the Housing Choice Voucher program.
- The family must qualify as a first-time homeowner, or may be a cooperative member.
- The family must meet the Federal minimum income requirement. The family must have a gross annual income equal to the Federal minimum wage multiplied by 2000, based on the income of adult family members who will own the home. MBHA may establish a higher income standard for families. However, a family that meets the federal minimum income requirement (but not MBHA's requirement) will be considered to meet the minimum income requirement if it can demonstrate that it has been pre-qualified or pre-approved for financing that is sufficient to purchase an eligible unit.
- For disabled families, the minimum income requirement is equal to the current SSI monthly payment for an individual living alone, multiplied by 12.
- For elderly or disabled families, welfare assistance payments for adult family members who will own the home will be included in determining whether the family meets the minimum income requirement. It will not be included for other families.
- The family must satisfy the employment requirements by demonstrating that one or more adult members of the family who will own the home at commencement of homeownership assistance is currently employed on a full-time basis (the term 'full-time employment' means not less than an average of 30 hours per week); and has been continuously so employed during the year before commencement of homeownership assistance for the family.
- The employment requirement does not apply to elderly and disabled families. In addition, if a family, other than an elderly or disabled family includes a person with disabilities, MBHA must grant an exemption from the employment requirement if MBHA determines that it is needed as a reasonable accommodation.
- The family has not defaulted on a mortgage securing debt to purchase a home under the homeownership option
- Except for cooperative members who have acquired cooperative membership shares prior to commencement of homeownership assistance, no family member has a present ownership interest in a residence at the commencement of homeownership assistance for the purchase of any home.
- Except for cooperative members who have acquired cooperative membership shares prior to the commencement of homeownership assistance, the family has entered a contract of sale in accordance with **24 CFR 982.631(c)**.

15-VII.C. SELECTION OF FAMILIES [24 CFR 982.626]

Unless otherwise provided (under the homeownership option), MBHA may limit homeownership assistance to families or purposes defined by MBHA, and may prescribe additional requirements for commencement of homeownership assistance for a family. Any such limits or additional requirements must be described in MBHA administrative plan.

If MBHA limits the number of families that may participate in the homeownership option, MBHA must establish a system by which to select families to participate.

15-VII.D. ELIGIBLE UNITS [24 CFR 982.628]

In order for a unit to be eligible, MBHA must determine that the unit satisfies all of the following requirements:

- The unit must meet HUD's "eligible housing" requirements. The unit may not be any of the following:
 - A public housing or Indian housing unit;
 - A unit receiving Section 8 project-based assistance;
 - A nursing home, board and care home, or facility providing continual psychiatric, medical or nursing services;
 - A college or other school dormitory;
 - On the grounds of penal, reformatory, medical, mental, or similar public or private institutions.
- The unit must be under construction or already exist at the time the family enters into the contract of sale.
- The unit must be a one-unit property or a single dwelling unit in a cooperative or condominium.
- The unit must have been inspected by MBHA and by an independent inspector designated by the family.
- The unit must meet Housing Quality Standards (see Chapter 8).
- For a unit where the family will not own fee title to the real property (such as a manufactured home), the home must have a permanent foundation and the family must have the right to occupy the site for at least 40 years.

- For MBHA-owned units all of the following conditions must be satisfied:
 - MBHA informs the family, both orally and in writing, that the family has the right to purchase any eligible unit and a MBHA-owned unit is freely selected by the family without MBHA pressure or steering;
 - The unit is not ineligible housing;
 - MBHA obtains the services of an independent agency to inspect the unit for compliance with HQS, review the independent inspection report, review the contract of sale, determine the reasonableness of the sales price and any MBHA provided financing. All of these actions must be completed in accordance with program requirements.

MBHA must not approve the unit if MBHA has been informed that the seller is debarred, suspended, or subject to a limited denial of participation.

**15-VII.E. ADDITIONAL MBHA REQUIREMENTS FOR SEARCH AND PURCHASE
[24 CFR 982.629]**

It is the family's responsibility to find a home that meets the criteria for voucher homeownership assistance. MBHA may establish the maximum time that will be allowed for a family to locate and purchase a home, and may require the family to report on their progress in finding and purchasing a home. If the family is unable to purchase a home within the maximum time established by MBHA, MBHA may issue the family a voucher to lease a unit or place the family's name on the waiting list for a voucher.

15-VII.F. HOMEOWNERSHIP COUNSELING [24 CFR 982.630]

Before commencement of homeownership assistance for a family, the family must attend and satisfactorily complete the pre-assistance homeownership and housing counseling program required by MBHA. If the participant is not successful in purchasing a home within two years of completing the pre-assistance homeownership and housing counseling programs as required, the participant must complete the pre-assistance homeownership and housing counseling program again. HUD suggests the following topics for MBHA-required pre-assistance counseling:

- Home maintenance (including care of the grounds);
- Budgeting and money management;
- Credit counseling;
- How to negotiate the purchase price of a home;
- How to obtain homeownership financing and loan pre-approvals, including a description of types of financing that may be available, and the pros and cons of different types of financing;
- How to find a home, including information about homeownership opportunities, schools, and transportation in MBHA jurisdiction;
- Advantages of purchasing a home in an area that does not have a high concentration of low-income families and how to locate homes in such areas;
- Information on fair housing, including fair housing lending and local fair housing enforcement agencies; and
- Information about the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act (**12 U.S.C. 2601 et seq.**) (RESPA), state and Federal truth-in-lending laws, and how to identify and avoid loans with oppressive terms and conditions.

MBHA may adapt the subjects covered in pre-assistance counseling (as listed) to local circumstances and the needs of individual families.

MBHA may also offer additional counseling after commencement of homeownership assistance (ongoing counseling). If MBHA offers a program of ongoing counseling for participants in the homeownership option, MBHA shall have discretion to determine whether the family is required to participate in the ongoing counseling.

If MBHA does not use a HUD-approved housing counseling agency to provide the counseling, MBHA should ensure that its counseling program is consistent with the counseling provided under HUD's Housing Counseling program.

15-VII.G. HOME INSPECTIONS, CONTRACT OF SALE, AND MBHA DISAPPROVAL OF SELLER [24 CFR 982.631]

Home Inspections

MBHA may not commence monthly homeownership assistance payments or provide down payment assistance grants for a family until MBHA has inspected the unit and has determined that the unit passes HQS.

An independent professional inspector selected by and paid for by the family must also inspect the unit. The independent inspection must cover major building systems and components, including foundation and structure, housing interior and exterior, and the roofing, plumbing, electrical, and heating systems. The independent inspector must be qualified to report on property conditions, including major building systems and components.

MBHA may not require the family to use an independent inspector selected by MBHA. The independent inspector may not be a MBHA employee or contractor, or other person under control of MBHA. However, MBHA may establish standards for qualification of inspectors selected by families under the homeownership option.

MBHA may disapprove a unit for assistance based on information in the independent inspector's report, even if the unit was found to comply with HQS.

Contract of Sale

Before commencement of monthly homeownership assistance payments or receipt of a down payment assistance grant, a member or members of the family must enter into a contract of sale with the seller of the unit to be acquired by the family. The family must give MBHA a copy of the contract of sale. The contract of sale must:

- Specify the price and other terms of sale by the seller to the purchaser;
- Provide that the purchaser will arrange for a pre-purchase inspection of the dwelling unit by an independent inspector selected by the purchaser;
- Provide that the purchaser is not obligated to purchase the unit unless the inspection is satisfactory to the purchaser;
- Provide that the purchaser is not obligated to pay for any necessary repairs; and
- Contain a certification from the seller that the seller has not been debarred, suspended, or subject to a limited denial of participation under **CFR part 24**.

Disapproval of a Seller

In its administrative discretion, MBHA may deny approval of a seller for the same reasons a MBHA may disapprove an owner under the regular HCV program [see **24 CFR 982.306(c)**].

15-VII.H. FINANCING [24 CFR 982.632]

MBHA may establish requirements for financing purchase of a home under the homeownership option. This may include requirements concerning qualification of lenders, terms of financing, restrictions concerning debt secured by the home, lender qualifications, loan terms, and affordability of the debt. MBHA must establish policies describing these requirements in the administrative plan.

MBHA may not require that families acquire financing from one or more specified lenders, thereby restricting the family's ability to secure favorable financing terms.

15-VII.I. CONTINUED ASSISTANCE REQUIREMENTS; FAMILY OBLIGATIONS [24 CFR 982.633]

Homeownership assistance may only be paid while the family is residing in the home. If the family moves out of the home, MBHA may not continue homeownership assistance after the month when the family moves out. The family or lender is not required to refund to MBHA the homeownership assistance for the month when the family moves out.

Before commencement of homeownership assistance, the family must execute a statement in which the family agrees to comply with all family obligations under the homeownership option.

The family must comply with the following obligations:

- The family must comply with the terms of the mortgage securing debt incurred to purchase the home, or any refinancing of such debt.
- The family may not convey or transfer ownership of the home, except for purposes of financing, refinancing, or pending settlement of the estate of a deceased family member. Use and occupancy of the home are subject to **24 CFR 982.551 (h) and (i)**.
- The family must supply information to MBHA or HUD as specified in **24 CFR 982.551(b)**. The family must further supply any information required by MBHA or HUD concerning mortgage financing or refinancing, sale or transfer of any interest in the home, or homeownership expenses.
- The family must notify MBHA before moving out of the home.
- The family must notify MBHA if the family defaults on the mortgage used to purchase the home.
- No family member may have any ownership interest in any other residential property.
- The family must comply with the obligations of a participant family described in **24 CFR 982.551**, except for the following provisions which do not apply to assistance under the homeownership option: **24 CFR 982.551(c), (d), (e), (f), (g) and (j)**.

15-VII.J. MAXIMUM TERM OF HOMEOWNER ASSISTANCE [24 CFR 982.634]

Except in the case of a family that qualifies as an elderly or disabled family, other family members (described below) shall not receive homeownership assistance for more than:

- Fifteen years, if the initial mortgage incurred to finance purchase of the home has a term of 20 years or longer; or
- Ten years, in all other cases.

The maximum term described above applies to any member of the family who:

- Has an ownership interest in the unit during the time that homeownership payments are made; or
- Is the spouse of any member of the household who has an ownership interest in the unit during the time homeownership payments are made.

In the case of an elderly family, the exception only applies if the family qualifies as an elderly family at the start of homeownership assistance. In the case of a disabled family, the exception applies if at any time during receipt of homeownership assistance the family qualifies as a disabled family.

If, during the course of homeownership assistance, the family ceases to qualify as a disabled or elderly family, the maximum term becomes applicable from the date homeownership assistance commenced. However, such a family must be provided at least 6 months of homeownership assistance after the maximum term becomes applicable (provided the family is otherwise eligible to receive homeownership assistance).

If the family has received such assistance for different homes, or from different PHAs, the total of such assistance terms is subject to the maximum term described in this part.

15-VII.K. HOMEOWNERSHIP ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS AND HOMEOWNERSHIP EXPENSES [24 CFR 982.635]

The monthly homeownership assistance payment is the lower of: the voucher payment standard minus the total tenant payment, or the monthly homeownership expenses minus the total tenant payment.

In determining the amount of the homeownership assistance payment, MBHA will use the same payment standard schedule, payment standard amounts, and subsidy standards as those described elsewhere in this plan for the Housing Choice Voucher program. The payment standard for a family is the greater of (i) The payment standard as determined at the commencement of homeownership assistance for occupancy of the home, or (ii) The payment standard at the most recent regular reexamination of family income and composition since the commencement of homeownership assistance for occupancy of the home.

MBHA may pay the homeownership assistance payments directly to the family, or at MBHA's discretion, to a lender on behalf of the family. If the assistance payment exceeds the amount due to the lender, MBHA must pay the excess directly to the family.

Homeownership assistance for a family terminates automatically 180 calendar days after the last homeownership assistance payment on behalf of the family. However, a MBHA may grant relief

from this requirement in those cases where automatic termination would result in extreme hardship for the family.

MBHA must adopt policies for determining the amount of homeownership expenses to be allowed by MBHA in accordance with HUD requirements.

Homeownership expenses (not including cooperatives) only include amounts allowed by MBHA to cover:

- Principal and interest on initial mortgage debt, any refinancing of such debt, and any mortgage insurance premium incurred to finance purchase of the home;
- Real estate taxes and public assessments on the home;
- Home insurance;
- MBHA allowance for maintenance expenses;
- MBHA allowance for costs of major repairs and replacements;
- MBHA utility allowance for the home;
- Principal and interest on mortgage debt incurred to finance costs for major repairs, replacements or improvements for the home. If a member of the family is a person with disabilities, such debt may include debt incurred by the family to finance costs needed to make the home accessible for such person, if MBHA determines that allowance of such costs as homeownership expenses is needed as a reasonable accommodation so that the homeownership option is readily accessible to and usable by such person;
- Land lease payments where a family does not own fee title to the real property on which the home is located; [see **24 CFR 982.628(b)**].
- For a condominium unit, condominium operating charges or maintenance fees assessed by the condominium homeowner association.

Homeownership expenses for a cooperative member may only include amounts allowed by MBHA to cover:

- The cooperative charge under the cooperative occupancy agreement including payment for real estate taxes and public assessments on the home;
- Principal and interest on initial debt incurred to finance purchase of cooperative membership shares and any refinancing of such debt;
- Home insurance;
- MBHA allowance for maintenance expenses;
- MBHA allowance for costs of major repairs and replacements;
- MBHA utility allowance for the home; and
- Principal and interest on debt incurred to finance major repairs, replacements or improvements for the home. If a member of the family is a person with disabilities, such debt may include debt incurred by the family to finance costs needed to make the home accessible for such person, if MBHA determines that allowance of such costs as homeownership

expenses is needed as a reasonable accommodation so that the homeownership option is readily accessible to and usable by such person.

- Cooperative operating charges or maintenance fees assessed by the cooperative homeowner association.

15-VII.L. PORTABILITY [24 CFR 982.636, 982.637, 982.353(b) and (c), 982.552, 982.553]

Subject to the restrictions on portability included in HUD regulations and MBHA policies, a family may exercise portability if the receiving PHA is administering a voucher homeownership program and accepting new homeownership families. The receiving PHA may absorb the family into its voucher program, or bill the initial MBHA.

The family must attend the briefing and counseling sessions required by the receiving PHA. The receiving PHA will determine whether the financing for, and the physical condition of the unit, are acceptable. The receiving PHA must promptly notify the initial PHA (MBHA) if the family has purchased an eligible unit under the program, or if the family is unable to purchase a home within the maximum time established by MBHA.

15-VII.M. MOVING WITH CONTINUED ASSISTANCE [24 CFR 982.637]

A family receiving homeownership assistance may move with continued tenant-based assistance. The family may move with voucher rental assistance or with voucher homeownership assistance. Continued tenant-based assistance for a new unit cannot begin so long as any family member holds title to the prior home.

MBHA may deny permission to move to a new unit with continued voucher assistance:

- If MBHA has insufficient funding to provide continued assistance.
- In accordance with **24 CFR 982.638**, regarding denial or termination of assistance.
- In accordance with MBHA's policy regarding number of moves within a 12-month period.

MBHA must deny the family permission to move to a new unit with continued voucher rental assistance if:

- The family defaulted on an FHA-insured mortgage; and
- The family fails to demonstrate that the family has conveyed, or will convey, title to the home, as required by HUD, to HUD or HUD's designee; and the family has moved, or will move, from the home within the period established or approved by HUD.

15-VII.N. DENIAL OR TERMINATION OF ASSISTANCE [24 CFR 982.638]

At any time, MBHA may deny or terminate homeownership assistance in accordance with HCV program requirements in **24 CFR 982.552** (Grounds for denial or termination of assistance) or **24 CFR 982.553** (Crime by family members).

MBHA may also deny or terminate assistance for violation of participant obligations described in **24 CFR Parts 982.551** or **982.633** and in accordance with its own policy.

MBHA must terminate voucher homeownership assistance for any member of family receiving homeownership assistance that is dispossessed from the home pursuant to a judgment or order of foreclosure on any mortgage (whether FHA insured or non-FHA) securing debt incurred to purchase the home, or any refinancing of such debt.

15-VIII MBHA HOMEOWNERSHIP OPTION

15-VIII. A. PURPOSE

The Housing Authority of Myrtle Beach's homeownership option will provide monthly homeownership payments to promote and support homeownership by a "first-time" homeowner -- a family that meets the definition in this Plan. It allows one or more members of the family to purchase a home. Section 8 payments supplement the family's own income to facilitate the transition from rental to homeownership. The initial availability of these assistance payments helps the families pay the costs of homeownership, and may provide additional assurance for a lender, so that the family can finance purchase of the home.

Section 8 homeownership assistance for a cooperative homeowner is specifically authorized for both families that are first time cooperative homeowners and families that owned its cooperative unit prior to receiving Section 8 assistance.

15-VIII. B. FAMILY PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

- A. In order to assure a successful transition from rental to homeownership, this program shall be open only to those who have been assisted by the Section 8 rental assistance program, lived in public housing for at least 12 months. During this period (the previous 12 months), all program requirements will have been complied with.
- B. Only 5% of the Housing Authority of Myrtle Beach's housing choice vouchers shall be utilized at any one time.
- C. The family is qualified to participate as set forth in Section 15-VIII.3 of this policy.
- D. The unit to be purchased is eligible as set forth in Section 15-VIII.4 of this policy.
- E. The family has satisfactorily completed the required pre-assistance Homeownership counseling.
- F. All participants must certify that they nor anyone in their household Have never committed fraud involving any federal program.

15-VIII. C. FAMILY ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- A. The family has been admitted to the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program and desires to participate in the homeownership program.
- B. At the commencement of homeownership assistance the family must be one of the following:
 - 1. A first-time homeowner;
 - 2. A cooperative member; or
 - 3. A family of which a family member is a person with disabilities, and the use of the homeownership option is needed as a reasonable accommodation so that the program is readily accessible to and usable by such person.
- C. At commencement of homeownership assistance for the family, the family must demonstrate that its total annual income (gross income), as determined by the Housing Authority of Myrtle Beach, of all the adult family members who will

own the home at commencement of homeownership assistance is not less than the Federal minimum hourly wage multiplied by 2,000 hours. However, in the case of disabled families, the minimum income shall be equal to the monthly Federal Supplemental Security Income (SSI) for an individual living alone (or paying his or her share of food and housing costs) multiplied by twelve.

Except in the case of an elderly family or a disabled family, the Housing Authority of Myrtle Beach shall not count any welfare assistance received by the family in determining annual income under this section.

The disregard of welfare assistance income under the preceding paragraph only affects the determination of minimum annual income used to determine if a family initially qualifies for commencement of homeownership assistance in accordance with this section, but does not affect:

1. The determination of income-eligibility for admission to the housing choice voucher program;
2. Calculation of the amount of the family's total tenant payment (gross family contribution); or
3. Calculation of the amount of homeownership assistance payments on behalf of the family.

In the case of an elderly family or a disabled family, welfare assistance shall be counted in determining annual income.

- D. The family must demonstrate that one or more adult members of the family who will own the home at commencement of homeownership assistance:
1. Is currently employed on a full-time basis (the term "full-time employment" means not less than an average of 30 hours per week); and
 2. Has been continuously so employed during the year before commencement of homeownership assistance for the family.

This requirement shall be considered fulfilled if:

1. The family member is self-employed and earning a net income (income after business expenses have been deducted) that equals the federal minimum hourly wage multiplied by 2000 hours; or
2. Any employment interruptions either were not the fault of the family member or were for less than 30 calendar days and caused by an effort to improve the family's situation.

The employment requirement does not apply to an elderly family or a disabled family. Furthermore, if a family other than an elderly family or a disabled family includes a person with disabilities, an exemption from the employment requirement shall be granted if the Housing Authority of Myrtle Beach determines that an exemption is needed as a reasonable accommodation so that the program is readily accessible to and usable by persons with disabilities.

- E. The Housing Authority of Myrtle Beach shall not commence homeownership assistance for a family if any family member has previously received assistance under the homeownership option while an adult, and has defaulted on a mortgage securing debt incurred to purchase the home.
- F. Except for cooperative members who have acquired cooperative membership shares prior to commencement of homeownership assistance, no family member has a present ownership interest in a residence at the commencement of homeownership assistance for the purchase of any home.
1. Except for cooperative members who have acquired cooperative membership shares prior to the commencement of homeownership assistance, the family has entered a contract of sale.
 2. Current Section 8 program participants must be in full compliance with their lease and program requirements and must terminate their current lease arrangement in compliance with the lease.
 3. MBHA will develop an Individual Action Plan (IAP) with the participant's financial history, credit status, and other historical information that includes the overall requirements that the participant must achieve before the participant is qualified to receive the Homeownership voucher.
 4. Participants in the Section 8 homeownership option must enroll in MBHA designee's pre and post purchase homeownership counseling program and be deemed to be "mortgage ready" before a homeownership voucher will be issued. At a minimum, the counseling will cover the following:
 - Home maintenance
 - Budgeting and money management
 - Credit counseling
 - How to negotiate the purchase price
 - How to obtain homeownership financing
 - How to find a home
 - Advantages of purchasing a how to locate a home in an area that does not have a high concentration of low-income families

14-VIII. D. ELIGIBLE UNITS

- A. Any unit that is eligible under the Section 8 rental assistance program is eligible for this program. The types of units eligible are:
1. Single family dwellings;
 2. Condominiums;
 3. Cooperatives; and
 4. Manufactured Housing and their pads (must have at least a permanent foundation and at least a 40-year lease).

- B. The unit must be either existing or under construction (the footers have been poured) at the time the family enters into the contract of sale.
- C. The unit must be either a one-unit property or a single dwelling unit in a cooperative or condominium.
- D. The unit must satisfy the housing quality standards (HQS) and have been inspected by an independent inspector designated and paid for by the family.
- E. The seller cannot be someone who has been debarred, suspended, or is subject to a limited denial of participation by HUD.
- F. If the unit is owned by the Housing Authority of Myrtle Beach or by an entity substantially controlled by the Housing Authority, the following additional conditions must be met:
 - 1. The purchasing family must verify in writing that it is purchasing the units without any housing authority steering or pressure; and
 - 2. An independent agency, approved by HUD must perform the following functions for this type of sale:
 - a. Inspect the units for HQS compliance;
 - b. Review the independent inspection report;
 - c. Review the sales contract; and
 - d. Determine the reasonableness of the sale price and any housing authority provided financing.

15-VIII. E INDIVIDUAL ACTION PLAN (IAP)

The HCV Homeownership Program has been designed to include various program components that can be used by an individual family, depending on the specific needs of that family. This program is designed so that an IAP can be developed after a prescreening process is completed. The IAP will be based specifically on the needs of the family. The Homeownership Coordinator will develop the IAP with the use of the participant's financial history, credit status, and other historical information. The IAP will actually include a "to do" list with time lines so that the participant can obtain approval for a first mortgage and assume ownership of the home within a specific time frame. The IAP will detail the step by step process of obtaining a mortgage approval.

The Homeownership Coordinator will work directly with the participants, so that they can achieve the goals that have been set forth in the IAP. As the IAP is written, an affordability

calculation will also be considered. The financial institution's underwriting criteria will be considered during the completion of the affordability calculation and the IAP. The affordability of the participant will be calculated based on the approved ratios. The calculation will include the inclusion of the subsidy portions as actual income consideration. The IAP will include a counseling and training plan that will be included in the overall requirements that the participant must achieve before the participant is qualified to receive the voucher.

15-VIII. F. HOMEOWNERSHIP COUNSELING

Before the commencement of homeownership assistance for a family, the family must attend and satisfactorily complete a pre-assistance homeownership and housing counseling program required by the Housing Authority of Myrtle Beach (pre-assistance counseling). The counseling will be conducted by a HUD-approved counseling agency.

Among the topics to be covered in the PHA-required pre-assistance counseling program are:

- A. Home maintenance (including care of the grounds);
- B. Budgeting and money management;
- C. Credit counseling;
- D. How to negotiate the purchase price of a home;
- E. How to obtain homeownership financing and loan pre-approvals, including a description of types of financing that may be available, and the pros and cons of different types of financing;
- G. An estimated affordability calculation will be determined based on current income and homeownership expenses.
- G. How to find a home, including information about homeownership opportunities, schools, and transportation in the PHA jurisdiction;
- H. Advantages of purchasing a home in an area that does not have a high concentration of low-income families and how to locate homes in such areas;
- I. Information on fair housing, including fair housing lending and local fair housing enforcement agencies; and
- J. Information about the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act (RESPA), state and Federal truth-in-lending laws, and how to identify and avoid loans with oppressive terms and conditions.

The Housing Authority of Myrtle Beach will require additional counseling after commencement of homeownership assistance (ongoing counseling). This counseling will be mandatory occurring quarterly during the first year of ownership, then annually.

15-VIII. G. HOME INSPECTIONS

The Housing Authority of Myrtle Beach will not commence homeownership assistance for a family until it has inspected the unit and has determined that the unit passes HQS.

The unit must also be inspected by an independent professional inspector selected by and paid by the family. The independent inspection must cover major building systems and components, including foundation and structure, housing interior and exterior, and the roofing, plumbing, electrical, and heating systems. The independent inspector must be qualified to report on property conditions, including major building systems and components. The Housing Authority of Myrtle Beach may not require the family to use an independent inspector selected by the housing authority. The independent inspector may not be a housing authority employee or contractor, or other person under control of the housing authority. The independent inspector shall be certified by the American Society of Home Inspectors or one whose inspections are accepted by three local lenders. It shall be the responsibility of the inspector to verify that the inspector meets this certification qualification.

The independent inspector must provide a copy of the inspection report both to the family and to the Housing Authority of Myrtle Beach. The Housing Authority will not commence homeownership assistance for the family until it has reviewed the inspection report of the independent inspector. Even if the unit otherwise complies with the HQS (and may qualify for assistance under the Housing Authority of Myrtle Beach's tenant-based rental voucher program), the housing authority shall have discretion to disapprove the unit for assistance under the homeownership option because of information in the inspection report.

15-VIII. H. CONTRACT OF SALE

Before commencement of homeownership assistance, a member or members of the family must enter into a contract of sale with the seller of the unit to be acquired by the family. The family must give the Housing Authority of Myrtle Beach a copy of the contract of sale.

The contract of sale must:

- A. Specify the price and other terms of sale by the seller to the purchaser.
- B. Provide that the purchaser will arrange for a pre-purchase inspection of the dwelling unit by an independent inspector selected by the purchaser.

- C. Provide that the purchaser is not obligated to purchase the unit unless the inspection is satisfactory to the purchaser.
- D. Provide that the purchaser is not obligated to pay for any necessary Repairs.
- E. Contain a certification from the seller that the seller has not been debarred, suspended, or subject to a limited denial of participation.
- F. If located in a special flood hazard area, the purchaser has obtained flood insurance on the home and agrees to maintain this insurance.

15-VIII. I. FINANCING THE PURCHASE OF THE HOME

- A. A purchasing family must invest at least three percent of the purchase price of the home they are buying in the property. This can take the form of either a down payment, closing costs, or a combination of the two. Of this sum, at least one percent of the purchase price must come from the family's personal resources.
- B. If the family is participating in the Family Self Sufficiency Program, the escrow can be released for the use of the down payment at the closing table.
- C. The family must qualify for the mortgage loan under a lender's normal lending criteria taking into account the fact that this is by definition a low-income family. A co-signer (s) who is not a family member, HUD definition, is not allowed.
- D. If the home is purchased using FHA mortgage insurance, it is subject to FHA mortgage insurance requirements.
- E. If the loan is financed either by the seller or a non-traditional mortgage lending institution or individual, the loan shall be subject to the review of the Housing Authority of Myrtle Beach. The housing authority may verify that there are no unusual or onerous requirements in the loan documents and that the mortgage is affordable to the purchasing family. Also, the lender must require that an appraisal of the property is conducted and the appraiser must determine that the property is worth at least as much as the purchaser is paying.
- F. No balloon payment mortgages or variable rate mortgages shall be allowed in the program.
- G. A final subsidy calculation will be determined after the loan has closed.
- H. All mortgage loans must close within the period of time established by the Housing Authority of Myrtle Beach at the time the purchaser and seller enter into their sale contract.

15-VIII. J. REQUIREMENTS FOR CONTINUING ASSISTANCE

Homeownership assistance will only be paid while the family is residing in the home. If the family moves out of the home, the Myrtle Beach Housing Authority will not continue homeownership assistance after the month when the family moves out. The family or lender is not required to refund to the PHA the homeownership assistance for the month when the family moves out.

The family must comply with the following obligations:

- A. The family must attend and complete ongoing homeownership and housing counseling on a quarterly basis during the first year of ownership then annually in order for assistance to continue.
- B. The family must comply with the terms of any mortgage securing debt incurred to purchase the home (or any refinancing of such debt).
- C. As long as the family is receiving homeownership assistance, use and occupancy of the home is subject to the following requirements:
 1. The family must use the assisted unit for residence by the family. The unit must be the family's only residence.
 2. The composition of the assisted family residing in the unit must be approved by the Housing Authority of Myrtle Beach. The family must promptly inform the housing authority of the birth, adoption or court-awarded custody of a child. The family must request housing authority approval to add any other family member as an occupant of the unit. No other person (i.e., nobody but members of the assisted family) may reside in the unit (except for a foster child or live-in aide).
 3. The family must promptly notify the Housing Authority of Myrtle Beach if any family member no longer resides in the unit.
 4. If the Housing Authority of Myrtle Beach has given approval, a foster child or a live-in aide may reside in the unit.
 5. Members of the household may engage in legal profit-making activities in the unit, but only if such activities are incidental to primary use of the unit for residence by members of the family.
 6. The family must not sublease or let the unit.
 7. The family must not assign the mortgage or transfer the unit.
 8. The family must supply any information or certification requested by the housing authority to verify that the family is living in the unit, or relating to family absence from the unit, including any housing authority requested information or certification on the purposes of family absences. The family must cooperate with the housing authority for these purposes. The family must promptly notify the housing authority of their absence from

the unit.

- D. The family may grant a mortgage on the home for debt incurred to finance purchase of the home or any refinancing of such debt.
- E. Upon death of a family member who holds, in whole or in part, title to the home or ownership of cooperative membership shares for the home, homeownership assistance may continue pending settlement of the decedent's estate, notwithstanding transfer of title by operation of law to the decedent's executor or legal representative, so long as the home is solely occupied by remaining family members in accordance with Paragraph C above. In the case of a divorce or family separation, the assistance shall follow what a court decrees.
- F. The family shall supply the Housing Authority of Myrtle Beach with any required information requested by the housing authority. In particular this shall include information relating to the following:
 - 1. Citizenship or related immigration matters;
 - 2. Family income and composition;
 - 3. Social security numbers;
 - 4. Any mortgage or other debt placed on the property;
 - 5. Any sale or other transfer of any interest in the home; and
 - 6. The family's homeownership expenses.
- G. The family must notify the housing authority before the family moves out of the home.
- H. The family must notify the Housing Authority of Myrtle Beach if the family defaults on a mortgage securing any debt incurred to purchase the home.
- I. During the time the family receives homeownership assistance under this program, no family member may have any ownership interest in any other residential property.
- J. Before commencement of homeownership assistance, the family must execute a statement of family obligations in the form prescribed by HUD. In the statement, the family agrees to comply with all family obligations under the homeownership option.
- K. The family must secure the written permission of the Housing Authority of Myrtle Beach before it refinances any debt secured by the home or places any additional secured debt on the property.
- L. The family must assure the Housing Authority of Myrtle Beach that all real estate taxes were paid on a timely basis. If they are not paid, assistance shall be terminated.

15-VIII. K. MAXIMUM TERM OF HOMEOWNERSHIP ASSISTANCE

- A. Except in the case of a family that qualifies as an elderly or disabled family, family members shall not receive homeownership assistance for more than fifteen years if the initial mortgage incurred to finance purchase of the home has a term of 20 years or longer; or ten years, in all other cases.
- B. The maximum term described in the preceding paragraph applies to any member of the family who has an ownership interest in the unit during the time the homeownership payments are made or is the spouse of any member of the household who has an ownership interest during the time the homeownership payments are made.
- C. As noted in Paragraph A of this Section, the maximum homeownership assistance term does not apply to elderly and disabled families. In the case of an elderly family, the exception only applies if the family qualifies as an elderly family at the start of homeownership assistance. In the case of a family with a disabled head or spouse, the exception applies if at any time during receipt of homeownership assistance the family qualifies as a disabled family. If, during the course of homeownership assistance, the family ceases to qualify as a disabled or elderly family, the maximum term becomes applicable from the date homeownership assistance commenced. However, such a family must be provided at least 6 months of homeownership assistance after the maximum term becomes applicable (provided the family is otherwise eligible to receive homeownership assistance in accordance with this program).
- D. If the family has received such assistance for different homes, or from different housing authorities, the total of such assistance terms is subject to the maximum term described in Paragraph A of this section.

15-VIII. L. AMOUNT AND DISTRIBUTION OF HOMEOWNERSHIP ASSISTANCE

- A. While the family is residing in the home, the Housing Authority of Myrtle Beach shall pay a monthly homeownership assistance payment on behalf of the family that is equal to the lower of:
 - 1. The payment standard minus the total tenant payment; or
 - 2. The family's monthly homeownership expenses minus the total tenant payment.
- B. The payment standard for a family is the lower of:
 - 1. The payment standard for the family unit size; or
 - 2. The payment standard for the size of the home.

If the home is located in an exception payment standard area, the Housing Authority of Myrtle Beach will use the appropriate payment standard for the exception payment standard area.

The payment standard for a family is the greater of:

1. The payment standard (as determined in accordance with Paragraph A of this section) at the commencement of homeownership assistance for occupancy of the home; or
2. The payment standard (as determined in accordance with Paragraph A of this section) at the most recent regular reexamination of family income and composition since the commencement of homeownership assistance for occupancy of the home.

The Housing Authority of Myrtle Beach will use the same payment standard schedule, payment standard amounts, and subsidy standards for the homeownership option as for the rental housing choice voucher program.

- C. A family's homeownership expenses shall include the following items:
1. Principal and interest on initial mortgage debt, any refinancing of such debt, and any mortgage insurance premium incurred to finance purchase of the home;
 2. Real estate taxes and public assessments on the home;
 3. Home insurance;
 4. Maintenance expenses of \$25.00 per month;
 5. An allowance of \$25.00 a month for costs of major repairs and replacements;
 6. The Housing Authority of Myrtle Beach's applicable utility allowance for the home; and
 7. Principal and interest on mortgage debt incurred to finance costs for major repairs, replacements or improvements for the home. If a member of the family is a person with disabilities, such debt may include debt incurred by the family to finance costs needed to make the home accessible for such person, if the housing authority determines that allowance of such costs as homeownership expenses is needed as a reasonable accommodation so that the homeownership option is readily accessible to and usable by such person.
- D. Homeownership expenses for a cooperative member may only include amounts to cover:
1. The cooperative charge under the cooperative occupancy agreement including payment for real estate taxes and public assessments on the home;
 2. Principal and interest on initial debt incurred to finance purchase of cooperative membership shares and any refinancing of such debt;
 3. Home insurance;
 4. The PHA allowance for maintenance expenses;

5. The PHA allowance for costs of major repairs and replacements;
 6. The PHA utility allowance for the home; and
 7. Principal and interest on debt incurred to finance major repairs, replacements or improvements for the home. If a member of the family is a person with disabilities, such debt may include debt incurred by the family to finance costs needed to make the home accessible for such person, if the housing authority determines that allowance of such costs as homeownership expenses is needed as a reasonable accommodation so that the homeownership option is readily accessible to and usable by such person.
- E. If the home is a cooperative or condominium unit, homeownership expenses may also include cooperative or condominium operating charges or maintenance fees assessed by the condominium or cooperative homeowner association.
- F. The PHA will ensure the Family successfully completes a HUD approved homeownership-counseling course and will be responsible for providing on going counseling as needed.

The PHA and Family will establish a checking or savings account to allow Lender to initiate electronic withdrawals from the account for payment of the monthly mortgage payment due Lender.

The PHA will ensure the Family enrolls in the Lender's Automatic Mortgage Payment Program ("AMP") prior to loan closing and will supply the lender with a complete AMP application (refer to attachment).

The PHA will deposit the monthly HCV assistance into the established checking or savings account by the first of each calendar month, and no later than the tenth to avoid the assessment of additional charges.

- G. Homeownership assistance for a family terminates automatically 180 calendar days after the last housing assistance payment on behalf of the family. However, the Housing Authority of Myrtle Beach retains the discretion to grant relief from this requirement in those cases where automatic termination would result in extreme hardship for the family.

15-VIII. M. HOMEOWNERSHIP PORTABILITY

- A. A family may qualify to move outside the initial Housing Authority of Myrtle Beach's jurisdiction with continued homeownership assistance under the housing choice voucher program. Families determined eligible for homeownership assistance by the Housing Authority of Myrtle Beach may purchase a unit outside our jurisdiction, if:

1. They meet our normal requirements for portability under the rental program;
 2. The receiving housing authority is administering a housing choice voucher homeownership program and the family meets the receiving housing authority's eligibility requirements; and
 3. The receiving housing authority is accepting new homeownership families.
- B. Conversely, if the Housing Authority of Myrtle Beach has slots open in our homeownership program we will accept homeowners exercising portability from another program and absorb such families if possible.
- C. In general, the portability procedures described previously in this Administrative Plan apply to the homeownership option. The administrative responsibilities of the initial and receiving housing authorities are not altered except that some administrative functions (e.g., issuance of a housing choice voucher or execution of a tenancy addendum) do not apply to the homeownership option.
- D. The family must attend the briefing and counseling sessions required by the receiving housing authority. The receiving housing authority will determine whether the financing for, and the physical condition of the unit, is acceptable. The receiving housing authority must promptly notify the initial housing authority if the family has purchased an eligible unit under the program, or if the family is unable to purchase a home within the maximum time established by the housing authority.
- E. Continued assistance under portability procedures is the next Section of this Administrative Plan.

15-VIII. N. MOVING WITH CONTINUED TENANT-BASED ASSISTANCE

- A. A family receiving homeownership assistance may move to a new unit with continued tenant-based assistance. The family may move either with voucher rental assistance (in accordance with rental assistance program requirements) or with voucher homeownership assistance (in accordance with homeownership option program requirements). The Housing Authority of Myrtle Beach will not commence continued tenant-based assistance for occupancy of the new unit so long as any family member owns any title or other interest in the prior home. No more than one move per year may occur in the program.
- B. The Housing Authority of Myrtle Beach must be able to determine that all initial requirements have been satisfied if a family that has received homeownership assistance wants to move to a new unit with continued homeownership assistance. However, the following requirements do not apply:

1. The requirement for pre-assistance counseling is not applicable.
 2. The requirement that a family must be a first-time homeowner is not applicable.
- C. The Housing Authority of Myrtle Beach may deny permission to move with continued assistance in the following circumstances:
1. The Housing Authority of Myrtle Beach may deny permission to move with continued rental or homeownership assistance if the housing authority determines that it does not have sufficient funding to provide continued assistance.
 2. At any time, the Housing Authority of Myrtle Beach may deny permission to move with continued rental or homeownership assistance in accordance with the next Section.

15-VIII. O. DENIAL OR TERMINATION OF ASSISTANCE FOR FAMILIES

- A. At any time, the Housing Authority of Myrtle Beach may deny or terminate homeownership assistance in accordance with the same rules as it utilizes for the rental program.
- B. The same restrictions on admission or continued assistance in regards to criminal activities shall apply to the homeownership program as the rental program.
- C. The Housing Authority of Myrtle Beach may deny or terminate assistance for violation of participant obligations as previously described for the rental program.
- D. The PHA shall terminate housing choice voucher homeownership assistance for any member of family receiving homeownership assistance that is dispossessed from the home pursuant to a judgment or order of foreclosure on any mortgage (whether FHA-insured or non-FHA) securing debt incurred to purchase the home, or any refinancing of such debt. The Housing Authority of Myrtle Beach, in its discretion, may permit the family to move to a new unit with continued housing choice voucher rental assistance if the family can show that the default was for reasons beyond its control. However, the housing authority will deny such permission, if:
1. The family defaulted on an FHA-insured mortgage; and
 2. The family fails to demonstrate that:
 - a. The family has conveyed title to the home, as required by HUD, to HUD or HUD's designee; and
 - b. The family has moved from the home within the period established or approved by HUD.