

## ALBANY HOUSING AUTHORITY FAMILY RE-ENTRY PILOT PROGRAM

**Background:** The Obama Administration has recognized the importance of second chances—that people who have paid their debt to society deserve the opportunity to become productive citizens and caring parents, to set the past aside and embrace the future. The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Albany Housing Authority (AHA) support this recognition and believe that their support includes allowing individuals with criminal histories who are motivated not to repeat their past mistakes to gain access to stable housing and to reunite with the family living in public housing.

**Purpose:** This program is designed for individuals with criminal histories who are motivated not to repeat their past mistakes, and who want to rejoin their families so that they can help their loved ones (be it by being a part of their children’s lives, or by helping an aging parent, and by working and contributing to the household). The program’s goal is to assist these individuals who want to transform their lives and become productive members of their community, and to do so with support and legitimacy.

**Scope: To participate in the Family Re-entry Pilot Program:**

- *The participant must be at least 16 years old.*
- *The applicant’s family must agree to allow the applicant to live in the apartment if he or she is accepted into the program. Participants can live with their families as temporary occupants for two years while they are in the program. An applicant will not be permitted to move into an over-crowded unit.*
- *The applicant’s family must be related to the applicant as: husband, wife, son, daughter, stepson, stepdaughter, father, mother, stepfather, stepmother, brother (including half-brother), sister (including half-sister), grandfather, grandmother, grandson, granddaughter, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, father-in-law, mother-in-law, Domestic Partner of the Tenant of Record.*
- *To be eligible for the program, a person must have been released from a correctional facility (jail, prison, or a juvenile correctional facility) within 3 years of the date of application. Applicants may also be identified and referred to the program before they are released.*
- *For senior-only housing, the participant must be 55 and disabled or at least 62 years old to meet the age requirements for senior housing. For this reason, a participant may not move in with a grandparent who resides in a senior-only building.*

- *This policy applies to all programs administered by AHA, including Public Housing, Housing Choice Voucher, and Low Income Housing Tax Credit.*
  
- **An individual is not eligible to participate in the pilot program if he or she:**
  - *Is a lifetime registered sex offender.*
  - *Has been convicted of producing methamphetamine in public housing.*
  - *Is currently engaged in illegal drug use or alcohol abuse that could threaten other residents' or employees' health and safety.*
  - *Is not currently participating in a licensed drug or alcohol rehabilitation program (if applicable).*
  - *Has been evicted from federally-assisted housing (public housing or Section 8, assisted through AHA or elsewhere) within the past three years for drug-related criminal activity, and cannot demonstrate that they have successfully completed a licensed drug rehabilitation program or that the circumstances leading to their eviction no longer exists.*

**Case management services:**

- *AHA will not provide any case management services*
- *A participant must participate in case management services as required by the conditions of their release.*
- *A participant must comply with all conditions of their release.*

**Subsidy adjustment:**

*Participation in this program may adjust the family's housing subsidy or public assistance in the same way that any new addition to a household might alter benefits.*

**Application Process:**

*AHA will provide information for Individuals interested in applying for the Family Re-entry Pilot Program through your manager's office, the main office and on the AHA web-site.*

**Program Term:**

- *If an individual is accepted as a participant, he or she will have temporary permission to live with their family for up to two years, but the participant is not required to live with their family for the entire period. A Participant's family will not be penalized if the Participant chooses to leave the program early.*
- *If a Participant successfully completes the program, he or she may apply to join the household permanently or for their own public housing unit, crimes committed before the applicant entered the program will not be considered as part of the application.*

- *AHA may terminate a Participant from the Program if he or she is involved in criminal activity. A Participant who is terminated from the Program must vacate the Family's unit in accordance with AHA's instructions. Failure to do so may result in termination of the Family's lease.*

**No right of succession:**

*Program participants are temporary occupants only. Like other people with temporary permission to live in an AHA apartment, program participants have no succession rights and may not remain in the apartment if the head of household passes away or moves out. However, if another family member with succession rights is granted "Remaining Family Member" status and becomes the leaseholder, that family member may ask for the participant to continue residing in the apartment as a temporary occupant with no succession rights.*