

## **18.0 Moves with Continued Assistance / Portability [24 CFR 982.354]**

Participants of the HCV program who are in good standing may use their voucher to move to another unit within Pensacola Housing's jurisdiction, or port the voucher to another jurisdiction.

For families already participating in the HCV program, Pensacola Housing will allow the family to request a moving voucher if:

1. The initial lease term has been fulfilled;
2. The landlord and tenant have mutually agreed to terminate the lease;
3. Pensacola Housing has terminated the HAP contract because of a landlord violation;
4. The lease is in a rollover period and the tenant has provided a 30-day notice of lease termination to the landlord and to Pensacola Housing;
5. The lease is in a rollover period and the landlord has provided a 30-day notice of lease termination to the tenant and to Pensacola Housing;
6. The family or a member of the family is or has been the victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, as provided in 24 CFR part 5, subpart L (Protection for Victims of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, or Stalking), and the move is needed to protect the health or safety of the family or a family member; or
7. A family member has been the victim of a sexual assault that occurred on the premises during the 90-calendar-day period preceding the family's request to move.

Under no circumstances will Pensacola Housing allow a participant to improperly break a lease. Families participating in the HCV program will not be allowed to move more than once in any 12-month period, except under extraordinary circumstances that will be considered by Pensacola Housing on a case-by-case basis.

### **18.1 Required Mover's Meeting**

All families who are moving, including any families moving into or out of Pensacola Housing's jurisdiction, will be required to attend a mover's meeting prior to Pensacola Housing issuing a voucher on their behalf.

This meeting is intended to provide the following:

1. A refresher on program requirements and the family's responsibilities. Emphasis will be placed on giving proper notice and meeting all lease requirements, such as leaving the unit in good condition;
2. Information about finding suitable housing and the advantages of locating housing outside areas of poverty or racial concentration;
3. Payment standards, exception payment standard areas, if applicable, and the utility estimate schedule;

4. An explanation that the family share of the rent may not exceed 40% of the family's monthly adjusted income if the gross rent exceeds the applicable payment standard;
5. Portability requirements and opportunities;
6. The need for Pensacola Housing to conduct a reexamination prior to issuing the moving voucher, if it's been more than 120 days since the last reexamination;
7. Copies of the forms required to initiate and complete the move, and an explanation of them; and
8. All forms and brochures provided to applicants at the eligibility briefing.

See Section 3.5 of this Administrative Plan for information on Pensacola Housing's policy concerning reasonable accommodations for disabled persons, including reasonable accommodations to make all briefings, including mover's meetings, accessible to all program participants.

## **18.2 Procedures Regarding Participant Moves**

Participants are required to give proper written notice of their intent to terminate the lease. In accordance with HUD regulations, no notice requirement may exceed 60 days. During the initial 12-month lease term, families may not end the lease early unless they and the owner mutually agree to do so because of extenuating circumstances. Families and owners must complete a "Notice of Intent to Move" form for this purpose. If the family moves from the unit before the initial term of the lease ends without the owner's and Pensacola Housing's approval, it will be considered a violation of family obligations, and subject the family to termination of their housing assistance.

After the initial 12-month period, the family is required to give Pensacola Housing a copy of the notice to terminate the lease at the same time the family provides the notice to the owner. A family's failure to provide a copy of the lease termination notice to Pensacola Housing will be considered a violation of family obligations and may cause the family to be terminated from the program.

A family who gives notice to terminate the lease should typically deliver the notice in the same manner used to deliver their tenant rent portion. If the family does not have a tenant rent portion, they should mail the notice to the owner, or deliver it to the property management office. Whenever possible, the family should ask the owner or property manager for a signature confirming receipt of the written notice to move. If the owner refuses to accept or acknowledge the notice, the family should notify their housing specialist, in which case Pensacola Housing notification will serve as confirmation of the tenant's notice as well.

Families must be in good standing with Pensacola Housing to be authorized to move. If a family has moved out of its assisted unit in violation of the lease, Pensacola Housing will not issue a voucher and will terminate assistance.

## **18.3 Portability [24 CFR 982.353, 24 CFR 982.355]**

In accordance with federal regulations, at the time when a moving voucher is issued participants in the HCV program may move to any jurisdiction where a tenant-based HCV program is being administered, a process known as portability.

Applicants to the HCV program may also port their initial voucher to another jurisdiction if they were legal residents of the PHA's jurisdiction at the time when they applied to the waiting list.

For applicants who were not legal residents of its jurisdiction at the time of application, Pensacola Housing policy requires such applicants to use their initial voucher to lease up within its jurisdiction. However, Pensacola Housing will grant portability requests from nonresident applicants in the following circumstances:

1. The family or a member of the family is or has been the victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, as provided in 24 CFR part 5, subpart L (Protection for Victims of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, or Stalking), and the move is needed to protect the health or safety of the family or family member; or
2. A family member has been the victim of a sexual assault that occurred on the premises during the 90-calendar-day period preceding the family's request to move.

Occasionally, a family that has requested to port out of Pensacola Housing's jurisdiction is unable to locate a unit in the jurisdiction where they intended to move. The family may request to return to Pensacola Housing's jurisdiction as long as the 90-day term of the voucher issued by Pensacola Housing has not yet expired.

#### **18.4 Income Eligibility and Portability**

Applicant families who are leasing up with a voucher for the first time must be income eligible within the jurisdiction where they use their voucher.

If a family requesting portability is an applicant family who is eligible to or has been granted permission to port their initial voucher, the family must be income eligible in the jurisdiction where the family wishes to move. If the applicant is porting out of Pensacola Housing's jurisdiction, Pensacola Housing will contact the PHA in the receiving jurisdiction to help the family confirm its income eligibility in that jurisdiction prior to sending portability paperwork.

If a family requesting portability is already a participant in Pensacola Housing's HCV program, income eligibility is not re-determined, though updated income verification and other documentation may be required.

#### **18.5 Administration by Receiving PHA**

When a family utilizes portability to move to an area outside Pensacola Housing's jurisdiction, the receiving PHA will either absorb the family into its own HCV program, or administer the voucher on behalf of Pensacola Housing.

If there's more than one PHA in the jurisdiction where the family wishes to move, the family will be asked to specify which PHA should be the receiving PHA.

### **18.6 Portability Procedures for Port-Out Clients**

The following procedures will be used when Pensacola Housing is the initial PHA and a family has requested portability outside of Pensacola Housing's jurisdiction.

1. Pensacola Housing will brief the family on the process that must take place to exercise portability. The family will be required to attend a certification appointment and/or a mover's meeting.
2. For new applicants who have requested portability and are determined to be eligible to port, Pensacola Housing will determine whether the family is income-eligible in the area where the family wants to lease a unit.
3. Pensacola Housing will advise the family how to contact and request assistance from the receiving PHA.
4. Within 10 business days of issuing the voucher for portability, Pensacola Housing will send the receiving PHA a portability packet including the voucher, a 52665 form, the most recent 50058 form, and any required verification information.
5. If the receiving PHA is billing Pensacola Housing for the family's assistance, Pensacola Housing will promptly initiate payments to the receiving PHA once the billing information is received, unless the receiving PHA missed the billing deadline. In that case, Pensacola Housing will notify the receiving PHA that it should absorb the client.

### **18.7 Portability Procedures for Port-In Clients**

The following procedures will be used when Pensacola Housing is the receiving PHA and a family has requested to port into Pensacola Housing's jurisdiction.

1. If the initial PHA queries Pensacola Housing prior to sending the portability packet, Pensacola Housing will inform the initial PHA whether it intends to bill the initial PHA on behalf of the portable family, or absorb the family into its own program.
2. Upon receipt of a portability packet, Pensacola Housing will review the packet for completeness and contact the initial PHA if any required documentation is missing.
3. When the portability family makes contact, Pensacola Housing will schedule an intake appointment for the family within 10 business days of the contact from the family. Pensacola Housing will determine the family's subsidy standard (what size voucher they are eligible for) prior to the intake meeting. The bedroom size of the voucher will be determined in accordance with Pensacola Housing's subsidy standards, not those of the initial PHA.

4. At the intake meeting, a housing counselor will review Pensacola Housing's policies and issue a voucher to the family. The dates on the voucher will match those of the initial PHA's voucher, plus 30 days. The family must submit an RTA to Pensacola Housing during the term of the voucher.
5. Pensacola Housing will process the family's RTA, inspect the unit, and execute a HAP contract with the owner prior to the billing deadline specified on the initial PHA's 52665 form.
6. If the client fails to submit an RTA within the voucher term, or fails to execute a lease in an eligible unit by the billing deadline specified on the initial PHA's 52665 form, Pensacola Housing will inform the initial PHA and terminate the family's assistance.
7. If a port-in family requests an extension on the voucher and Pensacola Housing is billing, Pensacola Housing will refer the family to the initial PHA for further assistance. Pensacola Housing will continue to administer the port-in family's voucher as long as the voucher term and/or billing deadline set by the initial PHA have not expired.
8. If a port-in family requests an extension on the voucher and Pensacola Housing intends to absorb the family, Pensacola Housing will make a determination as to whether an extension is warranted based on the policies set forth in this Administrative Plan. In no case will the total term of the voucher be extended beyond 120 days.
9. Pensacola Housing may opt to conduct a reexamination of the port-in family, but it will not delay issuing the family a voucher or otherwise delay the family's lease-up process, unless recertification is necessary to determine income eligibility.
10. If the initial PHA did not supply verification of citizenship/eligible immigrant status, Pensacola Housing will conduct that eligibility determination.
11. Once the port-in family has leased up, Pensacola Housing will perform all PHA program functions on behalf of the family, including reexaminations of family income and composition and HQS inspections. Should the family fail to adhere to program obligations at any time, Pensacola Housing may make a determination to deny or terminate assistance to the family in accordance with 24 CFR 982.552 and 24 CFR 982.553.
12. Should the initial PHA inform Pensacola Housing that it no longer has sufficient funds to accept billing on behalf of the client, Pensacola Housing will make every effort to absorb the client before terminating assistance.

### **18.8 Absorption by Pensacola Housing**

If funding is available under the consolidated ACC for Pensacola Housing's HCV program when the portable family is received, Pensacola Housing may absorb the family into its HCV program.

### **18.9 Portability Billing**

HUD guidelines specify that a receiving PHA may bill an initial PHA for HAP payments and administrative fees to cover the cost of assisting a portable family.

When Pensacola Housing is the initial PHA and the receiving PHA is not absorbing the client, Pensacola Housing will:

1. Promptly reimburse the receiving PHA for the full amount of the HAP payment made by the receiving PHA on behalf of the portable family.
2. Promptly reimburse the receiving PHA for 80% of Pensacola Housing's ongoing administrative fee, minus any additional proration authorized by HUD, for each month when the family is under contract by the 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **18.10 When a Port-In Family Leaves the Jurisdiction**

If a port-in family that has not been absorbed and remains in good standing indicates to Pensacola Housing that it wishes to move out of Pensacola Housing's jurisdiction—either to return to the jurisdiction of the initiating PHA or to move to another jurisdiction—Pensacola Housing will notify the initial PHA, send updated income and eligibility paperwork to that PHA, and terminate the family's assistance with Pensacola Housing.

### **18.11 Denial of Requests to Move or Port Due to Insufficient Funding [24 CFR 982.314 (e,1)]**

Pensacola Housing may deny a participant family's request to move or port to a higher cost unit or higher cost area if allowing the move would create the need to terminate the assistance of other program participants in order for Pensacola Housing to remain within its annual budgetary allocation.

For moves within Pensacola Housing's jurisdiction, a "higher cost unit" is a unit for which Pensacola Housing would have to pay a higher subsidy amount due to an increase in the gross rent. For portability moves, a higher cost area is an area with higher payment standards.

Pensacola Housing is required to provide written notification to the local HUD office when it is determined necessary to deny moves to higher cost units for this reason.

Pensacola Housing will include the following with the notification to HUD to deny or suspend moves to higher cost units:

1. A financial analysis that demonstrates that funds are projected to be insufficient to meet the current year's projection of expenses. The projection will not include vouchers that have been issued but are not yet under contract.
2. A statement certifying that Pensacola Housing has ceased issuing vouchers and will not admit families from the waiting list as long as the limitation on moves to higher cost units is in place.
3. A copy of the policy stating how Pensacola Housing will address families who have been denied moves.