

20.0 Denial and Termination of Assistance [24 CFR 982.552]

Pensacola Housing will provide families with a written description of the family obligations under the program, the conditions under which Pensacola Housing terminates assistance, and Pensacola Housing's informal hearing procedures. Pensacola Housing may terminate assistance for a family because of the family's action or failure to act.

20.1 Denial of Assistance

Pensacola Housing policies on denying assistance to households based on criminal history or previous history with the HCV program are outlined in detail in Chapter 2 of this Administrative Plan. Any reason for denial of assistance may also be grounds for termination of assistance.

Denial of assistance for an applicant may include any or all of the following:

1. Denial of admission to the HCV program;
2. Withdrawing a voucher after issuance;
3. Refusing to enter into a HAP contract or approve a tenancy; and
4. Refusing to process or provide assistance under portability procedures.

20.2 Termination of Assistance

Pensacola Housing may terminate assistance to a family for any of the following reasons:

1. Failure to comply with a family obligation, including failing to provide information requested by Pensacola Housing;
2. HUD-mandated terminations for criminal history;
3. HUD-mandated terminations for failure to complete consent forms;
4. HUD-mandated terminations for ineligible immigrant status;
5. Other violations of federal law or regulation; and
6. If the family is out of the assisted unit for more than 60 consecutive days without contacting Pensacola Housing for approval of the absence.

Termination of assistance for a participant may include any or all of the following:

1. Refusing to enter into a HAP contract or approve a tenancy;
2. Terminating HAP payments under an outstanding HAP contract; and
3. Refusing to process or provide assistance under portability procedures.

20.2.1 Failure to Comply with Family Obligations

Pensacola Housing will terminate assistance if it determines that a family has failed to meet family obligations outlined on the voucher and described in 24 CFR 982.551, as follows:

1. The family must supply any information that Pensacola Housing or HUD finds necessary in the administration of the program, including submission of required evidence of citizenship or eligible immigrant status (as provided by 24 CFR Part 5 Subpart E). "Information" includes any requested certification, release or other documentation;
2. The family must supply any information requested by Pensacola Housing or HUD for use in a regularly scheduled reexamination or interim reexamination of family income and composition, in accordance with HUD requirements;
3. The family must disclose and verify Social Security Numbers (as provided by 24 CFR 5.216) and must sign and submit consent forms for obtaining information in accordance with 24 CFR 5.230;
4. All information supplied by the family must be true and complete;
5. The family is responsible for an HQS breach caused when the family fails to maintain active service for any essential utilities that are assigned to the tenant; fails to provide and maintain any appliances which are to be provided by the tenant; or when the family or their guest causes damages beyond normal wear and tear to the unit;
6. The family must allow Pensacola Housing to inspect the unit at reasonable times and after reasonable notice;
7. The family may not commit serious or repeated violations of the lease;
8. The family must provide proper written notice to the owner and, at the same time, notify Pensacola Housing, before the family moves out of the unit or terminates the lease;
9. The family must promptly give Pensacola Housing a copy of any owner eviction notice;
10. The family must use the assisted unit for residence by the family. The unit must be the family's only residence;
11. The composition of the assisted family residing in the unit must be approved by Pensacola Housing. The family must promptly inform Pensacola Housing of the birth, adoption, or court-awarded custody of a child. The family must request Pensacola Housing approval to add any other household members;
12. The family must promptly notify Pensacola Housing if any household member no longer resides in the unit;
13. If Pensacola Housing has given approval, a foster child, foster adult, or live-in aide may reside in the unit. If the family does not request approval or if Pensacola Housing does not approve the request, the family may not allow the foster child, foster adult, or live-in aide to reside with the assisted family;
14. Members of the household may, with Pensacola Housing's prior approval, engage in legal profit-making activities in the unit, but only if such activities are incidental to primary use of the unit as a residence by members of the family;
15. The family may not sublease or otherwise receive compensation for anyone's occupancy of the unit;
16. The family may not assign the lease or otherwise transfer the unit;
17. The family must supply any information or certification requested by Pensacola Housing to verify that the family is living in the unit, or relating to family absence from the unit, including any Pensacola Housing-requested information or

certification on the purposes of family absences. The family must cooperate with Pensacola Housing for this purpose. The family must promptly notify Pensacola Housing of any absence from the unit for any period in excess of 14 consecutive calendar days;

18. The family may not own or have any ownership interest in the unit (except for owners of manufactured housing renting the manufactured home space);
19. The members of the family may not commit fraud, bribery, or any other corrupt or criminal act in connection with any federal housing program;
20. The household members may not engage in drug-related criminal activity or violent criminal activity or other criminal activity that threatens the health, safety, or right to peaceful enjoyment of other residents and persons residing in the immediate vicinity of the premises;
21. The members of the household must not abuse alcohol in a way that threatens the health, safety, or right to peaceful enjoyment of other residents and persons residing in the immediate vicinity of the premises; and
22. An assisted household, or members of the household, may not receive Section 8 tenant-based assistance while receiving another housing subsidy for the same unit or for a different unit, under any duplicative federal, state or local housing assistance program.

20.2.2 Other Causes for Termination

Pensacola Housing may at any time terminate program assistance for a participant because of any of the following actions or inactions by the household:

1. If a family fails to establish citizenship or eligible immigrant status for any household member and is not eligible for, or does not elect continuation of assistance, pro-ration of assistance, or temporary deferral of assistance.
2. If Pensacola Housing determines that a family has knowingly permitted an ineligible non-citizen (other than any ineligible non-citizens listed on the lease) to permanently reside in the assisted unit.
3. If any member of the family commits fraud, bribery, or any other corrupt or criminal act in connection with any federal housing program.
4. If the family currently owes a debt to Pensacola Housing or to another PHA in connection with Section 8 or public housing assistance under the 1937 Act.
5. If the family breaches an agreement with Pensacola Housing to repay amounts owed because of oversubsidy resulting from failure to report changes in income or household composition in a timely manner.
6. If a family participating in the FSS program fails to comply, without good cause, with the family's FSS contract of participation.
7. If the family has engaged in or threatened abusive or violent behavior toward Pensacola Housing personnel. Pensacola Housing has a zero tolerance policy regarding threatening, abusive, or violent behavior towards any Housing Department staff member and will deny or terminate assistance if any family member displays and/or engages in said behavior, in accordance with 24 CFR 982.552(c, ix).

8. If any household member is subject to a lifetime registration requirement under a state sex offender registration program.
9. If Pensacola Housing does not have adequate funding to continue the family's assistance.

20.3 Considering Circumstances

In deciding whether to terminate assistance because of action or inaction by members of the household, Pensacola Housing will consider all circumstances in each case, including the seriousness of the case, the extent of participation or culpability of individual household members, and the effects of denial or termination of assistance on other household members who were not involved in the action or failure to act.

If requested by an applicant or participant who is a person with a disability, Pensacola Housing will consider verifiable, mitigating circumstances that explain or overcome prior misconduct related to a previous tenancy. If reasonable accommodation would allow an applicant who is a person with a disability to meet the eligibility criteria, these circumstances will be taken into consideration.

Pensacola Housing may impose, as a condition of continued assistance for other family members, a requirement that family members who participated in or were culpable for the action or failure to act will not reside in the unit. Pensacola Housing may permit other members of a participant family to continue receiving assistance with this stipulation.

If Pensacola Housing seeks to terminate assistance because of illegal use, or possession for personal use, of a controlled substance, or pattern of abuse of alcohol, such use or possession or pattern of abuse must have occurred within one year before the date that Pensacola Housing provides notice to the family of the determination to deny or terminate assistance. In determining whether to terminate assistance for these reasons, Pensacola Housing will consider evidence of whether the household member:

1. Has successfully completed a supervised drug or alcohol rehabilitation program (as applicable) and is no longer engaging in the illegal use of a controlled substance or abuse of alcohol;
2. Has otherwise been rehabilitated successfully and is no longer engaging in the illegal use of a controlled substance or abuse of alcohol; or
3. Is participating in a supervised drug or alcohol rehabilitation program and is no longer engaging in the illegal use of a controlled substance or abuse of alcohol.

20.4 Terminations Due to Insufficient Funding

Pensacola Housing may be forced to suspend or terminate HAP payments based on budgetary requirements or reduction of funds from HUD.