

## **HOUSING ASSISTANCE AND GUIDANCE FOR HOUSEHOLDS DISPLACED BY RECENT HURRICANES IN TX, FL, PR, USVI**

### **1. Boston Housing Authority**

Public Housing: PH residents can have guests up to 45 days. Residents should inform management about guests. If they need more than 45 days, residents should seek management approval. BHA can accommodate moderate extensions, provided there is no-overcrowding (150 sq.ft. for the first individual, 100 sq ft. for each additional individual), health issues or lease violation issues (noise or bad conduct by guests).

Residents can add a family member to household subject to regular screening policies. BHA can approve additions even if it makes them under-housed (they will go on a list to be transferred to a larger unit).

Leased Housing: Voucher holders can only have guests 14 days/year. To extend this, they need both landlord + BHA approval. If landlord approves, BHA will; BHA cannot force landlord approval. Voucher holders can add members to their household in normal course, subject to regular screening and certification policies.

New Applicants: Displaced households without family and friends here could apply to BHA housing and would receive disaster priority. This is not a short-term solution; there are other priority groups (DV victims, etc.).

### **2. HUD Multi-Family Guidance (mostly PBVs here in Boston)**

#### Multiple Occupants - Guest Stays

FEMA-Certified displaced residents can move in with family and friends in HUD-MF housing on a temporary basis with owner approval, so long as it does not result in overcrowding. Residents can call HUD's regional office at 617-994-8200 or email: Joe Crisafulli ([joe.crisafulli@hud.gov](mailto:joe.crisafulli@hud.gov)), Whitney Cooper ([whitney.c.cooper@hud.gov](mailto:whitney.c.cooper@hud.gov)), Daniel Rogers ([daniel.j.rogers@hud.gov](mailto:daniel.j.rogers@hud.gov)). Email is preferred for tracking.

Information needed: (1) name of the development; (2) street address; and (3) name and contact information of managing agent. HUD will work with the property owner or manager to obtain approval.

### **3. State-Aided Public Housing Public Housing Notice 2017-23 (October 6, 2017)**

Temporary Guest Stays: Housing Authorities can, and are encouraged to, extend lease guest restriction to allow residents to temporarily house family and/or friends displaced by recent disasters. The manager, tenants and guests should meet and discuss the length of stay. The manager should notify DHCD Housing Management Specialist of an extension.

Permanently Adding a Family Member: If a resident wants to add a family member, the housing authority can relax the verification requirements and the unit size standards, so long as it does not violate the square footage requirements (150; 100).

Priority Status/Applying for State-Aided Public Housing: Displaced families will be eligible for Priority 1, Displaced by Natural Forces, status. If the family does not have all of the documentation required, alternative forms of documentation are acceptable.

**4. Preliminary HUD Guidance HCVP**

Households seeking to port a voucher from either Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands should email Sonia Colon Miranda at [Sonia.I.Colon-Miranda@hud.gov](mailto:Sonia.I.Colon-Miranda@hud.gov) with the following information:

HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD NAME	LAST 4 SS#	TOTAL # IN HOUSEHOLD	INITIAL PHA CODE	RECEIVING PHA CODE	VOUCHER BEDROOM SIZE	LAST KNOWN ADDRESS OF TENANT	TELEPHONE NUMBER FOR TENANT	DATE OF REQUEST

Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Island PHA Codes can be found [here](#).

**5. STATE SUBSIDIZED UNITS (LIHTC)**

No guidance as of 10/13. In 2014, the IRS issued guidance, which allowed LIHTC owners with available units to fill them with displaced residents as temporary emergency housing.

**6. FEMA ASSISTANCE & CERTIFICATION**

Individual & Household Assistance: For Households not previously assisted by HUD

Residents do not need to register with FEMA before leaving disaster area; can register here at [www.DisasterAssistance.gov](http://www.DisasterAssistance.gov) or by calling 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or 1-800-462-7585 (TTY).

Critical Assistance: After registering, household becomes eligible for \$500 in critical assistance (for food, diapers, formula) that can be transferred to a bank account or issued by paper check.

Housing Assistance: for owners and renters who have lost homes, maximum \$33,300 assistance, which can include money for temporary housing. Apply at: [www.DisasterAssistance.gov](http://www.DisasterAssistance.gov) -- however, at the current time, FEMA requires a property assessment before providing funds and processing time can be months. FEMA is exploring ways to streamline. Note: even if eligible, displaced households may only receive a fraction \$33,000.

Housing Assistance: Residents who receive HUD assistance:

Should also apply at [www.DisasterAssistance.gov](http://www.DisasterAssistance.gov) -- **but will not be eligible for both assistance under this program and the individual assistance program, unless there is a coverage gap.**