



Housing Authority of Washington County

50075-MTW Supplement

April 8, 2022

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HUD Form 50075-MTW

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PHA Name : Housing Authority Of Washington County

PHA Code : OR022

MTW Supplement for PHA Fiscal Year Beginning : (MM/DD/YYYY): 7/1/2022

PHA Program Type: Combined

MTW Cohort Number: 2

MTW Supplement Submission Type: Annual Submission

B. MTW Supplement Narrative.

LONG-TERM MTW GOALS

The Housing Authority of Washington County (HAWC) is framing our MTW strategies to align with the goals stated in our Agency Plan: 1) Increase the availability of decent safe, and affordable housing; 2) improve community quality of life and economic vitality; 3) promote self-sufficiency and asset development of families and individuals; and 4) ensure equal opportunity in housing for all Americans. The flexibility offered by the MTW program enables HAWC to implement and test strategies that move the agency closer to these goals.

Throughout our participation as an MTW agency, HAWC will explore strategies for cost reduction and effectiveness. We will shift focus from paperwork and verifications to improving household outcomes. With the innovation and flexibility offered by MTW participation, we will encourage our staff and community partners to think outside the box and find ways to improve and streamline processes.

HAWC will also build on our efforts to partner and create leverage points for both services and housing development. We will think creatively on how to increase the number of units available to our low-income households, while also entering into partnerships that will help our residents improve their opportunities in education, increasing their earnings and meeting goals for their families.

HAWC is committed to centering equity and inclusion in the work we do, to include policies or processes that are considered or changed within the scope of MTW. We will examine practices with a lens toward equity, and engage our households and community partners, with specific outreach to communities of color and tribal communities that have often been excluded from the decision-making process.

SHORT-TERM MTW GOALS

In our first year as an MTW agency, HAWC is focusing on strategies for cost reduction and administrative effectiveness. Our community has experienced significant instability and change in the last two years, and our focus on simplifying processes for the agency and for households will bring better understanding and transparency to our work.

For example, in Year 1 we are proposing to move seniors and people with disabilities to a triennial review schedule, and to vastly simplify aspects of the rent calculation. These changes will save significant staff time by reducing the number of reexaminations and verifications that need to be performed, allowing HAWC to redirect its staff and resources into activities that hold a higher value for its participants. In a time when many of our households need even more supports than usual, we can take advantage of the administrative savings to connect low-income families to services and to collaborate with public and private partners on local initiatives.

We will also implement the Tiered Rent Program demonstration this year. We are hopeful that families who are selected for this program will see an opportunity to increase earnings and decrease paperwork burdens, through the tiered rent schedule and triennial reviews. We look forward to learning from this six-year demonstration and building a future rent calculation that works well for all of our families.

C. The policies that the MTW agency is using or has used (currently implement, plan to implement in the submission year, plan to discontinue, previously discontinued).

1. Tenant Rent Policies	
a. Tiered Rent (PH)	Plan to Implement in the Submission Year
b. Tiered Rent (HCV)	Plan to Implement in the Submission Year
r. Elimination of Deduction(s) (PH)	Plan to Implement in the Submission Year
s. Elimination of Deduction(s) (HCV)	Plan to Implement in the Submission Year
2. Payment Standards and Rent Reasonableness	
d. Rent Reasonableness – Third-Party Requirement (HCV)	Plan to Implement in the Submission Year
3. Reexaminations	
a. Alternative Reexamination Schedule for Households (PH)	Plan to Implement in the Submission Year
b. Alternative Reexamination Schedule for Households (HCV)	Plan to Implement in the Submission Year
4. Landlord Leasing Incentives	
5. Housing Quality Standards (HQS)	
a. Pre-Qualifying Unit Inspections (HCV)	Plan to Implement in the Submission Year
c. Third-Party Requirement (HCV)	Plan to Implement in the Submission Year
d. Alternative Inspection Schedule (HCV)	Plan to Implement in the Submission Year
6. Short-Term Assistance	
7. Term-Limited Assistance	
8. Increase Elderly Age (PH & HCV)	
9. Project-Based Voucher Program Flexibilities	
a. Increase PBV Program Cap (HCV)	Plan to Implement in the Submission Year
b. Increase PBV Project Cap (HCV)	Plan to Implement in the Submission Year
c. Elimination of PBV Selection Process for PHA-owned Projects Without Improvement, Development, or Replacement (HCV)	Plan to Implement in the Submission Year
10. Family Self-Sufficiency Program with MTW Flexibility	
11. MTW Self-Sufficiency Program	
12. Work Requirement	
13. Use of Public Housing as an Incentive for Economic Progress (PH)	
14. Moving on Policy	
a. Waive Initial HQS Inspection Requirement (HCV)	Plan to Implement in the Submission Year
15. Acquisition without Prior HUD Approval (PH)	
16. Deconcentration of Poverty in Public Housing Policy (PH)	
17. Local, Non-Traditional Activities	

C. MTW Activities Plan that Housing Authority Of Washington County Plans to Implement in the Submission Year or Is Currently Implementing

1.a. - Tiered Rent (PH)
<p>As part of our MTW designation, HAWC will implement a tiered rent program to simplify the way rents are calculated for households. This is part of a rent study with three other MTW agencies and will only apply to a small portion of our households. The initial program is for six years and will begin enrolling households in FY 2022-2023. The program will enroll current households and newly admitted for 12 months. After six years, any participating households will transition back to the traditional rent calculation or to a revised calculation that would be introduced to the community in the future.</p> <p>Only households who are work-able are considered eligible for the Tiered Rent Program. Households where the head, co-head or spouse is age 56 or older or a person with disabilities are not eligible. Households participating in FSS, mixed-eligibility households, and households using special purpose vouchers are not eligible.</p> <p>Households will be selected randomly for participation by the research firm’s website. Of the households that are eligible, approximately half will be selected for the Tiered Rent Program and half will be selected as comparison households. Comparison households will continue to have their rents calculated using the standard calculation.</p>

Under the Tiered Rent Program, households will pay rent based on a rent schedule with tiers of \$2,500 corresponding to the household's gross income (as described in Waivers 1.r. and 1.s.) Rents are set at 28% of the midpoint of each tier. Although the Tiered Rent Program uses gross income, hardship policies have been established to protect families that will lose significant deductions. See the attached Hardship Policy information for more detail.

As described in Waivers 3.a. and 3.b., households that are selected for the Tiered Rent Program will move to a triennial recertification schedule. This means that these households will only complete a full review of income and rent adjustment once every three years. Households on the Tiered Rent Program who have an increase in income between reviews will not need to report that increase in income, and will stay on the same rent payment amount until their next full review. Households that have a decrease in income between reviews can contact the agency to request a hardship review.

Per the MTW Operations Notice, this activity will operate within the following Safe Harbors:

- i. (Safe Harbor Waiver requested. See below)
- ii. The agency must adopt a flat rent and/or TTP (as applicable) policy within each income band instead of calculating rent based on adjusted or gross income.

This MTW activity serves the following statutory objectives:

Cost effectiveness
Self-sufficiency

This MTW activity serves the following statutory objectives:

Decreased revenue
Increased expenditures

An MTW activity may apply to new admissions only, to currently assisted households only, or to both new admissions and currently assisted households. The MTW activity applies only to a subset or subsets of assisted households

This MTW activity applies to:

New admissions and currently assisted households

An MTW activity may apply to all family types or to selected family types (i.e., non-elderly/non-disabled, elderly, disabled, other).

The MTW activity applies only to selected family types

This MTW activity requires a Safe Harbor Waiver.

The waiver request is being submitted for review with this submission of the MTW Supplement (see Section D).

No hardship were requested in the most recent fiscal year.

In the prior year, under this activity, Housing Authority Of Washington County MTW agency

Received 0 hardship requests

Approved hardship requests

Denied hardship requests

There is\are hardship requests pending.

Income bands are in increments of \$2,500 in gross annual income. Rents are set at 28% of the midpoint of the tier, divided by 12 (to represent monthly income/rent). Households with income below \$2,500 will pay a minimum rent of \$50.

Please see attached tiered rent policy table that shows the income bands.

The rent will be based on tiers of household income. Please see attached for the table on the tiered rent policy table that shows the income bands.

This activity uses a different definition of income because we are using the following MTW waivers (check all that apply)

This activity uses different definition of income because we are using the following MTW waivers:

1.r. and/or 1.s. "elimination of deductions"

1.b. - Tiered Rent (HCV)

As part of our MTW designation, HAWC will implement a tiered rent program to simplify the way rents are calculated for households. This is part of a rent study with three other MTW agencies and will only apply to a small portion of our households. The initial program is for six years and will begin enrolling households in FY 2022-2023. The program will enroll current households and newly admitted for 12 months. After six years, any participating households will transition back to the traditional rent calculation or to a revised calculation that would be introduced to the community in the future.

Only households who are work-able are considered eligible for the Tiered Rent Program. Households where the head, co-head or spouse is age 56 or older or a person with disabilities are not eligible. Households participating in FSS,

mixed-eligibility households, and households using special purpose vouchers are not eligible.

Households will be selected randomly for participation by the research firm's website. Of the households that are eligible, approximately half will be selected for the Tiered Rent Program and half will be selected as comparison households. Comparison households will continue to have their rents calculated using the standard calculation.

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As described in Waivers 3.a. and 3.b., households that are selected for the Tiered Rent Program will move to a triennial recertification schedule. This means that these households will only complete a full review of income and rent adjustment once every three years. Households on the Tiered Rent Program who have an increase in income between reviews will not need to report that increase in income, and will stay on the same rent payment amount until their next full review. Households that have a decrease in income between reviews can contact the agency to request a hardship review.

Per the MTW Operations Notice, this activity will operate within the following Safe Harbors:

- i. (Safe Harbor Waiver requested. See below)
- ii. The agency must adopt a flat rent and/or TTP (as applicable) policy within each income band instead of calculating rent based on adjusted or gross income.

This MTW activity serves the following statutory objectives:

Cost effectiveness
Self-sufficiency

This MTW activity serves the following statutory objectives:

Decreased revenue
Increased expenditures

An MTW activity may apply to new admissions only, to currently assisted households only, or to both new admissions and currently assisted households. The MTW activity applies only to a subset or subsets of assisted households

This MTW activity applies to:

New admissions and currently assisted households

An MTW activity may apply to all family types or to selected family types (i.e., non-elderly/non-disabled, elderly, disabled, other).

The MTW activity applies only to selected family types

This MTW activity applies to the following housing choice voucher unit types: This activity applies to all tenant-based units and properties with project-based vouchers.

This MTW activity requires a Safe Harbor Waiver.

The waiver request is being submitted for review with this submission of the MTW Supplement (see Section D).

No hardship were requested in the most recent fiscal year.

In the prior year, under this activity, Housing Authority Of Washington County MTW agency

Received 0 hardship requests

Approved hardship requests

Denied hardship requests

There is\are hardship requests pending.

Income bands are in increments of \$2,500 in gross annual income. Rents are set at 28% of the midpoint of the tier, divided by 12 (to represent monthly income/rent). Households with income below \$2,500 will pay a minimum rent of \$50.

Please see attached tiered rent policy table that shows the income bands.

The rent will be based on tiers of household income. Please see attached for the table on the tiered rent policy table that shows the income bands.

This activity uses a different definition of income because we are using the following MTW waivers (check all that apply)

This activity uses different definition of income because we are using the following MTW waivers:

1.r. and/or 1.s. "elimination of deductions"

1.r. - Elimination of Deduction(s) (PH)

As described in 1.a. and 1.b., the Tiered Rent Program will utilize a rent schedule based on \$2,500 bands of the

household's gross income. Households who are selected for this program will have their rent calculated using gross income from the prior twelve months (except for new admissions, who will have their rent calculated using current gross income). As a part of the policy, deductions and allowances will not be included in the calculation of gross income.

Per the MTW Operations Notice, this activity will operate within the following Safe Harbors:

- i. Agency must conduct an impact analysis.
- ii. Agency must exempt elderly and disabled families from rent policy.
- iii. Agency must implement a hardship policy.

This MTW activity serves the following statutory objectives:
Cost effectiveness

This MTW activity serves the following statutory objectives:
Decreased revenue
Increased expenditures

An MTW activity may apply to new admissions only, to currently assisted households only, or to both new admissions and currently assisted households. The MTW activity applies only to a subset or subsets of assisted households

This MTW activity applies to:
New admissions and currently assisted households

An MTW activity may apply to all family types or to selected family types (i.e., non-elderly/non-disabled, elderly, disabled, other).
The MTW activity applies only to selected family types

This MTW activity requires a Hardship Policy. The Hardship Policy is attached.

Attached Hardship policy applies to: 1.r. - Elimination of Deduction(s) (PH)
1.s. - Elimination of Deduction(s) (HCV)
3.a. - Alternative Reexamination Schedule for Households (PH)
3.b. - Alternative Reexamination Schedule for Households (HCV)}

No hardship were requested in the most recent fiscal year.

In the prior year, under this activity, Housing Authority Of Washington County MTW agency
Received 0 hardship requests
Approved hardship requests
Denied hardship requests
There is\are hardship requests pending.

This MTW activity requires an Impact Analysis. The Impact Analysis is attached.

The Impact Analysis that applies to this MTW activity also applies to the following MTW activities:
1.r. - Elimination of Deduction(s) (PH)
1.s. - Elimination of Deduction(s) (HCV)
3.a. - Alternative Reexamination Schedule for Households (PH)
3.b. - Alternative Reexamination Schedule for Households (HCV)

Following deduction(s) will be eliminated, modified, or added.

Dependent allowance
Unreimbursed childcare costs
Other

All deductions, including dependent allowances and deductions for childcare costs, will be eliminated for households participating in the Tiered Rent Program. Families who experience a significant rent increase due to the loss of these deductions may be eligible for hardship and adjustment to their rent calculation.

1.s. - Elimination of Deduction(s) (HCV)

As described in 1.a. and 1.b., the Tiered Rent Program will utilize a rent schedule based on \$2,500 bands of the household's gross income. Households who are selected for this program will have their rent calculated using gross income from the prior twelve months (except for new admissions, who will have their rent calculated using current gross income). As a part of the policy, deductions and allowances will not be included in the calculation of gross income.

Per the MTW Operations Notice, this activity will operate within the following Safe Harbors:

- i. Agency must conduct an impact analysis.
- ii. Agency must exempt elderly and disabled families from rent policy.
- iii. Agency must implement a hardship policy.

This MTW activity serves the following statutory objectives:
Cost effectiveness

<p>This MTW activity serves the following statutory objectives: Decreased revenue Increased expenditures</p>
<p>An MTW activity may apply to new admissions only, to currently assisted households only, or to both new admissions and currently assisted households. The MTW activity applies only to a subset or subsets of assisted households</p>
<p>This MTW activity applies to: New admissions and currently assisted households</p>
<p>An MTW activity may apply to all family types or to selected family types (i.e., non-elderly/non-disabled, elderly, disabled, other). The MTW activity applies only to selected family types</p>
<p>This MTW activity applies to the following housing choice voucher unit types: This activity applies to all tenant-based units and properties with project-based vouchers.</p>
<p>This MTW activity requires a Hardship Policy. The Hardship Policy is attached.</p>
<p>Attached Hardship policy applies to: 1.r. - Elimination of Deduction(s) (PH) 1.s. - Elimination of Deduction(s) (HCV) 3.a. - Alternative Reexamination Schedule for Households (PH) 3.b. - Alternative Reexamination Schedule for Households (HCV)}</p>
<p>No hardship were requested in the most recent fiscal year.</p>
<p>In the prior year, under this activity, Housing Authority Of Washington County MTW agency Received 0 hardship requests Approved hardship requests Denied hardship requests There is\are hardship requests pending.</p>
<p>This MTW activity requires an Impact Analysis. The Impact Analysis is attached.</p>
<p>The Impact Analysis that applies to this MTW activity also applies to the following MTW activities: 1.r. - Elimination of Deduction(s) (PH) 1.s. - Elimination of Deduction(s) (HCV) 3.a. - Alternative Reexamination Schedule for Households (PH) 3.b. - Alternative Reexamination Schedule for Households (HCV)</p>
<p>Following deduction(s) will be eliminated, modified, or added. Dependent allowance Unreimbursed childcare costs Other (please explain) All deductions, including dependent allowances and deductions for childcare costs, will be eliminated for households participating in the Tiered Rent Program. Families who experience a significant rent increase due to the loss of these deductions may be eligible for hardship and adjustment to their rent calculation.</p>

<p>2.d. - Rent Reasonableness – Third-Party Requirement (HCV)</p>
<p>HAWC is proposing to eliminate the requirement for a third party to conduct rent reasonableness on units our agency owns or controls, assisted with project-based vouchers. HAWC currently engages a third-party contractor to conduct rent reasonableness in these cases, and it is time consuming and costly. Conducting rent reasonableness calculations internally will streamline processes and create cost effectiveness. HAWC will utilize GoSection8 Rent Reasonableness software for all rent reasonableness processes to ensure quality control and transparency. The program allows Quality Control reviews of the rent reasonableness in which an auditor has access to perform quality control audits on the rent reasonableness determination. Rent reasonableness documentation with comparable will still be transmitted to HUD for Subsidy Layering Reviews.</p> <p>Per the MTW Operations Notice, this activity will operate within the following Safe Harbors: i. The agency shall establish and make available a quality assurance method to ensure impartiality. ii. The agency shall make available the method used to determine that rents charged by owners to voucher participants are reasonable when compared to similar unassisted units in the market area. iii. At the Department’s request, the agency must obtain the services of a third-party entity to determine rent reasonableness for PHA-owned units.</p>
<p>This MTW activity serves the following statutory objectives: Cost effectiveness</p>
<p>This MTW activity serves the following statutory objectives: Decreased expenditures</p>

An MTW activity may apply to new admissions only, to currently assisted households only, or to both new admissions and currently assisted households. The MTW activity applies to all assisted households

No hardship were requested in the most recent fiscal year.

In the prior year, under this activity, Housing Authority Of Washington County MTW agency

Received 0 hardship requests

Approved hardship requests

Denied hardship requests

There is\are hardship requests pending.

Following will explain quality assurance method:

Quality assurance method: The GoSection8 Rent Reasonableness software program allows for quality control reviews of the rent reasonableness in which an auditor has access to perform quality control audits on the rent reasonableness determination. Rent reasonableness documentation with comparable will still be transmitted to HUD for Subsidy Layering Reviews. and attached for quality assurance method

Following will explain rent reasonableness determination method:

Rent reasonableness determination method: HAWC will utilize GoSection8 Rent Reasonableness software for all rent reasonableness processes. The process includes comparable based on up-to-date market units and costs. The software's processes and certification of each review adheres to HUD's rent reasonableness standards. and attached for rent reasonableness determination method

3.a. - Alternative Reexamination Schedule for Households (PH)

HAWC is utilizing 3.a. and 3.b. in two activities: Tiered Rent Program and Triennial Reviews for Seniors and People with Disabilities. Utilization of the waiver in each activity is described below.

TIERED RENT PROGRAM

As described in 1.a. and 1.b., the Tiered Rent Program will utilize a rent schedule based on \$2,500 bands of the household's gross income. Households who are selected for this program will move to a triennial recertification schedule. These households will only complete a full review of income and rent adjustment once every three years. Households on the Tiered Rent Program who have an increase in income between reviews will not need to report that increase in income, and will stay on the same rent payment amount until their next full review. Households that have a decrease in income between reviews can contact the agency to request a hardship review.

The triennial review schedule will benefit families who increase their earnings. Families will not need to report increased income between triennial reviews, and will keep their full additional earnings to build stability.

Per the MTW Operations Notice, this activity will operate within the following Safe Harbors:

- i. Reexaminations must occur at least every three years.
- ii. The agency must allow at least one interim adjustment per year at the request of the household, if the household gross income has decreased 10% or more. (Safe Harbor Waiver requested for Tiered Rent Program. See below.)
- iii. Agency must implement an impact analysis.
- iv. Agency must include a hardship policy.

TRIENNIAL REVIEWS FOR SENIORS AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

HAWC is implementing a triennial review schedule for seniors and people with disabilities. The triennial review schedule will be applied to households with at least one fixed income source, and where all adults in the households are seniors or people with disabilities. (At this time, both factors must apply for households to qualify for triennial reviews.)

Because this subset of our community is frequently on fixed incomes, they do not see significant rent changes from year to year. Annual reviews can be burdensome for these households. Instead, HAWC will only do a full review for these households once every three years. In 2022, households will be assigned their next review in either 2022, 2023 or 2024, and will not have another regular review for three years after. Households do not need to report changes in income between triennial reviews, unless they have a loss of income and are seeking rent reduction.

HAWC will still update COLA, payment standards, utility allowances and run EIV every year, send rent notice and informational letters to the household reminding them that they're on a triennial review, as well as a reminder to update medical expenses within 30 days if applicable.

If a household where all adults in the household are seniors or people with disabilities is zero income, they will be on a six-month review cycle. The goal of these six-month reviews will be to connect households with services or organizations who can help the household through the process of confirming SSI or SSDI income.

Per the MTW Operations Notice, this activity will operate within the following Safe Harbors:

- i. Reexaminations must occur at least every three years.
- ii. The agency must allow at least one interim adjustment per year at the request of the household, if the household gross income has decreased 10% or more. (Safe Harbor Waiver requested for Tiered Rent Program. See below.)
- iii. Agency must implement an impact analysis.
- iv. Agency must include a hardship policy.

This MTW activity serves the following statutory objectives:

Cost effectiveness
Self-sufficiency

This MTW activity serves the following statutory objectives:

Neutral (no cost implications)
Decreased expenditures

An MTW activity may apply to new admissions only, to currently assisted households only, or to both new admissions and currently assisted households. The MTW activity applies only to a subset or subsets of assisted households

This MTW activity applies to:

New admissions and currently assisted households

An MTW activity may apply to all family types or to selected family types (i.e., non-elderly/non-disabled, elderly, disabled, other).

The MTW activity applies only to selected family types

This MTW activity requires a Safe Harbor Waiver.

The waiver request is being submitted for review with this submission of the MTW Supplement (see Section D).

This MTW activity requires a Hardship Policy. The Hardship Policy is attached.

Attached Hardship policy applies to: 1.r. - Elimination of Deduction(s) (PH)

1.s. - Elimination of Deduction(s) (HCV)

3.a. - Alternative Reexamination Schedule for Households (PH)

3.b. - Alternative Reexamination Schedule for Households (HCV)}

No hardship were requested in the most recent fiscal year.

In the prior year, under this activity, Housing Authority Of Washington County MTW agency

Received 0 hardship requests

Approved hardship requests

Denied hardship requests

There is\are hardship requests pending.

This MTW activity requires an Impact Analysis. The Impact Analysis is attached.

Recertification Schedule is Once every three years

Household may request 2 or more interim recertifications per year.

Tiered Rent Program - If a family experiences a decrease in income that falls into a lower tier, the family can request a hardship (as opposed to an interim recertification). Please see the hardship policy for additional details.

Triennial Reviews for Seniors and People with Disabilities - Households will have access to our hardship policy if they feel their current rent calculation is putting their housing stability at risk. HAWC will track and annually review the hardship requests received by these household to ensure the policy is not having a negative or bias impact on these households. Families can also request interims as needed, if the change in household circumstances warrants.

3.b. - Alternative Reexamination Schedule for Households (HCV)

HAWC is utilizing 3.a. and 3.b. in two activities: Tiered Rent Program and Triennial Reviews for Seniors and People with Disabilities. Utilization of the waiver in each activity is described below.

TIERED RENT PROGRAM

As described in 1.a. and 1.b., the Tiered Rent Program will utilize a rent schedule based on \$2,500 bands of the household's gross income. Households who are selected for this program will move to a triennial recertification schedule. These households will only complete a full review of income and rent adjustment once every three years. Households on the Tiered Rent Program who have an increase in income between reviews will not need to report that increase in income, and will stay on the same rent payment amount until their next full review. Households that have a decrease in income between reviews can contact the agency to request a hardship review.

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TRIENNIAL REVIEWS FOR SENIORS AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

HAWC is implementing a triennial review schedule for seniors and people with disabilities. The triennial review schedule will be applied to households with at least one fixed income source, and where all adults in the households are seniors or people with disabilities. (At this time, both factors must apply for households to qualify for triennial reviews.)

Because this subset of our community is frequently on fixed incomes, they do not see significant rent changes from year to year. Annual reviews can be burdensome for these households. Instead, HAWC will only do a full review for these households once every three years. In 2022, households will be assigned their next review in either 2022, 2023 or 2024, and will not have another regular review for three years after. Households do not need to report changes in income between triennial reviews, unless they have a loss of income and are seeking rent reduction.

HAWC will still update COLA, payment standards, utility allowances and run EIV every year, send rent notice and informational letters to the household reminding them that they're on a triennial review, as well as a reminder to update medical expenses within 30 days if applicable.

If a household where all adults in the household are seniors or people with disabilities is zero income, they will be on a six-month review cycle. The goal of these six-month reviews will be to connect households with services or organizations who can help the household through the process of confirming SSI or SSDI income.

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- i. Reexaminations must occur at least every three years.
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- iii. Agency must implement an impact analysis.
- iv. Agency must include a hardship policy.

This MTW activity serves the following statutory objectives:

Cost effectiveness
Self-sufficiency

This MTW activity serves the following statutory objectives:

Neutral (no cost implications)
Decreased expenditures

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This MTW activity applies to the following housing choice voucher unit types: This activity applies to all tenant-based units and properties with project-based vouchers.

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Attached Hardship policy applies to: 1.r. - Elimination of Deduction(s) (PH)

1.s. - Elimination of Deduction(s) (HCV)

3.a. - Alternative Reexamination Schedule for Households (PH)

3.b. - Alternative Reexamination Schedule for Households (HCV)}

No hardship were requested in the most recent fiscal year.

In the prior year, under this activity, Housing Authority Of Washington County MTW agency

Received 0 hardship requests

Approved hardship requests

Denied hardship requests There is\are hardship requests pending.
This MTW activity requires an Impact Analysis. The Impact Analysis is attached.
Recertification Schedule is Once every three years
Household may request 2 or more interim recertifications per year.
Tiered Rent Program - If a family experiences a decrease in income that falls into a lower tier, the family can request a hardship (as opposed to an interim recertification). Please see the hardship policy for additional details. Triennial Reviews for Seniors and People with Disabilities - Households will have access to our hardship policy if they feel their current rent calculation is putting their housing stability at risk. HAWC will track and annually review the hardship requests received by these household to ensure the policy is not having a negative or bias impact on these households. Families can also request interims as needed, if the change in household circumstances warrants.

5.a. - Pre-Qualifying Unit Inspections (HCV)
HAWC is proposing the option to allow pre-qualifying unit inspections, within 90 days of the participant occupying the unit. Allowing pre-qualifying inspections will streamline the process and allow households to move through occupancy more quickly.
Per the MTW Operations Notice, this activity will operate within the following Safe Harbors: i. The pre-inspection must have been conducted within 90 days of the participant occupying the unit. ii. The participant must be able to request an interim inspection. iii. HQS inspection standards must not be altered as found at 24 CFR 982.401.
This MTW activity serves the following statutory objectives: Cost effectiveness
This MTW activity serves the following statutory objectives: Neutral (no cost implications)
An MTW activity may apply to new admissions only, to currently assisted households only, or to both new admissions and currently assisted households. The MTW activity applies to all assisted households
No hardship were requested in the most recent fiscal year.
In the prior year, under this activity, Housing Authority Of Washington County MTW agency Received 0 hardship requests Approved hardship requests Denied hardship requests There is\are hardship requests pending.
The pre-inspection is valid for 90 days.

5.c. - Third-Party Requirement (HCV)
HAWC is proposing to eliminate the requirement for a third party to conduct HQS inspections on units our agency owns or controls, when assisted with tenant-based or project-based vouchers. HAWC currently engages a third-party contractor to conduct HQS inspections in these cases, and it is time consuming and costly. Using HAWC staff to conduct these HQS inspections will streamline processes and create cost effectiveness. HAWC will continue to have a sampling of inspections done by our auditor to ensure quality control and transparency in the process.
Per the MTW Operations Notice, this activity will operate within the following Safe Harbors: i. The agency shall establish and make available a quality assurance method to ensure an objective analysis. ii. The participant must be able to request an interim inspection. iii. HQS inspection standards must not be altered as found at 24 CFR 982.401. iv. At the Department's request, the agency must obtain the services of a third-party entity to determine if PHA-owned units pass HQS.
This MTW activity serves the following statutory objectives: Cost effectiveness
This MTW activity serves the following statutory objectives: Decreased expenditures
An MTW activity may apply to new admissions only, to currently assisted households only, or to both new admissions and currently assisted households. The MTW activity applies to all assisted households
No hardship were requested in the most recent fiscal year.

In the prior year, under this activity, Housing Authority Of Washington County MTW agency
Received 0 hardship requests
Approved hardship requests
Denied hardship requests
There is\are hardship requests pending.

The quality assurance method:

Following will explain the quality assurance method – HAWC will continue to utilize our internal quality control process of HQS audits, ensuring that a minimum amount of inspections are reviewed by a secondary staff member. The agency will conduct quality control inspections utilizing 24 CFR 985.2(b) that determines the quality control sample size, whereas the PHA will perform quality control inspections to ensure housing quality. The sample selection will be drawn in an unbiased manner and reviewed by an agency supervisor or another qualified person other than the person who performed the original work. Sample pulls may occur monthly or quarterly and notices will be sent to the participants and landlords. If [Upload file] options- Display 'Attached for quality assurance method"

5.d. - Alternative Inspection Schedule (HCV)

HAWC is proposing that in lieu of initial staff inspections of PBV units before occupancy or at turnover (per 24 CFR 983.103(b)-(c)), properties in good standing will self-certify adherence to HQS inspection standards. This policy will allow for the landlord and tenant to complete and sign a self-certification of inspection at the time of lease up, with documentation submitted at the same time as the other leasing paperwork. Once received, staff will review and if approved, place the PBV unit on an annual inspection cycle.

This policy will only apply to properties in good standing, and HAWC may require initial inspections at any PBV unit if there are concerns with failed inspections in the property. Additionally, the participant can request an interim inspection at any time. All initial inspections on a contract will be conducted by an HQS inspection, including but not limited to new construction, rehabilitation and unit transfers. The unit must pass at least one full HQS inspection before it will be eligible for an initial self-certification.

HAWC will employ a quality control process of HQS internal audits, randomly selecting a percentage of self-certified inspections to receive a secondary inspection by internal staff. HAWC will also track interim inspection requests and results from annual inspections, to monitor if the policy is having any negative or bias impact on housing quality or residents.

Per the MTW Operations Notice, this activity will operate within the following Safe Harbors:

- i. Units must be inspected at least once every three years.
- ii. The participant must be able to request an interim inspection.
- iii. HQS inspection standards as found at 24 CFR 982.401 must not be altered.
- iv. The Department must be able to conduct or direct the agency to perform an inspection at any time for health and safety, as well as accessibility, purposes.

This MTW activity serves the following statutory objectives:
Cost effectiveness

This MTW activity serves the following statutory objectives:
Decreased expenditures

An MTW activity may apply to new admissions only, to currently assisted households only, or to both new admissions and currently assisted households. The MTW activity applies to all assisted households

No hardship were requested in the most recent fiscal year.

In the prior year, under this activity, Housing Authority Of Washington County MTW agency
Received 0 hardship requests
Approved hardship requests
Denied hardship requests
There is\are hardship requests pending.

9.a. - Increase PBV Program Cap (HCV)

HAWC is proposing to increase the number of authorized units that we may project-base up to 50%. Project-based vouchers (PBVs) are an important resource in our community, allowing the agency to coordinate with local property owners, developers, service coordinators and jurisdictional partners to provide targeted housing for different populations.

Per the MTW Operations Notice, this activity will operate within the following Safe Harbors:

i. The agency must not project-base more than 50% of the lower of either the total authorized units or annual budget authority.
This MTW activity serves the following statutory objectives: Housing choice
This MTW activity serves the following statutory objectives: Neutral (no cost implications)
An MTW activity may apply to new admissions only, to currently assisted households only, or to both new admissions and currently assisted households. The MTW activity applies to all assisted households
No hardship were requested in the most recent fiscal year.
In the prior year, under this activity, Housing Authority Of Washington County MTW agency Received 0 hardship requests Approved hardship requests Denied hardship requests There is\are hardship requests pending.
50.00% of total authorized HCV units will be authorized for project-basing.

9.b. - Increase PBV Project Cap (HCV)
HAWC is proposing to increase the PBV cap within a project to 100%. Project-based vouchers (PBVs) are an important resource in our community, allowing the agency to coordinate with local property owners, developers, service coordinators and jurisdictional partners to provide targeted housing for different populations.
Per the MTW Operations Notice, this activity will operate within the following Safe Harbors: i. The agency is subject to Notice PIH 2013-27 where applicable, or successor.
This MTW activity serves the following statutory objectives: Housing choice
This MTW activity serves the following statutory objectives: Neutral (no cost implications)
An MTW activity may apply to new admissions only, to currently assisted households only, or to both new admissions and currently assisted households. The MTW activity applies to all assisted households
No hardship were requested in the most recent fiscal year.
In the prior year, under this activity, Housing Authority Of Washington County MTW agency Received 0 hardship requests Approved hardship requests Denied hardship requests There is\are hardship requests pending.

9.c. - Elimination of PBV Selection Process for PHA-owned Projects Without Improvement, Development, or Replacement (HCV)
HAWC is proposing to eliminate the selection process in the award of PBVs to properties owned by the agency that are not public housing without engaging in an initiative to improve, develop, or replace a public housing property or site. HAWC will continue to abide by the additional HUD selection requirements and will maintain transparency with our community.
Per the MTW Operations Notice, this activity will operate within the following Safe Harbors: i. A subsidy layering review must be conducted. ii. The agency must complete site selection requirements. iii. (The agency is also implementing Activity 5.c. and will be waiving the third-party inspection requirements for all PBV properties. The agency has confirmed that Activity 5.c. overrides the Safe Harbor in Activity 9.c. with the MTW Office.) iv. The agency is subject to Notice PIH 2013-27 where applicable, or successor. v. Property must be owned by a single-asset entity of the agency, see Notice PIH 2017-21.
This MTW activity serves the following statutory objectives: Housing choice
This MTW activity serves the following statutory objectives: Neutral (no cost implications)
An MTW activity may apply to new admissions only, to currently assisted households only, or to both new admissions and

currently assisted households. The MTW activity applies to all assisted households
No hardship were requested in the most recent fiscal year.
In the prior year, under this activity, Housing Authority Of Washington County MTW agency Received 0 hardship requests Approved hardship requests Denied hardship requests There is\are hardship requests pending.

9.h. - Limit Portability for PBV Units (HCV)
HAWC is proposing to waive the current requirement to provide a tenant-based voucher at 12 months when requested by a PBV household. Because of the limited availability of tenant-based vouchers in our community, we currently have a list of approximately 1,800 households waiting to access a tenant-based voucher – with many more in our community who are eligible, but not yet on any waitlist.
HAWC will limit the preference for a tenant-based voucher at 12 months to PBV households who are requesting transfer because of VAWA transfer or another reasonable accommodation. Requests must be submitted in writing and will be reviewed by the Program Manager. If a request is denied, the household would have the right to an informal review through the hearing process.
Per the MTW Operations Notice, this activity will operate within the following Safe Harbors: i. (Safe Harbor Waiver requested. See below.) ii. The agency must have a clear and uniform policy in place to address how move requests are received and how they are approved/denied for PBV households. iii. Participants must still retain the ability to request a tenant-based voucher for reasonable accommodation according to existing rules.
This MTW activity serves the following statutory objectives: Housing choice
This MTW activity serves the following statutory objectives: Neutral (no cost implications)
An MTW activity may apply to new admissions only, to currently assisted households only, or to both new admissions and currently assisted households. The MTW activity applies to all assisted households
No hardship were requested in the most recent fiscal year.
In the prior year, under this activity, Housing Authority Of Washington County MTW agency Received 0 hardship requests Approved hardship requests Denied hardship requests There is\are hardship requests pending.

14.a. - Waive Initial HQS Inspection Requirement (HCV)
Moving On enables individuals and families who are able and want to move from permanent supportive housing (PSH) to do so by providing mainstream housing options, like public housing units or rent assistance vouchers. HAWC is utilizing our MTW authority to waive the requirement for an additional HQS inspection if the household is going to use mainstream housing options (such as a voucher) to continue to lease the same unit.
HAWC anticipates this activity will be relatively cost neutral, with some staff time savings through the policy, but significant improvements in administrative efficiency.
Per the MTW Operations Notice, this activity will operate within the following Safe Harbors: i. Initial income eligibility must be determined in accordance with 24 CFR 5.609 of the 1937 Act. ii. Agencies must continue to allow participants to request an interim HQS inspection. iii. Any income calculations that are accepted from partner agencies must have been calculated within the last year. iv. Screenings for lifetime sex offender status and convictions of drug-related criminal activity for manufacture or production of methamphetamine on the premises of federally assisted housing must continue and are not waivable.
This MTW activity serves the following statutory objectives: Cost effectiveness Housing choice

This MTW activity serves the following statutory objectives:
Neutral (no cost implications)

An MTW activity may apply to new admissions only, to currently assisted households only, or to both new admissions and currently assisted households. The MTW activity applies to all assisted households

No hardship were requested in the most recent fiscal year.

In the prior year, under this activity, Housing Authority Of Washington County MTW agency

Received 0 hardship requests

Approved hardship requests

Denied hardship requests

There is\are hardship requests pending.

D.	Safe Harbor Waivers.
D.1	Safe Harbor Waivers seeking HUD Approval: Please see attached for Safe Harbor Waivers requested this year.

E.	Agency-Specific Waiver(s).
E.1	Agency-Specific Waiver(s) for HUD Approval: The MTW demonstration program is intended to foster innovation and HUD encourages MTW agencies, in consultation with their residents and stakeholders, to be creative in their approach to solving affordable housing issues facing their local communities. For this reason, Agency-Specific Waivers may be requested. Please see attached for Agency-Specific Waiver(s) requested this year.
E.2	Agency-Specific Waiver(s) for which HUD Approval has been Received: MTW Agency does not have approved Agency-Specific Waivers

F.	Public Housing Operating Subsidy Grant Reporting.
F.1	Total Public Housing Operating subsidy amount authorized, disbursed by 9/30, remaining, and deadline for disbursement, by Federal Fiscal Year for each year the PHA is designated an MTW agency.

Federal Fiscal Year (FFY)	Total Operating Subsidy Authorized Amount	How Much PHA Disbursed by the 9/30 Reporting Period	Remaining Not Yet Disbursed	Deadline
2021	\$1,004,472	\$1,004,472		2029-09-30
2022	\$337,490	\$168,745	\$168,745	2030-09-30

G.	MTW Statutory Requirements.	
G.1	75% Very Low Income – Local, Non-Traditional. HUD will verify compliance with the statutory requirement that at least 75% of the households assisted by the MTW agency are very low-income for MTW public housing units and MTW HCVs through HUD systems. The MTW PHA must provide data for the actual families housed upon admission during the PHA's most recently completed Fiscal Year for its Local, Non-Traditional program households.	
	Income Level	Number of Local, Non-Traditional Households Admitted in the Fiscal Year*
	80%-50% Area Median Income	
	49%-30% Area Median Income	
	Below 30% Area Median Income	
	Total Local, Non-Traditional Households	0

*Local, non-traditional income data must be provided in the MTW Supplement form until such time that it can be submitted in IMS-PIC or other HUD system.

G.2	Establishing Reasonable Rent Policy.
MTW agency established a rent reform policy to encourage employment and self-sufficiency	

G.3	Substantially the Same (STS) – Local, Non-Traditional.
The total number of unit months that families were housed in a local, non-traditional rental subsidy for the prior full calendar year.	0 # of unit months
The total number of unit months that families were housed in a local, non-traditional housing development program for the prior full calendar year.	0 # of unit months

Number of units developed under the local, non-traditional housing development activity that were available for occupancy during the prior full calendar year:

PROPERTY NAME/ ADDRESS	0/1 BR	2 BR	3 BR	4 BR	5 BR	6+ BR	TOTAL UNITS	POPULATION TYPE*	if 'Population Type' is Other	# of Section 504 Accessible (Mobility)**	# of Section 504 Accessible (Hearing/ Vision)	Was this Property Made Available for Initial Occupancy during the Prior Full Calendar Year?	What was the Total Amount of MTW Funds Invested into the Property?
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G.4	Comparable Mix (by Family Size) – Local, Non-Traditional.
To demonstrate compliance with the statutory requirement to continue serving a 'comparable mix' of families by family size to that which would have been served without MTW, the MTW agency will provide the number of families occupying local, non-traditional units by household size for the most recently completed Fiscal Year in the provided table.	

Family Size:	Occupied Number of Local, Non-Traditional units by Household Size
1 Person	
2 Person	
3 Person	
4 Person	
5 Person	
6+ Person	
Totals	0

H.	Public Comment
	Attached you will find a copy of all of the comments received and a description of how the agency analyzed the comments, as well as any decisions made based on those comments.
	No additional public hearing was held for an Agency-Specific Waiver and/or Safe Harbor waiver

I.	Evaluations.
	Yes - This table lists evaluations of Housing Authority Of Washington County's MTW activities, including the names of evaluators and available reports

Table I.1 - Evaluations of MTW Policies

Title and short description	Evaluator name and contact information	Time period	Reports available
Tiered Rent Program - HAWC's participation in the second cohort of the MTW Expansion will evaluate alternative rent policies designed to increase resident self-sufficiency and reduce administrative burdens. HAWC will be studying a tiered rent model. An independent research team led by MDRC will work with HUD, HAWC, and the other selected agencies to assist in implementation and evaluate the effects of the alternative rent policy.	MDRC Contact: Nina Castells; Nina.Castells@mdrc.org	HAWC anticipates evaluation to run July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2028.	

MTW CERTIFICATIONS OF COMPLIANCE**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
OFFICE OF PUBLIC AND INDIAN HOUSING****Certifications of Compliance with Regulations:
Board Resolution to Accompany the MTW Supplement to the Annual PHA Plan**

Acting on behalf of the Board of Commissioners of the Moving to Work Public Housing Agency (MTW PHA) listed below, as its Chairperson or other authorized MTW PHA official if there is no Board of Commissioners, I approve the submission of the MTW Supplement to the Annual PHA Plan for the MTW PHA Fiscal Year beginning (07/01/2022), hereinafter referred to as "the MTW Supplement", of which this document is a part and make the following certifications and agreements with the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in connection with the submission of the MTW Supplement and implementation thereof:

- (1) The PHA made the proposed MTW Supplement and all information relevant to the public hearing available for public inspection at least 45 days before the hearing, published a notice that a hearing would be held and conducted a hearing to discuss the MTW Supplement and invited public comment.
- (2) The MTW PHA took into consideration public and resident comments (including those of its Resident Advisory Board(s) or tenant associations, as applicable) before approval of the MTW Supplement by the Board of Commissioners or Board of Directors in order to incorporate any public comments into the annual MTW Supplement.
- (3) The MTW PHA certifies that the Board of Directors has reviewed and approved the budget for the Capital Fund Program grants contained in the Capital Fund Program Annual Statement/Performance and Evaluation Report, form HUD-50075.1 (or successor form as required by HUD).
- (4) The MTW PHA will carry out the MTW Supplement in conformity with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d-2000d-4), the Fair Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 3601-19), section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794), and title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.) all regulations implementing these authorities; and other applicable Federal, State, and local civil rights laws.
- (5) The MTW Supplement is consistent with the applicable comprehensive housing affordability strategy (or any plan incorporating such strategy) for the jurisdiction in which the PHA is located.
- (6) The MTW Supplement contains a certification by the appropriate state or local officials that the Plan is consistent with the applicable Consolidated Plan, which includes a certification that requires the preparation of an Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice, for the MTW PHA's jurisdiction and a description of the manner in which the MTW Supplement is consistent with the applicable Consolidated Plan.
- (7) The MTW PHA will affirmatively further fair housing, which means that it will: (i) take meaningful actions to further the goals identified by the Assessment of Fair Housing (AFH) conducted in accordance with the requirements of 24 CFR 5.150-5.180 and 903.15; (ii) take no action that is materially inconsistent with its obligation to affirmatively further fair housing; and (iii) address fair housing issues and contributing factors in its programs, in accordance with 24 CFR 903.7(o)(3) and 903.15(d). Note: Until the PHA is required to submit an AFH, and that AFH has been accepted by HUD, the PHA must follow the certification requirements of 24 CFR 903.7(o) in effect prior to August 17, 2015. Under these requirements, the PHA will be considered in compliance with the certification requirements of 24 CFR 903.7(o)(1)-(3) and 903.15(d) if it: (i) examines its programs or proposed programs; (ii) identifies any impediments to fair housing choice within those programs; (iii) addresses those impediments in a reasonable fashion in view of the resources available; (iv) works with local jurisdictions to implement any of the jurisdiction's initiatives to affirmatively further fair housing that require the PHA's involvement; and (v) maintains records reflecting these analyses and actions.
- (8) The MTW PHA will comply with the prohibitions against discrimination on the basis of age pursuant to the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 and HUD's implementing regulations at 24 C.F.R. Part 146.
- (9) In accordance with 24 CFR 5.105(a)(2), HUD's Equal Access Rule, the MTW PHA will not make a determination of eligibility for housing based on sexual orientation, gender identify, or marital status and will make no inquiries concerning the gender identification or sexual orientation of an applicant for or occupant of HUD-assisted housing.
- (10) The MTW PHA will comply with the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 and 24 CFR Part 41, Policies and Procedures for the Enforcement of Standards and Requirements for Accessibility by the Physically Handicapped.
- (11) The MTW PHA will comply with the requirements of section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968, Employment Opportunities for Low- or Very-Low Income Persons, and with its implementing regulation at 24 CFR Part 135.
- (12) The MTW PHA will comply with requirements with regard to a drug free workplace required by 24 CFR Part 24, Subpart F.
- (13) The MTW PHA will comply with requirements with regard to compliance with restrictions on lobbying required by 24 CFR Part 87, together with disclosure forms if required by this Part, and with restrictions on payments to influence Federal Transactions, in accordance with the Byrd Amendment.
- (14) The MTW PHA will comply with acquisition and relocation requirements of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 and implementing regulations at 49 CFR Part 24 as applicable.

- (15) The MTW PHA will take appropriate affirmative action to award contracts to minority and women's business enterprises under 24 CFR 5.105(a).
- (16) The MTW PHA will provide HUD or the responsible entity any documentation needed to carry out its review under the National Environmental Policy Act and other related authorities in accordance with 24 CFR Part 58. Regardless of who acts as the responsible entity, the MTW PHA will maintain documentation that verifies compliance with environmental requirements pursuant to 24 Part 58 and 24 CFR Part 50 and will make this documentation available to HUD upon its request.
- (17) With respect to public housing and applicable local, non-traditional development the MTW PHA will comply with Davis-Bacon or HUD determined wage rate requirements under section 12 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 and the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act.
- (18) The MTW PHA will keep records in accordance with 2 CFR 200.333-200.337 and facilitate an effective audit to determine compliance with program requirements.
- (19) The MTW PHA will comply with the Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act and 24 CFR Part 35.
- (20) The MTW PHA will comply with the policies, guidelines, and requirements of 2 CFR Part 200.
- (21) The MTW PHA must fulfill its responsibilities to comply with and ensure enforcement of housing quality standards as required in PIH Notice 2011-45, or successor notice, for any local, non-traditional program units. The MTW PHA must fulfill its responsibilities to comply with and ensure enforcement of Housing Quality Standards, as defined in 24 CFR Part 982, for any Housing Choice Voucher units under administration.
- (22) The MTW PHA will undertake only activities and programs covered by the Moving to Work Operations Notice in a manner consistent with its MTW Supplement and will utilize covered grant funds only for activities that are approvable under the Moving to Work Operations Notice and included in its MTW Supplement. MTW Waivers activities being implemented by the agency must fall within the safe harbors outlined in Appendix I of the Moving to Work Operations Notice and/or HUD approved Agency-Specific or Safe Harbor Waivers.
- (23) All attachments to the MTW Supplement have been and will continue to be available at all times and all locations that the MTW Supplement is available for public inspection. All required supporting documents have been made available for public inspection along with the MTW Supplement and additional requirements at the primary business office of the PHA and at all other times and locations identified by the MTW PHA in its MTW Supplement and will continue to be made available at least at the primary business office of the MTW PHA.

Housing Authority of Washington County

OR (022)

MTW PHA NAME

MTW PHA NUMBER/HA CODE

I hereby certify that all the information stated herein, as well as any information provided in the accompaniment herewith, is true and accurate. Warning: HUD will prosecute false claims and statements. Conviction may result in criminal and/or civil penalties. (18 U.S.C. 1001, 1010, 1012; 31 U.S.C. 3729, 3802).

Kathryn Harrington

Chair

NAME OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL

TITLE



4/8/22

SIGNATURE

DATE

*** Must be signed by either the Chairperson or Secretary of the Board of the MTW PHA's legislative body. This certification cannot be signed by an employee unless authorized by the MTW PHA Board to do so. If this document is not signed by the Chairperson or Secretary, documentation such as the by-laws or authorizing board resolution must accompany this certification.**

Safe Harbor Waivers

Tiered Rent Program

1.a., 1.b. – Tiered Rent

Activity: The agency may implement changes to the tenant rent/TTP calculation to create a system based upon income bands.

Safe Harbor to be Waived: “i. Rents and/or TTP (as applicable) established under this system must set be set up using the lowest income in each band. For example, if an income band is \$2,500-\$5,000 then the rent for that band must be set using \$2,500.”

Regulation: Certain provisions of sections 8(o)(2)(A)-(C) of the 1937 Act and 24 CFR 5.628

Proposed activity: The standard MTW waiver provides that when a tiered rent is adopted, TTP/rent is based on the income at the bottom of the tier. For the Tiered Rent Program, the study design has established TTP/rent at 28% of the midpoint of the tier.

Impact analysis: Please see attached Tiered Rent Program impact analysis.

Hardship policy: Please see attached Tiered Rent Program hardship policy.

Public comments: Please see attached description of all public comments received and consideration/responses to comments. No comments were made in specific reference to the waiver of this Safe Harbor.

Tiered Rent Program

3.a., 3.b. – Alternative Reexamination Schedule for Households

Activity: The agency may establish an alternative reexamination schedule for households.

Safe Harbor to be Waived: “ii. The agency must allow at least one interim adjustment per year at the request of the household, if the household gross income has decreased 10% or more.”

Regulation: Certain provisions of sections 8(o)(5) of the 1937 Act and 24 CFR 982.516(a)(1) and 982.516(c)(2).

Proposed activity: The standard MTW waiver calls for at least one interim adjustment per year at the request of the household, if the household gross income has decreased 10% or more. However, the Tiered Rent Program study design does not provide for interim adjustments, but instead calls for hardship rent application when a household’s income decreases and falls into a lower rent tier. (Please note this Safe Harbor Waiver only applies to triennial reviews established by the Tiered Rent Program, and not to the triennial review activity for seniors and people with disabilities.)

Impact analysis: Please see attached Tiered Rent Program impact analysis.

Hardship policy: Please see attached Tiered Rent Program hardship policy.

Public comments: Please see attached description of all public comments received and consideration/responses to comments. No comments were made in specific reference to the waiver of this Safe Harbor.

Local Project-Based Voucher Program
9.h. Limit Portability for PBV Units (HCV)

Activity: The agency is authorized to waive the requirement to provide a tenant-based voucher at 12 months when requested by a PBV household.

Safe Harbor to be Waived: “i. Portability under this activity must not be restricted for more than 24 months.”

Regulation: Certain provisions of section 8(o)(13)(E) of 1937 Act and 24 CFR 983.261 as it was superseded by HOTMA Implementation Notices at 82 FR 5458 and 82 FR 32461 (see implementation guidance in Notice PIH 2017-21).

Proposed activity: HAWC is proposing to restrict portability based on need of the PBV household (for example, VAWA transfer, reasonable accommodation), rather than on a timeframe.

Because of the limited availability of tenant-based vouchers in our community, we currently have a list of approximately 1,800 households waiting to access a tenant-based voucher – with many more in our community who are eligible, but not yet on any waitlist. HAWC will limit the preference for a tenant-based voucher at 12 months to PBV households who are requesting transfer because of VAWA transfer or another reasonable accommodation.

Impact analysis:

1. Agency finances – No projected impact.
2. Affordability of housing costs – No projected impact.
3. Agency waitlist – Although significant waitlist time reductions are not anticipated, this activity will allow the agency to that ensure households on our tenant-based waitlist continue to be served.
4. Termination rate – No projected impact.
5. Occupancy / Utilization – No projected impact.
6. MTW Statutory Goals – This activity will reduce cost and achieve greater cost effectiveness in federal expenditures through administrative efficiencies. It will also increase housing choices for eligible low-income families as the agency continues to serve households on our tenant-based waitlist.
7. Statutory Requirements – No projected impact.
8. Hardship requests – No projected impact.
9. Protected classes / Disparate impact – No project impact.

Hardship policy: This activity will primarily result in administrative efficiency, will not affect tenant rent amounts and will not require a specific hardship policy. However, households will retain the right to request reasonable accommodations.

Public comments: Please see attached description of all public comments received and consideration/responses to comments. One person asked for clarification about how this priority was changing:

Q: How is the priority changing for Project-Based Voucher transfers?

Under current rules, after a household has lived in a Project-Based Voucher unit for 12 months, they can request a tenant-based voucher and be given priority above those on the waitlist. Because of our extensive waitlist for tenant-based vouchers and the known need in the community, we want to ensure we’re able to continue to serve households who are not yet receiving rent assistance. For this reason,

we are proposing that a Project-Based Voucher household will only receive priority for a tenant-based voucher upon completion of a reasonable accommodation request, such as a VAWA transfer.

Agency Specific Waivers

- A. Income Verification
- B. Calculation of Asset Income
- C. Calculation of Medical/Disability Expense Deduction
- D. Discontinue Earned Income Disallowance (EID)
- E. Proration of Assistance for Mixed-Eligibility Households
- F. Voucher Set-Aside Program
- G. Strategic Waitlists

Attachment: MTW Activities Hardship Policy

A. Income Verification

Full description: HAWC is proposing a waiver to the verification hierarchy found in PIH Notice 2018-18, "Administrative Guidance for Effective and Mandated Use of the Enterprise Income Verification (EIV) System". HAWC is proposing this waiver for all current households (excludes income verification at new admission).

HAWC will continue to use EIV and other Upfront Income Verification (UIV) tools as the first, preferred verification technique. Use of EIV is mandatory. The next level will be tenant-provided documents (including pay stubs) and tenant self-certification. The lowest ranking verification techniques will be third-party verification (written or oral).

This waiver will help reduce cost and streamline processes in verifying income during the reexamination process. In HAWC's experience, tenant-provided documents and tenant self-certification has been an efficient method of verifying income, when partnered with EIV and UIV.

Statute, Regulation or Operations Notice to be waived: Notice PIH 2018-18

MTW Statutory Objective: Reduce cost and achieve greater cost effectiveness in federal expenditures

Population groups and household types impacted by this activity: All

Cost Implications: HAWC anticipates a modest savings in staff time with this activity, but we do not anticipate staffing reductions. This activity will be relatively cost neutral.

Implementation timeline: HAWC will implement this new process for all households, beginning on July 1, 2022 (pending HUD approval).

Impact Analysis:

1. Agency finances - HAWC anticipates a modest savings in staff time with this activity, but we do not anticipate staffing reductions. This activity will be relatively cost neutral.
2. Affordability of housing costs – No projected impact.
3. Agency waitlist – No projected impact.
4. Termination rate – No projected impact.
5. Occupancy / Utilization – No projected impact.
6. MTW Statutory Goals - This activity is projected to increase staff efficiency by reducing reliance on third-party oral or written income verifications.
7. Statutory Requirements – No projected impact.
8. Hardship requests – No projected impact.

9. Protected classes / Disparate impact – No project impact.

Hardship Policy: This activity will primarily result in administrative efficiency and will not require a specific hardship policy. However, households will retain the existing rights to contest income findings. If the family disputes the accuracy of the data, the PHA will independently verify and give the family an opportunity to contest findings through the informal review/hearing process of the PHA. These policies are established in Chapters 7 of the HCV Program Administrative Plan and the Public Housing ACOP.

Comments received + Agency response: No comments received.

B. Calculation of Asset Income

Full description: The calculation of asset income and how it affects a household’s rent is often arduous and confusing. Across 2,256 households currently reporting assets, the average annual impact on household rent is \$3.56 per household, per year. The staff time required to collect, verify and calculate asset information is of significant more cost than this.

HAWC is requesting an Agency Specific Waiver to change the way assets are used to calculate rent. Asset information will still be collected and verified at initial eligibility. However, HAWC will disregard all assets when total assets for the household are less than \$100,000. HAWC will not include asset or asset income in the rent calculation, or enter the information into Yardi, if total assets are less than \$100,000 as indicated in the personal declaration packet. If assets are \$100,000 or more, HAWC will continue to process assets and calculate the impact on rent as usual.

Out of 2,256 households currently reporting assets, only 21 households (or 1%) have assets of \$100,000 or more. The total impact of those assets represents 65% of the difference in final rent calculations across the agency. Continuing to include assets of \$100,000 or more will ensure that households with significant asset income use a portion of that income toward their rent.

This activity will apply to all new and existing households included in MTW flexibility, including Public Housing, Housing Choice Voucher and Project-Based Voucher households.

Statute, Regulation or Operations Notice to be waived: Certain provisions of section 24 CFR 5.609 (b), 982.516, and sections 3(a)(1) and 3(b)(4)-(5) of the 1937 Act

MTW Statutory Objective: Reduce cost and achieve greater cost effectiveness in federal expenditures

Population groups and household types impacted by this activity: This activity will apply to all new and existing households included in MTW flexibility, including Public Housing, Housing Choice Voucher and Project-Based Voucher households.

Cost Implications: Loss of rental income or increase in HAP expenditures will cost HAWC approximately \$2,836 annually. However, this small cost will be offset by increased staff efficiency and the opportunity for staff to focus on additional supports for households.

Implementation timeline: HAWC will implement this new process and calculation for all new and existing households, beginning on July 1, 2022 (pending HUD approval). Updated calculations will be included at the household’s next reexamination.

Impact Analysis:

1. Agency finances – This activity is projected to cost the agency approximately \$2,836 annually in loss of rental income or increase in HAP expenditures.
2. Affordability of housing costs – This activity has no impact or a very small impact for the majority of households with assets of less than \$100,000. (Current process remains in place for households with assets totaling \$100,000 or more.)

2,235 Households with assets \$1 - \$99,999

		Rent Decrease	
Rent Increase	No change	\$1-\$10	More than \$10
0 households	2,073 households	158 households	4 households

3. Agency waitlist – No projected impact.
4. Termination rate – No projected impact.
5. Occupancy / Utilization – No projected impact.
6. MTW Statutory Goals – This activity is projected to increase staff efficiency by reducing the processes around asset information collection, verification and calculation by more than 90%.
7. Statutory Requirements – No projected impact.
8. Hardship requests – No projected impact.
9. Protected classes / Disparate impact – No projected impact.

Hardship Policy: This policy does not result in any additional hardships or rent increases for our household. All households have access to our MTW Hardship policy.

Comments received + Agency response: No comments received.

C. Calculation of Medical/Disability Expense Deduction

Full description: HAWC is requesting MTW flexibility to simplify the calculation of the medical or disability expense deduction, the process of verifying expenses, and how those expenses will impact a household’s rent.

HAWC will use a simplified table (below) to calculate allowances related to a household’s medical or disability expenses. We will no longer use a varying medical or disability expense threshold for households. In essence, we will take the full amount of the household’s expense and round down to the nearest \$1,000 to calculate their deduction. Only medical or disability expenses totaling \$1,500 or more per year are eligible.

Medical / Disability expense	Deduction	Medical / Disability expense	Deduction
\$0 - \$1,500	\$0	\$5,000 - \$5,999	\$5,000
\$1,500 - \$1,999	\$1,000	\$6,000 - \$6,999	\$6,000
\$2,000 - \$2,999	\$2,000	\$7,000 - \$7,999	\$7,000
\$3,000 - \$3,999	\$3,000	\$8,000 - \$8,999	\$8,000
\$4,000 - \$4,999	\$4,000	\$9,000 - \$9,999	\$9,000

Medical /disability expense information can only be submitted once every 12 months. Interim reviews will not recalculate medical expenses. Households will submit medical expense information via a form. For expenses totaling less than \$5,000, HAWC will use tenant self-certification. Receipts will be required for expenses totaling \$5,000 or more.

This activity will apply to all new and existing households included in MTW flexibility, including Public Housing, Housing Choice Voucher and Project-Based Voucher households. Please note that households participating in the Tiered Rent Program will no longer have deductions included in their rent calculation, and will therefore not be subject to this change.

Statute, Regulation or Operations Notice to be waived: Certain provisions of 24 CFR 5.611(a)(3) and section 3(a)(1) and 3(b)(5) of 1937 Act

MTW Statutory Objective: Reduce cost and achieve greater cost effectiveness in federal expenditures

Population groups and household types impacted by this activity: All

Cost Implications: HAWC anticipates savings of approximately \$11,000 annually in reduced HAP costs or increased public housing rent. Additionally, HAWC anticipates a savings in staff time with this activity, but we do not anticipate staffing reductions.

Implementation timeline: HAWC will implement this new process and calculation for all new and existing households, beginning on July 1, 2022 (pending HUD approval). Updated calculations will be included at the household’s next reexamination.

Impact Analysis

1. Agency finances – HAWC anticipates savings of approximately \$11,000 annually in reduced HAP costs or increased public housing rent. Additionally, HAWC anticipates a savings in staff time with this activity, but we do not anticipate staffing reductions.
2. Affordability of housing costs – Of the 492 households who currently report medical/disability expenses, the majority will see no change or very little change in their monthly rent due to this activity.

492 Households with reported medical/disability expenses

Rent Increase			No change	Rent Decrease		
\$21+	\$11-\$20	\$1-\$10		\$1-\$10	\$11-\$20	\$21+
6	51	172	177	52	29	5

The largest increase in monthly rent is \$28. The largest decrease in monthly rent is \$44.

3. Agency waitlist – No projected impact.
4. Termination rate – No projected impact.
5. Occupancy / Utilization – No projected impact.
6. MTW Statutory Goals – This activity is projected to increase staff efficiency by reducing the processes around gathering information for medical and disability expenses, calculating the deduction, and reducing medical and disability expense reporting to once every 12 months.
7. Statutory Requirements – No projected impact.
8. Hardship requests – See hardship policy information below. We do not project an impact in the number of hardship requests.

9. Protected classes / Disparate impact – No projected impact.
Hardship Policy – Households will be able to access our MTW Hardship policy. Because of the current medical / disability expense calculation, many of these households are accustomed to annual changes in their rent, due to changes in their actual annual medical / disability expenses.
Comments received + Agency response: No comments received.

D. Discontinue Earned Income Disallowance (EID)

<p>Full description: HUD has published proposed rules indicating that the Earned Income Disregard (EID) program will be discontinued. In anticipation, HAWC is proposing an end to our program and to stop enrolling new households into EID as of August 1, 2022. In accordance with the proposed HUD rules, HAWC will allow current EID participants to continue to receive the benefit until the end of their benefit timeframe, or on July 31, 2023 (whichever is sooner).</p> <p>The current EID program allows some households to disregard income when calculating rent. However, the program is complicated to administer, with a number of different rules related to the calculation and the timeline. Because HUD has indicated the intention to end the program, HAWC is seeking a waiver to discontinue enrollment at this time, providing more time for phasing out the program and exploring other options for supporting households that are increasing their income.</p>
Statute, Regulation or Operations Notice to be waived: Certain provisions of 24 CFR 5.611(a)(3) and section 3(a)(1) and 3(b)(5) of 1937 Act
MTW Statutory Objective: Reduce cost and achieve greater cost effectiveness in federal expenditures
Population groups and household types impacted by this activity: All
Cost Implications: Cost neutral
Implementation timeline: HAWC will stop enrolling new households into EID as of August 1, 2022, and will allow current EID participants to continue to receive the benefit until the end of their benefit timeline or July 31, 2023 (pending HUD approval).
<p>Impact Analysis</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agency finances – Because current households will be allowed to finish out the majority of their planned benefit, HAWC expects minimal impact to agency finances. 2. Affordability of housing costs – No projected impact. 3. Agency waitlist – No projected impact. 4. Termination rate – No projected impact. 5. Occupancy / Utilization – No projected impact. 6. MTW Statutory Goals – This activity is projected to increase staff efficiency by reducing the processes around administering the EID program. 7. Statutory Requirements – No projected impact. 8. Hardship requests – No projected impact. 9. Protected classes / Disparate impact – No projected impact.
Hardship Policy: Because current households will have until their benefit ends or July 31, 2023, HAWC does not anticipate any need for additional hardship policies.
Comments received + Agency response: No comments received.

E. Proration of Assistance for Mixed-Eligibility Households

Full description: HAWC is proposing a simplified calculation for rent reduction for households that include a member who does not have eligible citizenship status, called “mixed-eligibility households”. The current proration method for reducing assistance to mixed-eligibility households is very complicated, and impacts smaller households and lower income households on a greater scope. The current impact on households varies between \$0 and more than \$500 in increased monthly rent.

HAWC is proposing a standard subsidy reduction of \$100 to any mixed-eligibility household, regardless of the number of non-eligible citizens in the household. There are currently 46 mixed-eligibility households in our programs – of those, 42 have one non-eligible member and 2 have two non-eligible members. Applying a standard subsidy reduction of \$100 to all households is a more equitable method and will be easier for staff to calculate and for households to understand.

Statute, Regulation or Operations Notice to be waived: Certain provisions of 24 CFR 5.611(a)(3) and section 3(a)(1) and 3(b)(5) of 1937 Act

MTW Statutory Objective: Reduce cost and achieve greater cost effectiveness in federal expenditures

Population groups and household types impacted by this activity: All

Cost Implications: Increase in expenditures

Implementation timeline: HAWC will implement this new process and calculation for all new and existing households in fiscal year 2022-2023, pending HUD approval and software modifications. Updated calculations will be included at the household’s next reexamination.

Impact Analysis

1. Agency finances – HAWC anticipates approximately \$110,000 in decreased public housing rent and/or increased voucher HAP costs per year. After careful consideration, HAWC feels that this cost is worth the value of reduced staff time spent on the calculation, reduced errors, an increase in client understanding, and equitable impact across mixed-eligibility households.
2. Affordability of housing costs – Of the 46 mixed-eligibility households, the majority will see a reduction in rent costs due to this activity. Only 5 households will see a rent increase.

Rent Increase		Rent Decrease				
\$1-\$100	No Change	\$1-\$100	\$101-\$200	\$201-\$300	\$301-400	\$401+
5	2	9	7	10	10	3

The largest increase in monthly rent is \$100. The largest decrease in monthly rent is \$887.

3. Agency waitlist – No projected impact.
4. Termination rate – No projected impact.
5. Occupancy / Utilization – No projected impact.
6. MTW Statutory Goals – This activity is projected to increase staff efficiency by reducing the processes around calculating the assistance reduction for mixed-eligibility households.
7. Statutory Requirements – No projected impact.
8. Hardship requests – No projected impact.
9. Protected classes / Disparate impact – No projected impact.

Hardship Policy: Households have access to our MTW Hardship policy.

Comments received + Agency response: No comments received.

F. Voucher Set-Aside Program

Full description: HAWC regularly partners with local service providers to create housing programs that provide supports to ensure stability and success for participating families. The partnerships frequently center around Project-Based Vouchers (PBVs). HAWC is proposing an activity that allows the agency to set aside an agreed-upon number of tenant-based vouchers, when partnering with a service provider to serve a vulnerable target population.

At this time, HAWC is working with a local school district to create a program aimed to house homeless students and their families. Washington County includes several school districts with notably high populations of homeless students, including Beaverton School District with the highest number of homeless students in the State of Oregon. The program will partner services provided by the school district’s McKinney Vento program with a tenant-based voucher for the family, and possibly additional supports provided by local services providers through our coordinated entry system. In FY2022-2023, HAWC is planning to set aside 50 tenant-based vouchers to serve these homeless families and provide housing stability to families with children enrolled in the school district.

Statute, Regulation or Operations Notice to be waived: Certain provisions of 24 CFR 5.611(a)(3) and section 3(a)(1) and 3(b)(5) of 1937 Act

MTW Statutory Objective: Housing choice

Population groups and household types impacted by this activity: Families with children

Cost Implications: Cost neutral

Impact Analysis

1. Agency finances – No projected impact.
2. Affordability of housing costs – This activity will provide affordable housing for up to 50 homeless families with students in the partnering school system.
3. Agency waitlist – No projected impact. The agency will continue to pull from the waitlist to increase utilization and maintain leasing numbers.
4. Termination rate – No projected impact.
5. Occupancy / Utilization – Because these vouchers are part of the regular ACC and may be paired with additional supports to find and maintain stable housing, this program may increase utilization in the voucher program.
6. MTW Statutory Goals - This activity is projected to increase access to affordable housing for homeless families in our community.
7. Statutory Requirements – No projected impact.
8. Hardship requests – No projected impact.
9. Protected classes / Disparate impact – No project impact.

Hardship Policy: HAWC does not anticipate a negative impact on households through this activity. Therefore, no specific hardship policy is needed.

Comments received + Agency response: Please see attached description of all public comments received and consideration/response to comments. One person asked a question specific to this activity:

Question: Has HAWC considered partnering with other service providers for the voucher set-aside program? For example, Portland Community College has a large number of homeless students.

We are hopeful that the first voucher set-aside program with Beaverton School District will be successful, and will create a template for expanding the program to other service providers (such as Portland Community College). At this time we are only working with Beaverton School District.

G. Strategic Waitlists

Full description: HAWC's Project-Based Voucher (PBV) program serves a variety of household types, often in specific settings or with linked services that increase the likelihood of success and stability for the voucher holder. Similarly, the proposed Voucher Set-Aside program will provide assistance to targeted households, coupled with services and supports for those families.

To maximize efficiency for our PBV and Voucher Set-Aside programs, HAWC is proposing use of strategic waitlist options. This activity will allow HAWC to utilize deliberate waitlist strategies for each PBV or Voucher Set-Aside program, to create a waitlist process that is the best fit for the individual scenarios. Strategic waitlist options include:

1) Referral-based placement: In situations where HAWC is working with a specific provider or a very targeted household type, HAWC may forego use of a waitlist and instead use a referral and selection process. HAWC will accept referrals from the specified partners and award those households the dedicated vouchers. Written documentation of the referral will be maintained by HAWC, but HAWC will not add the household to a waiting list, just to be immediately selected. This process will be modeled after the same procedure currently used for the existing VASH program.

For example, HAWC has dedicated PBV units for chronically homeless individuals, with supportive services linked to the assistance to ensure the household has the highest likelihood of housing stability. Our community has successfully established a Coordinated Entry System, through which people experiencing homelessness or at imminent risk of homelessness can find housing resources and be connected with qualified service providers. When HAWC has available PBV units dedicated to this specific population, it makes the most sense to accept referrals directly from the coordinated entry system using a network of referrals, instead of establishing a wait list with information that will quickly become obsolete.

When using a referral-based placement option, HAWC will establish an MOU with the referring partner, and will institute quality control metrics to ensure that households are being referred in an equitable manner.

2) Site-based waitlists: HAWC may allow individual PBV or Voucher Set-Aside programs to maintain their own site-based waiting lists with individual preferences. Site-based waitlists are often more practical to manage than the alternative of HAWC individually managing multiple different lists. In addition, it sometimes creates a better connection between the applicant and the property or program they've applied to.

HAWC is likely to use site-based waitlists when the project has the capacity to administer the waitlist for all units identified in the PBV HAP contract. The community provider and leasing agents must demonstrate the ability to adhere to the site-based waitlist policies and would be subject to contract monitoring to ensure the waitlist is being managed correctly by each contract. HAWC may still choose to administer select waitlists internally, per the current standard PBV waitlist processes.

When using a site-based waitlist option, HAWC will establish an MOU with the waitlist manager and will institute quality control metrics to ensure that households are being selected in an equitable manner.

3) Centralized PBV waitlist: For PBV units that are not dedicated to specific populations or services, HAWC may create a centralized waitlist similar to our centralized public housing waitlist. Households placed on this centralized waitlist will be eligible for the multiple PBV units and properties included in the waitlist. This will maximize efficiencies in administering the waitlist and remove the necessity for households to register on each PBV waitlist that comes online.

As households are selected from the centralized waitlist, they will be given the option to refuse up to three available PBV units before they are removed from the list. The centralized waitlist will be administered internally, with the same quality control processes as our current public housing and tenant-based voucher waitlists.

For PBV units that are dedicated to specific populations or services, HAWC will continue to administer individualized waitlists or one of the other strategic waitlist options specified here.

4) Local waitlist preferences: HAWC may choose to implement specific preferences for individual PBV or Voucher Set-Aside waitlists, when there is not an appropriate partner to refer applicants or to administer a site- or program-based waitlist. Creating local preferences allows HAWC to ensure that the waitlist process is selecting applicants who are best served by the associated services and supports.

HAWC will ensure the preference is clear in the waitlist information at the time of application. Applicants will self-certify the preference and will be pulled based on preference time and date, then general time and date.

When any of these strategic waitlist processes are applied, the housing authority and/or the partner managing the process must comply with all applicable federal, state or local Fair Housing and civil rights laws and requirements. These laws and requirements are in place to promote equal housing choice for all prospective tenants regardless of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, disability, familial status, or national origin. In cases where specific preferences are established, the housing authority and/or partner must apply criteria uniformly to all applicants in compliance with all Fair Housing and civil rights laws and requirements.

Statute, Regulation or Operations Notice to be waived: Certain provisions of 24 CFR 5.611(a)(3) and section 3(a)(1) and 3(b)(5) of 1937 Act

MTW Statutory Objective: Reduce cost and achieve greater cost effectiveness in federal expenditures

Population groups and household types impacted by this activity: Vouchers

Cost Implications: Cost neutral

Implementation timeline: HAWC will begin to consider and implement new waitlist processes after July 1, 2022 (pending HUD approval).

Impact Analysis

1. Agency finances - HAWC anticipates a modest savings in staff time with this activity, but we do not anticipate staffing reductions. This activity will be relatively cost neutral.
2. Affordability of housing costs – No projected impact.
3. Agency waitlist – No projected impact.
4. Termination rate – No projected impact.
5. Occupancy / Utilization – HAWC anticipates a faster lease-up time for our Project-Based Voucher units and our Voucher Set-Aside program, when strategic waitlist options are used.
6. MTW Statutory Goals - This activity is projected to increase staff efficiency by reducing time spent managing multiple individualized waitlists.
7. Statutory Requirements – No projected impact.
8. Hardship requests – No projected impact.
9. Protected classes / Disparate impact – No project impact.

Hardship Policy – HAWC does not anticipate a negative impact on households through this activity. Therefore, no specific hardship policy is needed.

Comments received + Agency response: No comments received.

MTW Activities: Hardship Policy

HAWC offers a hardship policy when households have mitigating circumstances and believe an MTW activity constitutes a financial or other hardship for the family. To qualify for a hardship, you must be following all program rules and regulations, and not owe HAWC money, or if you do owe money, be current in your repayment agreement. HAWC staff will remind households of the hardship policy during intake and regular reexamination meetings, and consider if a resident qualifies for a hardship exemption at the time of a potential termination of assistance that is due to an MTW activity.

Households must submit the request for the MTW Hardship Policy in writing. The process will be similar to the current process for requesting an interim review. If approved, the MTW activity will be suspended the next month following change reported by the 20th of the month. If the request is made after the 20th, the change will be effective the first of the following month.

Households must identify which MTW Activity they are requesting to be suspended:

- Medical / Disability Expense Calculation
- Mixed-Eligibility Family Subsidy Reduction
- Triennial Reviews for Seniors/People with Disabilities
- Other: _____

(Please note that the Tiered Rent Program includes a separate hardship policy.)

Households must identify the situation that qualifies them for hardship.

- Family has experienced a decrease in income of more than \$2,500 because of loss or reduction of income, death in the family, or loss or reduction of earnings or other assistance;
- Family has experienced an increase in expenses of more than \$2,500, such as a large medical expense

Households must provide verification

- Attach any written documentation, such as pay stubs or receipts
- Additional explanation: _____

If your hardship request is approved, the MTW activity will be suspended and your rent calculation and process will be based on non-MTW regulations. **Please note that calculating rent based on non-MTW regulations may not always result in a rent reduction.** The hardship will be effective until the next annual update or review, up to 12 months.

If your hardship request is not approved, you will be able to appeal the decision for further review. If your appeal is denied, you will be able to request an informal hearing to review the determination of your monthly rent. Informal hearings are conducted by HAWC's Hearing Officer.

Tiered Rent Program – Bands

Tier	Income Minimum	Income Maximum	Monthly Rent
1	\$0	\$2,499	\$50
2	\$2,500	\$4,999	\$87
3	\$5,000	\$7,499	\$146
4	\$7,500	\$9,999	\$204
5	\$10,000	\$12,499	\$262
6	\$12,500	\$14,999	\$321
7	\$15,000	\$17,499	\$379
8	\$17,500	\$19,999	\$437
9	\$20,000	\$22,499	\$496
10	\$22,500	\$24,999	\$554
11	\$25,000	\$27,499	\$612
12	\$27,500	\$29,999	\$671
13	\$30,000	\$32,499	\$729
14	\$32,500	\$34,999	\$787
15	\$35,000	\$37,499	\$846
16	\$37,500	\$39,999	\$904
17	\$40,000	\$42,499	\$962
18	\$42,500	\$44,999	\$1,021
19	\$45,000	\$47,499	\$1,079
20	\$47,500	\$49,999	\$1,137
21	\$50,000	\$52,499	\$1,196
22	\$52,500	\$54,999	\$1,254
23	\$55,000	\$57,499	\$1,312
24	\$57,500	\$59,999	\$1,371
25	\$60,000	\$62,499	\$1,429
26	\$62,500	\$64,999	\$1,487
27	\$65,000	\$67,499	\$1,546
28	\$67,500	\$69,999	\$1,604
29	\$70,000	\$72,499	\$1,662
30	\$72,500	\$74,999	\$1,721
31	\$75,000	\$77,499	\$1,779
32	\$77,500	\$79,999	\$1,837
33	\$80,000	\$82,499	\$1,896

*Please note: this is only a snapshot of the tiers, through Area Median Income. Tiers continue in increments of \$2,500 of income, with the rent calculated at 28% of the midpoint of each tier. Visual tables with higher tiers are available upon request.

Tiered Rent Program: Impact Analysis

This impact analysis applies to the following waivers:

- a. 1.a., 1.b. + Safe Harbor – Tiered Rents
- b. 1.r., 1.s. – Elimination of Deductions
- c. 3.a., 3.b. + Safe Harbor – Reexamination Schedule

1. Impact on agency’s finances (e.g., how much will the activity cost, any change in the agency’s per family contribution)

HAWC anticipates approximately \$39,000 in decreased public housing rent and/or increased voucher HAP costs per year under the Tiered Rent Program.

Annual Agency Impact

Public Housing Rents (decreased income)	Housing Assistance Payments (increased expense)	Total Agency Impact
-\$5,000	\$34,000	\$39,000

2. Impact on affordability of housing costs for affected families (e.g., any change in how much affected families will pay toward their housing costs)

The following analysis uses the current information of households that would be considered eligible for the program. We have approximately 600 households that would likely be eligible – half will be randomly selected and half will be assigned to the control group. 70% of eligible households will see a rent decrease or no change if they are selected for the Tiered Rent Program.

This impact analysis takes into account established hardship policies to mitigate the impact of the policy for families who have childcare expenses of \$2,500 and/or families who have five or more dependents. Because of the policies removal of deductions, these households saw significant rent increases when moving to the Tiered Rent Program. HAWC has established hardship policies to moderate these rent increases.

The average rent change across all eligible households is a **decrease** in rent of \$10.81. For those households that see a rent increase, the average increase is \$24. The largest projected increase is \$61 in monthly rent.

	Households	Percentage
Rent Decrease	311	52%
No change*	108	18%
Rent Increase	181	30%
Rent Increase Increments		
\$5-\$10	29	5%
\$11-\$25	65	11%
\$26-\$50	79	13%
\$51 or more	8	1%

	Amer Ind/ Alaska Nat	Asian	Black/ African Amer	Hispanic	Native HI/ Pac Island	White
No. of Households	6	15	136	135	14	429
Avg Rent Change	\$18.00	(\$27.33)	(\$9.32)	(\$6.40)	(\$27.21)	(\$10.57)
Rent Decrease	-	10	67	62	9	225
No change	-	2	20	25	2	84
Rent Increase	6	3	49	48	3	120
Rent Increase Increments						
\$5-\$10	2	2	5	11	1	19
\$11-\$25	3	1	18	13	1	42
\$26-\$50	1	-	26	20	-	52
\$51 or more	-	-	-	4	1	7

Table Notes:

- Due to rounding calculations, “No Change” is defined as a projected rent increase or decrease of less than \$5.
- Race and ethnicity terms are per the HUD required reporting fields.
- Households counted in the “Hispanic” column may also be counted in other race/ethnicity columns.
- Because of statistically small counts of American Indian/Alaskan Native, Asian, and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander households, the average rent impact numbers are easily skewed by outlying households.

3. Impact on agency’s waitlist(s) (e.g., any change in the amount of time families are on the waitlist)

No anticipated impact

4. Impact on agency’s termination rate of families (e.g., any change in the rate at which families non-voluntarily lose assistance from the agency)

No anticipated impact

5. Impact on the agency’s current occupancy level in public housing and utilization rate in the HCV program

No anticipated impact

6. Impact on meeting the MTW statutory goals of cost effectiveness, self-sufficiency, and/or housing choice

HAWC anticipates a positive impact on the statutory goals of cost effectiveness and self-sufficiency. Triennial reviews and the elimination of deductions are expected to result in administrative efficiencies and reduction in staff time for annual reviews.

Because households do not have to report income increases between triennial recertifications, HAWC anticipates increased incentive (or decreased disincentive) for families to increase earnings and move

toward self-sufficiency. Households will be able to use increase income in the time between triennial reviews to build financial and housing stability.

7. Impact on the agency's ability to meet the MTW statutory requirements

No anticipated impact

8. Impact on rate of hardship requests and the number granted/denied as a result of this activity

HAWC anticipates that a higher number of households in the Tiered Rent Program will request a hardship than under the current policy. Families who have unreimbursed childcare expenses and those that have a significant number of dependents will see a higher impact through the Tiered Rent Program, due to the loss of deductions.

HAWC has established a hardship policy for households with annual childcare expenses of \$2,500 or more, and for those with 5 or more dependents to mitigate the impacts of the change to the Tiered Rent Program. Of the 600 anticipated households eligible for the Tiered Rent Program, approximately 40 households (about 7%) would qualify for these hardships.

HAWC has also established a hardship policy for households whose current income is lower than their retrospective income and for those who have an unexpected loss in income or significant unexpected expense. HAWC will track hardship requests, approvals or denials, and the impact on staff time.

9. Impact on protected classes (and any associated disparate impact)

As previously stated, this program has the largest impact for families with unreimbursed childcare expenses and/or a significant number of dependents. Among eligible families, our households with five or more dependents more often have heads of household who are Black/African American or Hispanic. HAWC recognized disparate impact by race/ethnicity in the Tiered Rent Program and has taken significant steps to mitigate that impact.

The original Tiered Rent Program as described in the Final MTW Operations Notice designed a tiered rent structure based on 30% of income at the middle of each tier. Because the calculation no longer included deductions for dependents or unreimbursed childcare expenses, we saw significant rent increases for many of our families. After reviewing the analysis, HUD agreed to change the rent structure to tiers based on 28% of income.

The change to 28% improved impacts for our households and decreased the number of families who would see a rent increase, but HAWC still saw disparate rent increases for families with 5 or more children, who were more often led by heads of household who are Black/African American or Hispanic. Although it is not a part of the policy as defined by HUD, HAWC is implementing an agency-specific hardship policy for families with 5 or more dependents. This hardship policy will lower rent increases for large families and significantly reduce the disparate impact between households by race/ethnicity.

The table on the next page shows the different impacts as HAWC has developed policy. Hardship policies have reduced the disparate impact between households by race/ethnicity, but on average our Black/African American and Hispanic households see a smaller rent reduction than the total population.

Original Policy

Rents based on 30% of income

Rent Increases	72%
No change (\$4 to -\$4)	16%
Rent Decreases	12%

Highest Increase: \$415

	All Households	Amer Ind/ AK Native*	Asian*	Black/ AA	Hispanic	Native HI/ Pac Isl*	White
Avg Impact	\$29.75	\$48.67	\$16.60	\$36.63	\$32.45	\$23.07	\$26.11
Average Impact for Households with 5+ dependents: \$70.47							

Revised Policy

Rents based on 28% of income

Rent Increases	30%
No change (\$4 to -\$4)	18%
Rent Decreases	52%

Highest Increase: \$98

	All Households	Amer Ind/ AK Native*	Asian*	Black/ AA	Hispanic	Native HI/ Pac Isl*	White
Avg Impact	(\$9.56)	\$18.00	(\$27.33)	(\$5.87)	(\$6.57)	(\$27.21)	(\$11.33)
Avg Impact for Households with 5+ dependents: \$29.47							

HAWC Hardship Policy

Rents based on 28% of income
 \$30 rent increase cap for large households

Rent Increases	30%
No change (\$4 to -\$4)	18%
Rent Decreases	52%

Highest Increase: \$61

	All Households	Amer Ind/ AK Native*	Asian*	Black/ AA	Hispanic	Native HI/ Pac Isl*	White
Avg Impact	(\$10.81)	\$18.00	(\$27.33)	(\$9.32)	(\$6.40)	(\$27.21)	(\$10.57)
Avg Impact for Households with 5+ dependents: \$12.53							

Table Notes:

- Less than 20 eligible households in the American Indian/Alaskan Native, Asian, and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander categories. Outliers may skew averages.
- Numbers in parentheses represent decreases in anticipated monthly rent.

Tiered Rent Program: Hardship Policy

Participating in the Tiered Rent Program should not threaten an individual or family’s housing stability. HAWC offers an affordability hardship to address childcare expenses, unexpected decreases in income, or exceptional household expenses, such as a large medical bill. HAWC also offers a Transition Discount for Large Families, for families with 5 or more dependents who would see a significant increase in rent when moving to the Tiered Rent Program.

Affordability Hardship

This hardship application may be initiated by staff at enrollment or recertification, or may be requested by any household at any time. An approved rent adjustment may be enacted for 3 months, 6 months, or 12 months dependent on the circumstance. Renewal of hardship will require request from the household and approval from the agency.

If a household has...	Rent will be adjusted by...	Additional details...
Childcare expenses above \$2,500 per year	The household’s childcare expenses will be deducted from current annual income. This adjusted annual income will be used to determine tiered rent.	This hardship can be approved at the OS level. This hardship has 12-month duration, or until the household’s next regularly scheduled review, whichever is sooner.
A decrease in household income that drops the rent determination into a lower tier	The household’s annual income will be calculated using their current income, instead of their past income. Current income will be used to determine tiered rent.	This hardship can be approved at the OS level. This hardship has 12-month duration, or until the household’s next regularly scheduled review, whichever is sooner.
A significant unexpected event, such as a large medical expense, requiring temporary rent relief to avoid eviction	<p>The expense will be deducted from annual income. This adjusted annual income will be used to determine tiered rent.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>To ensure housing stability, the household’s rent may be reduced as appropriate for a shorter amount of time.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This hardship will be reviewed by and require approval from a supervisor. • The household will be asked to provide documentation demonstrating the expense. • The hardship may last for 3 months, 6 months, or 12 months depending on remedy. • The household may request that the hardship be renewed.

How do I request a hardship?

To qualify for a hardship, you must be following all program rules and regulations, and not owe HAWC money, or if you do owe money, be current in your repayment agreement. HAWC staff will remind households of the hardship policy during intake and regular reexamination meetings, and will initiate

hardship requests if the household reports circumstances that qualify (such as childcare expenses or lower current income).

Households can also request hardships between triennial recertifications. This can be done by submitting a request in writing using the agency form, with review from a supervisor. The process will be similar to the current process for requesting an interim review. The MTW activity will be suspended the next month following change reported by the 20th of the month. If the request is made after the 20th, the change will be effective the first of the following month.

If your hardship request is approved, you are not required to report subsequent income increases during the period of your hardship. Once a hardship is approved, it will not end early.

If your hardship request is not approved, you will be able to appeal the decision for further review. If your appeal is denied, you will be able to request an informal hearing to review the determination of your monthly rent. Informal hearings are conducted by HAWC's Hearing Officer.

When your hardship expires, you can request a renewal if your circumstances have continued. There is no limit to the number of hardships that a household may receive. If you do not request a renewal or the renewal is denied, your rent will return to the tiered rent assigned at your most recent triennial review. Triennial review schedules will not change due to hardship requests, approvals or denials.

Translation Services

To request a translation of this document into another language (Spanish, Vietnamese, Arabic, Somali, Japanese, Micronesian, etc), please call 503-846-4814 or email voucherteam@co.washington.or.us.

Tiered Rent Transition Discount for Larger Families

Because the Tiered Rent Program no longer includes dependent deductions, households with five or more dependents sometimes see a significant increase in rent when they transition to the tiered rent program. To help these families retain housing stability, HAWC offers a transition hardship policy that caps the rent increase due to program change.

- 1) Does the household have annual childcare expenses above \$2,500? If yes, apply the affordability hardship to their tiered rent calculation.
- 2) Does the household have a decrease in income? If yes, apply the affordability hardship to their tiered rent calculation.
- 3) After #1 and #2, does the household still have a projected increase in monthly rent of more than \$30? AND does the household have 5 or more dependents? If yes, apply the discount to cap their rent increase at \$30 (see example below).

Please note that this policy only applies to programmatic rent increases as a result of a change in the calculation. If a household has an increase in income that moves them to a different tier on the rent schedule, the corresponding rent increase will still apply.

The occupancy specialist will use the steps above to calculate the discount that caps the programmatic rent increase at \$30. If there is an increase in income that moves the household to a different tier on the rent schedule, the occupancy specialist will determine that rent and then apply the discount.

Similarly, if the household moves to a different unit, the occupancy specialist will use the tiered schedule to determine rent, and then apply the discount.

- The transition discount is applicable only through the tiered rent study, ending in 2028-2029.
- The policy has a 12-month duration. At the expiration, the family has the option to confirm that they still meet the criteria for the policy and request a renewal.
- At the first triennial review, the enrollment discount will continue to be applied if the household still has 5 or more dependents.
 - If the household has new childcare expenses about \$2,500 or has experienced a decrease in income, authorization to continue to apply the enrollment discount will be determined by a supervisor.

See the example household on the next page for more information.

Tiered Rent Transition Discount for Larger Families

Example household:

Household A is a single-adult household with 5 dependents, \$17,631 in annual income and no childcare expenses. The transition to the Tiered Rent Program would result in an increase of \$56 in monthly rent – from current rent of \$128 to future rent of \$184.

Tier 8: \$437
 Less utility allowance: \$253
 Year 1 Rent (no discount): \$184
 Current rent: \$128
 Difference: \$56

Tier	Income Minimum	Income Maximum	Monthly Rent
1	\$0	\$2,499	\$50
2	\$2,500	\$4,999	\$87
3	\$5,000	\$7,499	\$146
4	\$7,500	\$9,999	\$204
5	\$10,000	\$12,499	\$262
6	\$12,500	\$14,999	\$321
7	\$15,000	\$17,499	\$379
8	\$17,500	\$19,999	\$437
9	\$20,000	\$22,499	\$496
10	\$22,500	\$24,999	\$554
11	\$25,000	\$27,499	\$612
12	\$27,500	\$29,999	\$671
13	\$30,000	\$32,499	\$729
14	\$32,500	\$34,999	\$787
15	\$35,000	\$37,499	\$846

The occupancy specialist will verify criteria and apply a [discount of \\$26](#) to cap the rent increase at \$30 – from a current rent of \$128 to a future rent of \$158.

Tier 8: \$437
 Less utility allowance: \$253
[Less transition discount: \\$26](#)
 Year 1 Rent: \$158
 Current rent: \$128
 Difference: \$30

In Year 3, Household A reports an increase in earned income to \$28,000. This moves the household to Tier 12 on the schedule. Because the household still has 5 or more dependents and no childcare expenses, the occupancy specialist calculates the household’s rent and applies the same transition discount.

Tier 12: \$671
 Less utility allowance: \$253
[Less transition discount: \\$26](#)
 Year 3 Rent: \$392

Triennial Reexamination Schedule: Impact Analysis

This impact analysis applies to the following waivers:

3.a., 3.b. – Reexamination Schedule

1. Impact on agency's finances (e.g., how much will the activity cost, any change in the agency's per family contribution)

Although HAWC anticipates time savings in this activity, we do not anticipate an impact on agency finances.

2. Impact on affordability of housing costs for affected families (e.g., any change in how much affected families will pay toward their housing costs)

No anticipated impact

3. Impact on agency's waitlist(s) (e.g., any change in the amount of time families are on the waitlist)

No anticipated impact. Although fewer families may transition from assistance in the time between triennial reviews vs annual reviews, this population tends to be relatively stable in their need for ongoing assistance and HAWC projects that any impact would be minimal.

4. Impact on agency's termination rate of families (e.g., any change in the rate at which families non-voluntarily lose assistance from the agency)

No anticipated impact

5. Impact on the agency's current occupancy level in public housing and utilization rate in the HCV program

No anticipated impact

6. Impact on meeting the MTW statutory goals of cost effectiveness, self-sufficiency, and/or housing choice

HAWC anticipates an increase in administrative efficiency and cost effectiveness through this activity. After review of the time spent on a typical annual recertification, HAWC projects approximately 900 hours in time savings per year, due to shifting these households to a triennial recertification schedule.

7. Impact on the agency's ability to meet the MTW statutory requirements

No anticipated impact

8. Impact on rate of hardship requests and the number granted/denied as a result of this activity

No anticipated impact

9. Impact on protected classes (and any associated disparate impact)

No anticipated impact

MTW Activities: Hardship Policy

HAWC offers a hardship policy when households have mitigating circumstances and believe an MTW activity constitutes a financial or other hardship for the family. To qualify for a hardship, you must be following all program rules and regulations, and not owe HAWC money, or if you do owe money, be current in your repayment agreement. HAWC staff will remind households of the hardship policy during intake and regular reexamination meetings, and consider if a resident qualifies for a hardship exemption at the time of a potential termination of assistance that is due to an MTW activity.

Households must submit the request for the MTW Hardship Policy in writing. The process will be similar to the current process for requesting an interim review. If approved, the MTW activity will be suspended the next month following change reported by the 20th of the month. If the request is made after the 20th, the change will be effective the first of the following month.

Households must identify which MTW Activity they are requesting to be suspended:

- Medical / Disability Expense Calculation
- Mixed-Eligibility Family Subsidy Reduction
- Triennial Reviews for Seniors/People with Disabilities
- Other: _____

(Please note that the Tiered Rent Program includes a separate hardship policy.)

Households must identify the situation that qualifies them for hardship.

- Family has experienced a decrease in income of more than \$2,500 because of loss or reduction of income, death in the family, or loss or reduction of earnings or other assistance;
- Family has experienced an increase in expenses of more than \$2,500, such as a large medical expense

Households must provide verification

- Attach any written documentation, such as pay stubs or receipts
- Additional explanation: _____

If your hardship request is approved, the MTW activity will be suspended and your rent calculation and process will be based on non-MTW regulations. **Please note that calculating rent based on non-MTW regulations may not always result in a rent reduction.** The hardship will be effective until the next annual update or review, up to 12 months.

If your hardship request is not approved, you will be able to appeal the decision for further review. If your appeal is denied, you will be able to request an informal hearing to review the determination of your monthly rent. Informal hearings are conducted by HAWC's Hearing Officer.

Public Comment

The 45-day public comment period ran February 14, 2022 through March 30, 2022. A draft of the PHA Plan and MTW Supplement was made available for review on the Housing Authority website.

Residents, participants and community partners were invited to four virtual public meetings, held between March 11 and 18, 2022. Fifteen guests attended public meetings. Comments and questions are included here. (Some comments and questions have been edited or paraphrased for clarity.)

Will the slides/materials be available for review?

Yes. Slides from the presentation were sent to all who provided their email address. In addition, the slideshow was posted to the Housing Authority website.

How will current tenants know if they could benefit from this?

Invitations to attend the public meetings were emailed to all current residents and participants. The invitations also included links to the publicly posted documents and a one-page flyer about our MTW Activities (available in English and Spanish). As activities are implemented, detailed information will be shared with clients via email, mailed letters and telephone calls as appropriate.

Will materials be translated into other languages?

Yes. As activities are implemented, we will translate informational materials into requested languages. If written translation is not available, we will utilize language lines to provide verbal interpretation services.

Since work-able households may have bigger fluctuations in income, why does the Tiered Rent Program move to triennial reviews?

The Tiered Rent Program is a pilot program that will run for six years and outcomes will be tracked by a research company. One of the concepts this is testing is whether offering households more time between reporting income increases helps to remove disincentives for seeking work or increasing income.

One commenter expressed concerns that households with increases in income may not save that income between triennial reviews.

Why are seniors and people with disabilities not eligible for the Tiered Rent Program?

The Tiered Rent Program is targeted toward our work-able households who typically have more ability to increase income year to year. Senior and disabled households are often on fixed incomes. We are proposing triennial reviews for those households this year, and hope to further explore simplifying their rent calculation in future years.

How were eligible ages determined for the Tiered Rent Program?

The Tiered Rent Program is a six-year demonstration targeted at work-focused households. With these considerations in mind, program designers wanted households to remain in the program the full six years. Because households with a head, co-head or spouse aged 56 or older would be considered a

senior household during that six-year timeframe, the eligible age was determined to be 55 years and younger.

Are there any work training programs being proposed?

Not in this year's MTW activities. The Housing Authority has the ability to propose new MTW activities each year, and we hope to focus on additional work supports in future years.

Has HAWC considered partnering with other service providers for the voucher set-aside program? For example, Portland Community College has a large number of homeless students.

We are hopeful that the first voucher set-aside program with Beaverton School District will be successful, and will create a template for expanding the program to other service providers (such as Portland Community College). At this time we are only working with Beaverton School District.

How is the priority changing for Project-Based Voucher transfers?

Under current rules, after a household has lived in a Project-Based Voucher unit for 12 months, they can request a tenant-based voucher and be given priority above those on the waitlist. Because of our extensive waitlist for tenant-based vouchers and the known need in the community, we want to ensure we're able to continue to serve households who are not yet receiving rent assistance. For this reason, we are proposing that a Project-Based Voucher household will only receive priority for a tenant-based voucher upon completion of a reasonable accommodation request, such as a VAWA transfer.

If the Board approves the MTW activities, how soon are they implemented?

Activities will be implemented after July of this year, but the timeline for individual activities is different. Simplifications to rent calculations will be implemented later this year, and will be effective at the resident's next recertification. The Tiered Rent Program is currently scheduled to begin for December recertifications. We will send more information to households as we roll out each activity.

Comment: I think it's wonderful that people will have the extra time between recertifications to save their increased income, without seeing an increase in their rent.

Public Hearing for Safe Harbor Waivers and Agency Specific Waivers

The meeting on March 18, 2022 served as the public hearing for Safe Harbor Waivers and Agency Specific Waivers. There were four guests at that meeting. There were no questions or comments.

Public Hearing

The Housing Authority Board of Directors will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, April 5th. Notice of Public Hearing was published in multiple news outlets February 16-24, 2022.

There were no questions or comments from the public hearing.