

Attachment: tx037b01

**Housing Authority City of Orange
Deconcentration Policy**

POLICY

DATE OF ISSUANCE _____

DECONCENTRATION AND INCOME TARGETING POLICY *(of the Public Housing Admissions and Occupancy Policy)*

Sub-Title A, Section 513 of the Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act of 1998 (QHWRA), establishes two interrelated requirements for implementation by Public Housing Authorities: (1) Economic Deconcentration of public housing developments and Income Targeting to assure that families in the "extremely low" income category are proportionately represented in public housing and that pockets of poverty are reduced or eliminated. Under the deconcentration requirement, PHAs are to implement a program which provides that families with lowest incomes will be offered units in housing developments where family incomes are the highest and high-income families will be offered units in developments where family incomes are the lowest. In order to implement these new requirements the PHA must promote these provisions as policies and revise their Admission and Occupancy policies and procedures to comply.

Therefore, the Orange City Housing Authority (PHA) hereby affirms its commitment to implementation of the two requirements by adopting the following policies:

A. Economic Deconcentration:

Admission and Occupancy policies are revised to include the PHA's policy of promoting economic deconcentration of its housing developments by offering low-income families, selected in accordance with applicable preferences and priorities, units in developments where family incomes are highest. Conversely, families with the lowest average family incomes.

Implementation of this program will require our agency to: (1) determine and compare the relative tenant incomes of each development and the income of census tracts in which the developments are located, and (2) consider what policies, measures or incentives are necessary to bring high-income families into low-income developments (or into developments in low-income census tracts) and low-income families into high-income developments (or into developments in high-income census tracts).

In addition, an assessment of the average family income for each development is necessary. Families will be provided with an explanation of the policy during the application/screening process and/or the occupancy orientation sessions with opportunities to discuss the options available to the families. Families will be informed that should they choose not to accept the first unit offered under this system their refusal will not be cause to drop their name to the bottom of the waiting list.

Implementation may include the following efforts:

- Skipping families on the waiting list based on income;
- Establishing preferences for working families;

- Establish preferences for families in job training programs;
- Establish preferences for families in education or training programs;
- Marketing campaign geared towards targeting income groups for specific developments;
- Additional supportive services;
- Additional amenities for all units;
- Ceiling rents; (mandatory)
- Flat rents for selected developments;
- Different tenant rent percentages per development;
- Different tenant rent percentages per bedroom size;
- Saturday and evening office hours;
- Security Deposit waivers;
- Revised transfer policies;
- Site-based waiting lists;
- Mass Media; and
- Giveaways.

B. Income Targeting

As public housing dwelling units become available for occupancy, responsible PHA employees will offer units to applicants on the waiting list. In accordance with the Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act of 1998, the PHA encourages occupancy of its developments by a broad range of families with incomes up to eighty percent (80%) of the medial income for the jurisdiction in which the PHA operates. At a minimum, 40% of all new admissions to public housing **on an annual basis** will be families with incomes at or below thirty percent (30%) (extremely low-income) of the area median income. The offer of assistance will be made without discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex national origin, age, handicap or familial status.

The PHA may employ a system of income ranges in order to maintain a public housing resident body composed of families with a range of incomes and rent paying abilities representatives of the range of incomes among low-income families in the PHA's area of operation, and will take into account the average rent that should be received to maintain financial solvency. The selection procedures are designed so that selection of new public housing residents will bring the actual distribution of rents closer to the projected distribution of rents.

In order to implement the income targeting program, the following policy is adopted:

- The PHA may select, based on date and time of application and preferences, two (2) families in the extremely low-income category and two (2) families from the low-income category alternately until the forty percent (40%) admission requirement of extremely low-income is achieved (2 plus 2 policy).
- After the minimum level is reached, all selections may be made based solely on date, time and preferences. Any applicants passed over as a result of implementing this 2 plus 2 policy will retain their place on the waiting list and will be offered a unit in order of their placement on the waiting list.
- To the maximum extent possible, the offers will also be made to effect the PHA's policy of economic deconcentration.
- For the initial year of implementation, a pro-rated percentage of the new admissions will be calculated from April 1, 1999 through the end of the fiscal year. Following the initial implementation period, the forty percent (40%) requirement will be calculated based on new admissions for the fiscal year.

- The PHA reserves the option, at any time, to reduce the targeting requirements for public housing by no more than ten percent (10%), it is increases the target figure for its Section 8 program from the required level of seventy-five percent (75%) of annual new admission to no more than eighty-five percent (85%) of its annual new admissions. (Optional for PHAs with both Section 8 and Public Housing programs).