

Resident Initiative Policy

Resident participation is vital in offering residents a way to build working relationships with the Housing Commission and create a positive living environment in Public Housing. HUD encourages the active involvement of residents in all aspects of a PHA's overall mission and operation, particularly through duly elected resident councils. The role of a resident council is to improve the quality of life and resident satisfaction and participate in self-sufficient initiatives to enable residents to create a positive living environment for families living in public housing.

The resident council plays a part in improving the quality of life for Public Housing communities and brings a wide variety of issues to the attention of Public Housing Authority. To support resident participation, HUD provides funding through the Operating Fund Grant (24 CFR Part 990) to PHAs specifically for resident participation activities. The use and financial management of Tenant Participation (TP) funds, including a framework to determine allowable expenses that need to be approved by the Housing Commission.

Initiatives to encourage the involvement of residents may include issues that impact their living conditions such as promoting decent and safe housing, proper maintenance, resident security, and energy efficiency. To determine the level of resident initiatives to be implemented a questionnaire and/or survey tool may be used to determine resident and project needs. The survey or questionnaire should include, but not be limited to resident interest in classes that inform the proper use, care, and maintenance of appliances and equipment, drug and alcohol abuse programs, neighborhood watch, home ownership, and resident interest in developing a resident organization or volunteering on committees.

Resident initiatives also include residents who are interested in applying for employment openings for Section 3 positions that are through a contractor or an on-site position, such as: painting, lawn care, snow removal, custodial, and maintenance.

Communication and outreach to promote resident interest and involvement in the operation of each property include, but not be limited to: resident newsletters, bulletin board announcements, social media, and digital signage will be provided by the Housing Commission periodically.

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