

# Ocala Housing Authority

## Notice to all Applicants, Participants and Residents



### Reasonable Accommodations for Persons with Disabilities

The Ocala Housing Authority is a public agency that provides subsidized housing to eligible families including families with children, elderly families, disabled families, and single people. Ocala Housing Authority is not permitted to discriminate against applicants on the basis of their race, religion, sex, color, national origin, age, disability or familial status. In addition, OHA has a legal obligation to provide "reasonable accommodations" to applicants if they or any family members have a disability in accordance with:

1. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504);
2. Titles II and III of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA);
3. The Fair Housing Act of 1968, as amended (Fair Housing Act);
4. The Architectural Barriers Act of 1968; and
5. 24 C.F. R. Part 8 etc.

A reasonable accommodation is a structural change a Public Housing Authority can make to its units or common areas, or a modification of a rule, policy, procedure, or service, that will assist an otherwise eligible applicant, resident, or participant with a disability to make effective use of a PHA's programs. Examples of reasonable accommodations would include:

- ❖ Making alterations to a PHA unit so it could be used by a family member with a wheelchair;
- ❖ Adding or altering unit features so they may be used by a family member with a disability;
- ❖ Installing strobe type flashing light smoke detectors in an apartment for a family with a hearing impaired member;
- ❖ Permitting a family to have a large dog to assist a family member with a disability in a PHA family development where the size of dogs is usually limited;
- ❖ Making large type documents, Braille documents, cassettes or a reader available to an applicant, resident or participant with a vision impairment during the application process or re-examination;
- ❖ Making a sign language interpreter available to an applicant, resident, applicant or participant with a hearing impairment during the interview or meetings with PHA staff;
- ❖ Permitting an outside agency or individual to assist an applicant with a disability to meet the PHA's applicant screening criteria.

The Housing Authority is not required to make changes that would fundamentally alter the program or create an undue financial and administrative burden.

An applicant/resident/participant family that has a member with a disability must still be able to meet essential obligations of tenancy. They must be able to pay rent, to care for their unit, to report required information to the Housing Authority, to avoid disturbing their neighbors, etc., but there is no requirement that they be able to do these things without assistance.

If you or a member of your family have a disability and think you might need or want a reasonable accommodation, you may request it at any time in the application or re-examination process or at any time you need an accommodation.

Contact the Compliance Director, Jacalyn Brown, at PH: 352-620-3350 email: [jbrown@ocalahousing.org](mailto:jbrown@ocalahousing.org)

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