

CITY OF OLEAN HOUSING AUTHORITY POLICY FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE

Section 512 of the Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act of 1998, which amends Section 12 of the Housing Act of 1937, established a new requirement for non-exempt residents of public housing to contribute eight (8) hours of community service each month or to participate in a self-sufficiency program for eight (8) hours each month. Community service is the performance of volunteer work or duties that are a public benefit, and that serve to improve the quality of life, enhance resident self-sufficiency, or increase resident self-responsibility in the community.

In order to effectively implement this new requirement, the Olean Housing Authority establishes the following Policy, effective July 1, 2001.

The following individuals are exempt from this requirement:

An adult who:

- (1) Is 62 years of age or older.
- (2) Anyone who is either blind or disabled individual as defined under Social Security Act, and who certifies that he or she is unable to comply with this section, or anyone who is a primary caretaker of such individual.
- (3) Anyone who is engaged in a work activity. (a minimum of twenty hours per week)
- (4) Anyone who is exempted from having to engage in work activities under the State program funded under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act or under any other welfare program of the State of New York including a State-administered welfare-to-work program.
- (5) Anyone in a family that is receiving assistance under a State program funded under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act or under any other welfare program of the State of New York including a State-administrators to be in noncompliance with such program.
- (6) If you are enrolled in a continuing education program you are exempt.
- (7) Pregnant Woman

SERVICE REQUIREMENTS:

Except for those residents who are exempt due to the situations listed above, all adults (18 years or older) will be required to perform one of the following each month:

- (1) Contribute 8 hours per month of community service. (This does not include political activities)
- (2) Participate in an economic self-sufficiency program for 8 hours per month .
- (3) Perform 8 hours per month of combined activities of number 1 and 2 above

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION:

As each re-examination of income (re-certification) and lease renewal occur from that date onward, determinations will be made as to which family members are either exempt or subject to this requirement. This determination will be provided to the family at the time of re-certification.

Also at the time of re-certification, the Housing Authority will provide tenants with a listing of typical agencies within the City who use volunteer help and who will meet the definition of Community Services. It will be up to the tenant to approach such agencies and negotiate the type of community service to be performed for the required 8 hours per month and to arrange with such agency to have a certification of the community service sent to the Housing Authority in order to renew the dwelling lease at the next recertification of income.

NON-COMPLIANCE:

The rental dwelling lease shall allow for automatic renewal at the end of each lease term UNLESS THE FAMILY FAILS TO COMPLY WITH THE SERVICE REQUIREMENT. Violation of this requirement is grounds to not renew the lease at the end of the current term. It will not mean immediate eviction.

In order to ensure that the dwelling lease will continue after the current term, the tenant, and any other non-compliant resident must;

- a) enter into a written agreement with the Housing Authority to cure such non compliance and adhere to this agreement; or
- b) provide a written assurance satisfactory to the Housing Authority that the tenant or other non-compliant resident no longer lives in the unit.

NOT TO FAMILY OF NON-COMPLIANCE

When the Housing Authority determines that there is a family member who is required to fulfill a service requirement, but has not done so, a notice will be sent to the family including:

- a) a brief description of the non-compliance
- b) a notification that the Housing Authority will not renew the dwelling lease at the end of the twelve month lease term; and
- c) state that the tenant may request a grievance hearing on the determination.