Deconcentration Policy

DECONCENTRATION POLICY
ACOP, Chapter 4, Section J

It is the intent of the PHA to promote adequate and affordable housing, economic opportunity and a suitable living environment free of discrimination. Tenant selection and assignment for federal public housing shall be made without regard to race, color, religion, ancestry/national origin, sex familial status, physical or mental disability, marital status age, or HIV infection. To improve community quality of life and economic vitality, the PHA will implement measures to provide for deconcentration of poverty and income-mixing. The PHA will bring higher income tenants into lower income developments and lower income tenants into higher income developments. Additionally, the PHA will support measures to raise the income of households that currently reside in federal public housing. All measures and incentives that are undertaken to accomplish deconcentration and income-mixing will be uniformly applied.

The PHA's admission policy is designed to provide for deconcentration of poverty and income-mixing by bringing higher income tenants into lower income projects and lower income tenants into higher income projects.

Gross annual income is used for income limits at admission and for income-mixing purposes.

Skipping of a family on the waiting list specifically to reach another family with a lower or higher income is not to be considered an adverse action to the family. Such skipping will be uniformly applied until the target threshold is met.

The PHA will gather data and analyze, at least annually, the tenant characteristics of its public housing stock, including information regarding tenant incomes, to assist in the PHA 's deconcentration efforts.

The PHA will use the gathered tenant incomes information in its assessment of its public housing developments to determine the appropriate designation to be assigned to the project for the purpose of assisting the PHA in its deconcentration goals.

If the PHA's annual review of tenant incomes indicates that there has been a significant change in the tenant income characteristics of a particular project, the PHA will evaluate the changes to determine whether, based on the PHA methodology of choice, the project needs to be redesignated as a higher or lower income project or whether the PHA has met the deconcentration goals and the project needs no particular designation.

Deconcentration and Income-Mixing Goals

Admission policies related to the deconcentration efforts of the PHA do not impose specific quotas. Therefore, the PHA will not set specific quotas, but will strive to achieve deconcentration and income-mixing in its developments.

The PHA's income-mixing goal is a long-range goal and may not be achieved in the first year of implementation. The PHA will use its annual analysis of its public housing stock and tenant incomes to provide benchmarks for the PHA.

The PHA will add additional sites to its deconcentration goals each year until it has met its desired goal for all of its developments.

Project Designation Methodology

The PHA will determine and compare tenant incomes at the developments listed in this Chapter.

Upon analyzing its findings the PHA will apply the policies, measures and incentives listed in this Chapter to bring higher income families into lower income developments and lower income families into higher income developments.

The PHA's goal is to have eligible families having higher incomes occupy dwelling units in projects predominantly occupied by eligible families having lower incomes, and eligible families having lower incomes occupy dwelling units in projects predominantly occupied by eligible families having higher incomes.

Families having lower incomes include very low- and extremely low-income families.

When selecting applicant families and assigning transfers for a designated project the PHA will determine whether the selection of the family will contribute to the PHA's deconcentration goals.

The PHA will not select families for a particular project if the selection will have a negative effect on the PHA's deconcentration goals. However, if there are insufficient families on the waiting list or transfer list, under no circumstances will a unit remain vacant longer than necessary.

Steps for Implementation (24 C.F.R. 903.2)

Step 1: Determine the average income of all families residing in all covered developments.

$16,080.63

Step 2: Determine the average income of all families residing in each covered development, per unit size.

Development	Average Income
30	$ 17,662.75
31	$ 19,115.28
32	$ 15,554.34
33	$ 15,227.55
37	$ 14,459.25
38	$ 14,598.74
39	$ 16,814.62
40	$ 18,389.80
43	$ 12,810.54
44	$ 14,805.81
45	$ 16,835.62
49	$ 14,521.34
50	$ 18,252.52

Step 3: Determine whether each covered development falls above, within or below the Established Income Range. The Established Income Range is from 85 to 115 percent (inclusive) of the average family income. The established income range is: $13,668.53 to $18,492.72.

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30	$ 17,662.75
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Step 4: Explain how covered developments having average incomes outside the Established Income Range may explain or justify the income profile for these developments as being consistent with and furthering two sets of goals: the goals of deconcentration of poverty and income mixing as specified by the statute (bringing higher income tenants into lower income developments and vice versa); and the local goals and strategies contained in the PHA Annual Plan.

Development 43: The Planning and Evaluation Office is currently investigating further records to explain/justify this deviation from the Established Income Range.

Step 5: PHA Incentives for Higher Income Families

The PHA will offer certain incentives to higher income families willing to move into lower income projects. The PHA will not take any adverse action against any higher income family declining an offer by the PHA to move into a lower income project.

In addition to maintaining its public housing stock in a manner that is safe, clean, well landscaped and attractive, the PHA may offer the following incentives for higher income families moving into lower income projects:

> *(A) Incentives designed to encourage families with incomes below the Established Income Range to accept units in developments with incomes above the Established Income Range, or vice versa, including rent incentives, affirmative marketing plans, or added amenities;*
>
> *(B) Target investment and capital improvements toward developments with an average income below the Established Income Range to encourage applicant families whose income is above the Established Income Range to accept units in those developments;*
>
> *(C) Establish a preference for admission of working families in developments below the Established Income Range;*
>
> *(D) Skip a family on the waiting list to reach another family in an effort to further the goals of the PHA's deconcentration policy;*
>
> *(E) Provide such other strategies as permitted by statute and determined by the PHA in consultation with the residents and the community, through the PHA Annual Plan process, to be responsive to the local context and the PHA's strategic objectives.*