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December 28, 2020

Dear HCV Program Participant:

We hope this message finds you safe and well this holiday season. The Houston Housing Authority (HHA) remains dedicated to those we serve and to our mission: to improve lives by providing quality, affordable housing options and promoting education and economic self-sufficiency.

HHA continues to review our practices and policies to further our core mission of providing housing subsidy to serve as many economically and housing vulnerable Houstonians as possible. The purpose of this letter is to alert you to changes in our Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Program Occupancy Standards, which is outlined below and will be effective January 1, 2021.

### **Occupancy Standards**

HHA's occupancy standards now limit the size of subsidy that a family receives to equal two persons per bedroom regardless of age or gender. HHA counts the number of persons in your family when determining unit size and will no longer make distinctions based on sex and age of family members, nor the relationship of persons in the family.

Family composition will be reviewed at the earliest of either the next annual recertification or move. A reasonable accommodation will be made if a family is able to demonstrate that the need for a larger unit is either for a medical necessity or for a live-in aide. Families who do not meet the occupancy standard of 2 persons per unit will be issued a smaller voucher. **Families who choose to remain in their current unit if a smaller voucher is issued will be responsible for a greater portion of the rent.**

HHA will not grant appeals to a subsidy standard determination because administrative determinations are not subject to appeal, as outlined in HHA's administrative plan.

These changes are consistent with all of our neighboring local housing authorities and are needed for the necessary preservation of housing subsidy that will allow us to continue to serve all HCV Program participants in what remains a challenging funding environment.

We look forward to serving more Houstonians in need and continuing our service to you. Should you have any questions, please contact our Customer Service Center at (713) 260-0500.