ARE YOU REQUIRED TO PERFORM COMMUNITY SERVICE?

If you live in a BHA federal development and are between the ages of 18 and 62 you are required to perform eight (8) hours of community service or economic self-sufficiency activity each month unless you qualify for and can provide verification of one of the following exemptions:

- **You are blind or disabled.** You must provide proof that you receive Social Security Disability or SSI or have a pending application for either benefit. If you cannot provide this verification but still believe that you are unable to perform community service, you may request a reasonable accommodation from your manager.

- **You are the primary caregiver of a blind or disabled person.** You must provide a statement from the person being cared for which includes an estimate of how long you will be taking care of the person.

- **You work or take part in a work activity for ten or more hours each week.** You must provide verification of employment and number of hours worked from your employer, or the organization that sponsors the job training or other qualified program must verify your participation. In addition to employment, qualifying work activities may include job training or job search activities, vocational education, attendance at a secondary school or in a course leading to a GED or the provision of child care to a person participating in a community service program.

- **You are exempt from work activity under a federal or state welfare program.** You must provide proof of the exemption from the welfare/transitional assistance/veterans services department.

- **You are a member of a household receiving assistance, benefits or services under a state or federal welfare program and are not in non-compliance with the requirements of that program.** You must provide verification of the receipt of assistance and compliance from the department providing you with benefits.

If you believe you qualify for one of these exemptions, please contact your management office and the staff will provide you with an exemption form.

If you do not qualify for one of the exemptions, you must perform eight (8) hours of community service or economic self-sufficiency activity each month.

Acceptable community service activities include volunteer work in a local school, hospital or childcare center, working with youth organizations or working with tenant or neighborhood groups. By law, political activity is not an eligible form of community service.

Economic self-sufficiency activities include job training programs, work or basic skills training, education, English language proficiency, financial or household management, apprenticeship or any program necessary to make a participant ready for work, such as mental health or substance abuse treatment.

If you are required to perform community service or economic self-sufficiency activity, you must bring verification that you have completed eight (8) hours of qualifying activity per month to the next recertification appointment for your household. Verification forms are available in your management office.

**IF YOU AND EACH MEMBER OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD DO NOT PERFORM COMMUNITY SERVICE OR OTHER QUALIFYING ACTIVITIES AS REQUIRED, THE LEASE FOR YOUR HOUSEHOLD MAY BE TERMINATED AND YOUR HOUSEHOLD COULD BE EVICTED.**

Please contact your management office for additional information or to answer any questions. This policy applies to each household member who is not exempt.