NOTICE TO APPLICANTS WITH DISABILITIES REGARDING REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION

The Boston Housing Authority (BHA) is a public agency that provides low rent housing to eligible families, elderly/handicapped/disabled households and single people. The BHA does not discriminate against applicants on the basis of their race, creed, color, religion, sex, national origin, marital or familial status, disability, age, receipt of public assistance or sexual preference. Under applicable law, the BHA provides “reasonable accommodation” to applicants if they or any household member(s) have a disability or handicap and if the reasonable accommodation is necessary to provide an equal opportunity to use and enjoy the housing.

A reasonable accommodation is some modification or change the BHA can make to its apartments or procedures that will assist an otherwise eligible applicant with a disability/handicap to take advantage of the BHA’s programs, provided that the change does not pose an undue financial and administrative burden to the BHA or require a fundamental change in its program. A reasonable accommodation may also include providing an appropriate auxiliary aid to an applicant with a disability/handicap where such assistance is necessary to enable effective communication with the applicant.

Examples of reasonable accommodation may include the BHA:

- Installing flashing light smoke detectors in an apartment for a household with a hearing-impaired member;
- Making a reader available to a vision-impaired applicant during an interview;
- Making a sign language interpreter available to a hearing-impaired applicant during an interview;
- Permitting an outside agency to assist an applicant with a disability/handicap to meet the BHA’s applicant screening criteria.

An applicant household that has a member with a disability/handicap must still be able to meet essential obligations of tenancy—they must be able to pay rent, to care for their apartment, to report required information to the housing authority, to avoid disturbing their neighbors, etc. This requirement takes into consideration whether any requested reasonable accommodation would permit the applicant to be considered eligible.

If you or a member of your household have a disability or handicap and think you might need or want a reasonable accommodation, you may request it in writing at any time in the application process or after admission. This is up to you. If you would prefer not to discuss your situation with the housing authority, that is your right.

You can get a Request for Reasonable Accommodation form at or from the BHA Housing Service Center at 56 Chauncy Street or the Office of Civil Rights at 52 Chauncy Street, Boston, MA. If you require help in filling out that form or need to submit your request in some other way, you should contact an Occupancy Staff at 52 or 56 Chauncy Street, 988-4553 or 988-3400, press option 2 and then option 1 or TDD #1-800-545-1833 Ext. 420.
Important Telephone Numbers

**BHA Police**
129 Amory Street
Roxbury, MA 02119
617-423-1212 (24 hours)

**Boston Police Department**
24-Hour Emergency Dial 9-1-1
Community Disorders Unit
One Schroeder Plaza
Boston, MA 02120
617-343-4527 (24 hours)

**BHA Civil Rights Hotline**
617-695-3531 (24 hours)

**BHA Office of Civil Rights**
52 Chauncy Street, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02111
Tel. 617-988-4383
Fax: 617-988-4313
TDD 1-800-545-1833 Ext. 420

**U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD)**
**Fair Housing Hub**
10 Causeway Street, Room 321
Boston, MA 02222
1-800-827-5005
TTY 617-565-5453

**Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination (MCAD)**
One Ashburton Place, Rm 601
Boston, MA 02108
617-727-3990

RA form-Civil Rights Guide to applicants