RENT SIMPLIFICATION POLICY OVERVIEW – MTW HCV

(Rent Simp. rules only apply to MTW vouchers. See Administrative Plan for detailed policy)

Determining Income:
Assets: CHA excludes income from assets worth less than $50,000.

Income: Prospective and past income can be used to calculate income for the purpose of rent determination.

Determining Rent:
Minimum Rent: The minimum rent any household can pay, before adjustment for utilities, is $50.00 per month. Households paying minimum rent are referred to social services providers for benefit/benefit counseling.

Zero Income Households: Rents based on zero income are increased to $50.00 after 90 days. Households claiming zero income are required to provide documentation to support their claim including, but not limited to a family budget form.

After 90 days Utility Assistance Payments (UAPs) are not paid to families claiming zero income.

Recertification:
Recertifications: Household incomes and rents are recertified annually.

Interim Recertifications: Households who experience significant drops in income or increased eligible childcare and/or medical expenses can have an interim recertification to temporarily reduce their rent.

Households paying interim rents must report any change in the circumstances that required the rent decrease within 30 days and have their rent readjusted.

Family households are limited to 1 interim rent adjustment between regularly scheduled annual recertifications.

There is no limit on the number of times an elderly or disabled household can request an interim recertification between regularly scheduled annual recertifications.

Hardship Waivers:
Eligibility: Households experiencing significant, unexpected, long-term (expected to last more than 60 days) drops in income or increases in eligible medical or childcare costs may apply for and receive a Hardship Waiver.

Criteria:
- Household paying more than 50% of adjusted income towards rent and utilities.

Hardship Applications are reviewed by CHA’s Hardship Committee. If a Hardship waiver is granted, it counts as an interim recertification.

Family households can apply for Hardship waivers even if they’ve used both interims permitted between biennial recertifications.