Rent Simplification Policy Overview - MTW HCV

Rent Simplification only applies to MTW voucher holders and MTW Project Based tenants. See Administrative Plan for complete Rent Simplification and all other Leased Housing program rules.

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 adjustments for utilities is $50.00 a month. Households paying minimum rent are referred to social service providers for benefit counseling.

- **Zero Income Households:** Households claiming zero income pay no ($0.00) rent for 90 days. After 90 days households claiming zero income are required to provide a certification of zero income, a family budget form and pay $50.00 per month in rent. After 90 days Utility Assistance Payments (UAPs) are not paid to families claiming zero income.

Recertification:

- **Recertifications:** Family household incomes and rents are recertified annually. Elderly and/or disabled household incomes and rents are recertified every other year.

- **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 30 days) drops in income or increases in eligible expenses may apply for and receive a Hardship Waiver.

- **Criteria:** Households 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 the interim permitted between annual recertifications.