

§10.613. Lease Requirements

TAX CREDIT:

Tenant Rights and Resources Guide

A Development Owner shall post in a common area of the leasing office a laminated copy and provide each household, during the application process and upon a subsequent change to the items described in paragraph (2) of this subsection, the brochure made available by the Department, A Tenant Rights and Resources Guide, which includes: (1) Information about Fair Housing and tenant choice; (2) Information regarding common amenities, unit amenities, and services; and, (3) A certification that a representative of the household must sign prior to, but no more than 120 days prior to, the initial lease execution acknowledging receipt of this brochure.

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(4) In the event this brochure is not provided timely or the household does not certify to receipt of the brochure, correction will be achieved by providing the household with the brochure and receiving a signed certification that it was received.

Housing Tax Credit units leased to an organization through a supportive housing program where the owner receives a rental payment for the unit regardless of physical occupancy will be found out of compliance if the unit remains vacant for over 60 days. The unit will be found out of compliance under the finding "Violation of the Unit Vacancy Rule."

Owners of HTC Developments are prohibited from locking out or threatening to lock out any Development resident, except by judicial process, unless the exclusion is necessary for the purpose of performing repairs or construction work, or in cases of emergency. Owners are further prohibited from seizing or threatening to seize the personal property of a resident except by judicial process unless the resident has abandoned the premises. These prohibitions must be included in the lease or lease addendum.

HTC and Bond Developments must use a lease or lease addendum that requires households to report changes in student status.

Eviction and/or termination of a lease. For HTC Developments, IRS Revenue Ruling 2004-82 prohibits the eviction or termination of tenancy of low-income households for other than good cause throughout the entire Affordability Period, and for three (3) years after termination of an extended low-income housing commitment. Owners executing or renewing leases after November 1, 2007, shall specifically state in the lease or in an addendum attached to the lease that evictions or terminations of tenancy for other than good cause are prohibited.

Evictions and terminations of tenancy for other than good cause are prohibited. In accordance with the Violence Against Women Act, an incident of actual or threatened domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking against the documented victim of such actual or threatened domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking shall not be construed as a serious or repeated violation of a lease or good cause for termination of tenancy. If a challenge to an eviction or termination of tenancy is related to a reasonable accommodation as defined by §1.204 of this title (relating to Reasonable Accommodations), a violation of the provision found in subsection (i) of this section, or for Developments financed by Direct Loans where actions trigger Title 104(d) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 or the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, the Department upon the request of either party will determine if an Owner is in compliance with the referenced requirements using the methods outlined in 1.2 of this Title (regarding Department Compliant System), or as required by federal law. Otherwise, the Department does not determine if an Owner has good cause or if a resident has violated the lease terms for other reasons. Challenges for evictions or terminations of tenancy for other reasons must be made by a court of competent jurisdiction or an agreement of the parties in arbitration, and the Department will rely on that determination.

All Owners may bifurcate a lease to terminate the tenancy of an individual who is a tenant or lawful occupant and engages in criminal activity directly relating to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking against another lawful occupant living in the unit or other affiliated individual as defined in the VAWA 2013.

It is a Development Owner's responsibility at all times to know what it has agreed to provide by way of common amenities, unit amenities, and services.

Bond Properties:

HTC and Bond Developments must use a lease or lease addendum that requires households to report changes in student status.

HOME:

All NHTF, state HOME match, NSP, 811 PRA, and HOME Developments for which the contract is executed on or after December 16, 2016, must use the Department created VAWA lease addendum which provides the ability for the tenant to terminate the lease without penalty if the Department determines that the tenant qualifies for an emergency transfer under 24 CFR §5.2005(e).

For HOME, TCAP, state HOME match, NHTF, and NSP Developments, properties that were initially built for occupancy prior to 1978 must include in their lease or lease addendum a Lead Warning Statement. To demonstrate compliance, the Department will monitor that, all households at HOME, TCAP, state HOME match, NHTF, and NSP Developments have signed the Disclosure of Information on Lead-Based Paint and/or Lead-Based Paint Hazards. (24 CFR §92.355, 24 CFR §93.361 and §570.487(c)). The addendum and disclosure are not required if all lead has been certified to have been cleared from the Development in accordance with 24 CFR §35.130, and the Owner has the required certification in its on-site records.

For HOME, state HOME match, and NSP Developments, the HOME Final Rule (and as adopted by Texas NSP) prohibits Owners from evicting low-income residents or refusing to renew a lease except for serious or repeated violations of the terms and conditions of the lease, for violations of applicable federal, state or local law, for completion of the tenancy period for transitional housing, or for other good cause. To terminate tenancy, the Owner must serve written notice to the tenant specifying the grounds for the action at least thirty (30) days before the termination of tenancy. Owners executing or renewing leases after November 1, 2007, shall specifically state in the lease or in an addendum attached to the lease that evictions or non-renewal of leases for other than good cause are prohibited (24 CFR §92.253). Owners must also comply with all other lease requirements and prohibitions stated in 24 CFR §92.253.

Leasing of HOME and state HOME match units by organizations that, in turn, rent those units to individuals is not permissible for Developments with contracts dated on or after August 23, 2013.