U.S. PROGRAMS

HOUSING AND RESETTLEMENT

Summary Guidance for Working with Public Housing Authorities (PHAs)

ESTABLISHING RELATIONSHIPS WITH PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITIES

Developing a working relationship with your local PHA

- Share information about resettlement and your local office.
- Request information about availability of Housing Choice Vouchers and Public Housing.
- Find out if the PHA has preferences for who can access public housing and vouchers.
- Ask the PHA if they can recommend local landlords or property management companies with affordable units.
- Request a list of affordable housing developers in the area.
- Ask about meetings or community events in which IRC could participate.
- Invite the PHA to attend an IRC quarterly consultation or staff meeting to present about public housing/housing choice vouchers.

Find the local Public Housing Authority nearest your IRC office, or contact the Office of Public and Indian Housing Customer Service Center:

(800) 955-2232

What is a Public Housing Authority?

Public housing provides decent and safe rental housing for low-income families, the elderly, and persons with disabilities.

Public housing is overseen by HUD and administered locally by over 3,300 Public Housing Authorities (PHAs).

Public housing is one of the federal government's three main rental assistance programs. Families offered a house or an apartment through public housing sign leases with their local PHA.

Who is eligible for public housing?

Low-income Requirement:
Public housing is limited to low-income families and individuals. PHAs use income limits developed by HUD, which sets lower income limits at 80% and very low income limits at 50% of the median income for the area in which a family chooses to live. Median income levels are published by HUD and vary by location.

Immigration Status Requirements:

Refugees are considered eligible non-citizens under Section 8 guidelines and therefore qualify for this program.