



## HOUSING AUTHORITY OF BERGEN COUNTY

ONE BERGEN COUNTY PLAZA, 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR

HACKENSACK, N.J. 07601

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September 2014

Dear Participant,

Please be advised that HUD has implemented the following changes which affect your utility calculation.

Federal Register/ Vol. 79, No. 122 Issued the following update effective immediately.

*Under section 242, the utility allowance for a family shall be the lower of: (1) The utility allowance amount for the family unit size; or (2) the utility allowance amount for the unit size of the unit rented by the family. However, upon request of a family that includes a person with disabilities, the PHA must approve a utility allowance higher than the applicable amount if such a higher utility allowance is needed as a reasonable accommodation in accordance with HUD's regulations in 24 CFR part 8 to make the program accessible to and usable by the family member with a disability. This provision applies only to vouchers issued after the effective date of this notice and to current program participants. For current program participants, a PHA must implement the new allowance at the family's next annual reexamination, provided that the PHA is able to provide a family with at least 60 days' notice prior to the reexamination.*

Based on the above regulation your utility allowance will be calculated based on your voucher size. This change will be implemented at your annual recertification beginning December 1, 2014. Therefore, if you have leased a unit that is larger than your allotted voucher size you will see a decrease in the amount provided or allowed as a utility allowance which may result in an increase in your portion of the rent.

Should you require a reasonable accommodation due to a medical condition that requires utility usage you may submit your request along with supporting documents to our office.

Sincerely,

Fenesha Holmes

Assisted Housing Supervisor