



# HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER

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## CHAPTER 10

### CHAPTER 10 MOVING WITH CONTINUED ASSISTANCE AND PORTABILITY

#### INTRODUCTION

Freedom of housing choice is a hallmark of the housing choice voucher (HCV) program. In general, HUD regulations impose few restrictions on where families may live or move with HCV assistance. This chapter sets forth HUD regulations and PHA policies governing moves within or outside the PHA's jurisdiction in two parts:

Part I: Moving with Continued Assistance. This part covers the general rules that apply to all moves by a family assisted under the PHA's HCV program, whether the family moves to another unit within the PHA's jurisdiction or to a unit outside the PHA's jurisdiction under portability.

Part II: Portability. This part covers the special rules that apply to moves by a family under portability, whether the family moves out of or into the PHA's jurisdiction. This part also covers the special responsibilities that the PHA has under portability regulations and procedures.

#### PART I: MOVING WITH CONTINUED ASSISTANCE

##### 10-I.A. ALLOWABLE MOVES

HUD lists six regulatory conditions under which an assisted family is allowed to move to a new unit with continued assistance. Permission to move is subject to the restrictions set forth in section 10-I.B.

- The family has a right to terminate the lease on notice to the owner (for the owner's breach or otherwise) and has given a notice of termination to the owner in accordance with the lease [24 CFR 982.354(b)(3)(c)]. If the family terminates the lease on notice to the owner, the family must give the PHA a copy of the notice at the same time [24 CFR 982.354(d)(1) (c)].
- The lease for the family's unit has been terminated by mutual agreement of the owner and the family [24 CFR 982.354(b)(1)(ii) (c)].

##### MSHDA Policy

If the family and the owner mutually agree to terminate the lease for the family's unit, the family must give MSHDA a copy of the termination agreement.

- The owner has given the family a notice to vacate, has commenced an action to evict the family, or has obtained a court judgment or other process allowing the owner to evict the family [24 CFR 982.354(b)(2) (c)]. The family must give the PHA a copy of any owner eviction notice [24 CFR 982.551(g) (c)].

The family or a member of the family is or has been the victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, or human trafficking, and the move is needed to protect the health or safety of the family or family member [see 24 CFR 982.354314(b)(4) (c)].

This condition applies even when the family has moved out of its unit in violation of the lease, with or without prior notification to the PHA, if the family or family member who is the victim reasonably believed that they were imminently threatened by harm from further violence if they remained in the unit [24 CFR 982.354314(b)(4) (c), 24 CFR 982.353(b) (c)]. The PHA must adopt an emergency transfer plan as required by the regulations at 24 CFR 5.2007(e) (c).

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### MSHDA Policy

If a family requests permission to move with continued assistance or for an external transfer to another covered housing program operated by MSHDA based on a claim that the move is necessary to protect the health or safety of a family member who is or has been the victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, , MSHDA will request that the resident request the emergency transfer using the form HUD-5383, and MSHDA will request documentation in accordance with section 16-IX.D of this plan.

MSHDA reserves the right to waive the documentation requirement if it determines that a statement or other corroborating evidence from the family or family member will suffice. In such cases MSHDA will document the waiver in the family's file.

MSHDA may choose to provide a voucher to facilitate an emergency transfer of the victim without first terminating the assistance of the perpetrator.

Before granting an emergency transfer, MSHDA will ensure the victim is eligible to receive continued assistance based on the citizenship or immigration status of the victim.

MSHDA has adopted an emergency transfer plan, which is included as Exhibit 16-31 to this plan and discusses external transfers to other covered housing programs.

- The PHA has terminated the HAP Contract for the family's unit for the owner's breach [24 CFR 982.354(b)(1)(i) (c)].
- The PHA determines that the family's current unit does not meet space standards because of an increase in family size or a change in family composition.

In such cases, the PHA must issue the family a new voucher, and the family and PHA must try to find an acceptable unit as soon as possible. If an acceptable unit is available for the family, the PHA must terminate the HAP contract for the family's old unit in accordance with the HAP contract terms and must notify both the family and the owner of the termination. The HAP contract terminates at the end of the calendar month that follows the calendar month in which the PHA gives notice to the owner. [24 CFR 982.403(a) and (c)]

### **10-I.B. FAMILY MOVES DUE TO UNIT DEFICIENCIES**

#### **Units in Abatement [24 CFR 982.404(d)(3) (c)]**

An owner may not terminate the tenancy of a family due to the PHA withholding or abating HAP for housing quality standards deficiencies that are not repaired timely. During the period that assistance is abated, the family may terminate tenancy by notifying the owner and the PHA. If the family chooses to terminate tenancy, the HAP contract will automatically terminate on the effective date of tenancy termination or the date the family vacates the unit, whichever is earlier. The PHA must promptly issue the family its voucher to move.

### MSHDA Policy

Upon receipt of a family's written notification that it wishes to move, MSHDA will issue a voucher within 10 business days of MSHDA's written approval to move. No briefing is required for these families. MSHDA will follow the policies set forth in Chapter 5 on voucher term, extension, and expiration.

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### **Termination of HAP Contract and Family Moves [24 CFR 982.404(e) (c)]**

For HAP contracts executed or renewed on or after June 6, 2024, if an owner fails to make required repairs within 60 days (or a reasonable longer period established by the PHA) of the notice of abatement, the PHA must terminate the HAP contract. In this case, the PHA must issue the family its voucher at least 30 days prior to the termination of the HAP contract. The family must be provided at least 90 days following the termination of the HAP contract to lease a new unit, although the PHA may provide a longer period as the PHA determines is reasonably necessary.

#### MSHDA Policy

MSHDA will issue a family whose HAP contract is being terminated due to an owner failing to make required repairs within the required time frame a voucher no later than 30 days prior to the termination of the HAP contract. The initial term of the voucher will be 90 calendar days. No briefing is required for these families.

To continue under the tenant-based HCV program, the family must submit a Request for Tenancy Approval and proposed lease within the 90-day period unless MSHDA grants an extension. MSHDA will consider extensions as a reasonable accommodation for a person with a disability.

### **Offer of Public Housing [24 CFR 982.404(e)(2) (c)]**

If the family is unable to lease a new unit within the term of the voucher, and the PHA owns or operates public housing, the PHA must offer, and if accepted, provide the family a selection preference for an appropriate-sized public housing unit that first becomes available for occupancy after the time period expires.

#### MSHDA Policy

MSHDA does not operate a public housing program and will not provide a preference for HCV families whose HAP contract is being terminated due to an owner failing to make required repairs within the required time frame, and who were unable to lease a new unit within the term of the voucher.

### **Relocation Assistance [24 CFR 982.404(e)(3) (c)]**

PHAs may assist families relocating due to the HAP contract being terminated as a result of the owner failing to make required repairs within the required time frame in finding a new unit, including using up to two months of the withheld and abated assistance payments for costs directly associated with relocating to a new unit, such as security deposits, temporary housing costs, or other reasonable moving costs as determined by the PHA based on their locality.

The PHA must assist families with disabilities with locating available accessible units in accordance with 24 CFR 8.28(a)(3) (c).

#### MSHDA Policy

The PHA will assist families with disabilities with locating available accessible units in accordance with program requirements.

MSHDA will not use withheld and abated payment to assist with any required security deposit at the new unit. Funds will not be used for any other relocation assistance.

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### 10.1.C RESTRICTIONS ON MOVES

A family's right to move is generally contingent upon the family's compliance with program requirements [24 CFR 982.1(b)(2) (c)]. HUD specifies two conditions under which a PHA may deny a family permission to move and two ways in which a PHA may restrict moves by a family.

#### **Denial of Moves**

HUD regulations permit the PHA to deny a family permission to move under the following conditions:

#### **Insufficient Funding**

The PHA may deny a family permission to move either within or outside the PHA's jurisdiction if PHA's does not have sufficient funding for continued assistance [24 CFR 982.354(e)(1) (c)]. However, Notice PIH 2016-09 significantly restricts the ability of PHAs to deny permission to move due to insufficient funding and places further requirements on PHAs regarding moves denied due to lack of funding. The requirements found in this notice are mandatory.

#### MSHDA Policy

MSHDA will deny a family permission to move on grounds that MSHDA does not have sufficient funding for continued assistance if (a) the move is initiated by the family, not the owner or MSHDA; (b) MSHDA can demonstrate that the move will, in fact, result in higher subsidy costs (c) MSHDA can demonstrate, in accordance with the policies in Part VIII of Chapter 16, that it does not have sufficient funding in its annual budget to accommodate the higher subsidy costs; and for (d) for portability moves, the receiving PHA is not absorbing the voucher.

If MSHDA does not have sufficient funding for continued assistance, but the family must move from their unit (e.g., the unit failed inspection), the family may move to a higher cost unit if the move is within MSHDA's jurisdiction. MSHDA, however, will not allow the family to move under portability in this situation if the family wishes to move to a higher cost area.

For both moves within MSHDA's jurisdiction and outside under portability, MSHDA will not deny a move due to insufficient funding if MSHDA previously approved the move and subsequently experienced a funding shortfall if the family cannot remain in their current unit. MSHDA will rescind the voucher in this situation if the family will be allowed to remain in their current unit.

MSHDA will create a list of families whose moves have been denied due to insufficient funding. MSHDA will keep the family's request open indefinitely, and when funds become available, the families on this list will take precedence over families on the waiting list. MSHDA will use the same procedures for notifying families with open requests to move when funds become available as it uses for notifying families on the waiting list (see section 4-III.D).

MSHDA will inform the family of its policy regarding moves denied due to insufficient funding in a letter to the family at the time the move is denied. Information will be included in the letter on steps the family can take to initiate a move when funding is available.

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### Grounds for Denial or Termination of Assistance

The PHA may deny a family permission to move if it has grounds for denying or terminating the family's assistance [24 CFR 982.354(e)(2) (c)].

#### MSHDA Policy

If MSHDA has grounds for denying or terminating a family's assistance due to VAWA, MSHDA will act on those grounds in accordance with the regulations and policies set forth in Chapters 3 and 12, respectively. In general, it will not deny a family permission to move for this reason; however, it retains the discretion to do so under special circumstances. Refer to sections 3-III.G and 12-II. E for VAWA provisions.

### Restrictions on Elective Moves [24 CFR 982.354(c)]

HUD regulations permit the PHA to prohibit any elective move by a participant family during the family's initial lease term. They also permit the PHA to prohibit more than one elective move by a participant family during any 12-month period.

However, such prohibitions, if adopted, do not apply when the family or a member of the family is or has been the victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, or human trafficking, and the move is needed to protect the health or safety of the family or family member. (For the policy on documentation of abuse, see section 10-I.A.)). In addition, the PHA may not establish a policy permitting moves only at reexamination [Notice PIH 2016-09].

#### MSHDA Policy

MSHDA will deny a family permission to make an elective move during the family's initial lease term. This policy applies to moves within MSHDA's jurisdiction or outside it under portability.

MSHDA will also deny a family permission to make more than one elective move during any 12-month period. This policy applies to all assisted families residing in the MSHDA's jurisdiction.

MSHDA must deny a move to a new unit when the amount of assistance MSHDA will pay at the new unit is zero.

MSHDA will consider exceptions to these policies for the following reasons: to protect the health or safety of a family member (e.g., lead-based paint hazards, domestic violence, witness protection programs), to accommodate a change in family circumstances (e.g., new employment, school attendance in a distant area), or to address an emergency over which a family has no control.

In addition, MSHDA will allow exceptions to these policies for purposes of reasonable accommodation of a family member who is a person with disabilities (see Chapter 2).

### 10-I.D. MOVING PROCESS

#### Notification

If a family wishes to move to a new unit, the family must notify the PHA and the owner before moving out of the old unit or terminating the lease on notice to the owner [24 CFR 982.354(d)(2) (c)].

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If the family wishes to move to a unit outside the PHA's jurisdiction under portability, the notice to the PHA must specify the area where the family wishes to move [24 CFR 982.354(d)(2) (c), Notice PIH 2016-09]. The notices must be in writing [24 CFR 982.5(c)].

### **Approval**

#### MSHDA Policy

Upon receipt of a family's notification that it wishes to move, MSHDA will determine whether the move is approvable in accordance with the regulations and policies set forth in sections 10-I. and 10-I.B. MSHDA will notify the family in writing of its determination within 10 business days following receipt of the family's notification.

A family's notification to move includes a written notice to vacate (minimum 30-day notice is required); and all documents requested from the participant and landlord by MSHDA which are necessary to determine eligibility to move including a determination of good standing.

Good standing with MSHDA is determined by MSHDA reviewing the following:

- 1) The participant is current on their payments toward any MSHDA repayment agreements or accounts receivable debt;
- 2) Criminal and Sex Offender Screenings; and
- 3) Verifies that the family is not violating any family obligations under the voucher that may result in program termination.

Good standing with the landlord is determined by MSHDA contacting the landlord and verifying the participant family:

- 1) Has not violated the terms and conditions of the lease;
- 2) Is not delinquent in rental payments to the landlord;
- 3) Is not delinquent in utility bills which would become the responsibility of the landlord upon participant move-out; and
- 4) Has not caused damage to the unit above normal wear and tear and beyond what the security deposit would pay.

If upon move-out documentation is provided to MSHDA that the participant has damaged the unit above normal wear and tear and beyond what the security deposit would pay, is delinquent on rental payments to the landlord and/or delinquent on utility bills that become the responsibility of the owner, MSHDA may terminate assistance in accordance 24 CFR 982.552(c) and with policies in Chapter 12.

### **HA Notification to Participant of Move Approval or Denial**

If the HA determines the participant is in good standing with the PHA and the landlord, the HA will send the participant the MSHDA 139 informing the participant that the move has been approved. The HA shall include all required supporting documents as stated on the MSHDA 139. See below next section for required documents.

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If the HA determines the participant is not in good standing with the PHA and the landlord or has failed to provide proper move notification documents, the HA will send the participant the MSHDA 60 informing the participant that the move request has been denied. The HA may proceed with program termination, if applicable.

**NOTE:** If upon move-out documentation is provided to the HA that the participant has damaged the unit above normal wear and tear and beyond what the security deposit would pay, is delinquent on rental payments to the landlord and/or delinquent on utility bills that become the responsibility of the owner, the HA may terminate assistance in accordance with 24 CFR 982.552(c) and policies in Chapter 12. The HA may contact the RS for further guidance, when necessary.

### **Reexamination of Family Income and Composition**

#### MSHDA Policy

For families approved to move to a new unit within MSHDA's jurisdiction, MSHDA will **not** perform a new annual reexamination.

For families moving into or families approved to move out of MSHDA's jurisdiction under portability, MSHDA will follow the policies set forth in Part II of this chapter.

### **Voucher Issuance and Briefing**

#### MSHDA Policy

For families approved to move to a new unit within MSHDA's jurisdiction, MSHDA will issue a new voucher within 10 business days of MSHDA's written approval to move. No briefing is required for these families. MSHDA will follow the policies set forth in Chapter 5 on voucher term, extension, and expiration. If a family does not locate a new unit within the term of the voucher and any extensions, the family may remain in its current unit with continued voucher assistance if the owner agrees and MSHDA approves. Otherwise, the family will lose its assistance.

For families moving into or families approved to move out of the MSHDA's jurisdiction under portability, MSHDA will follow the policies set forth in Part II of this chapter.

For families moving due an owner failing to make required repairs timely, resulting in the PHA terminating the HAP contract, the PHA will follow the policies set forth earlier in this section and in Chapter 8, Part II.

### **Housing Assistance Payments [24 CFR 982.311(d) (c)]**

When a family moves out of an assisted unit, the PHA may not make any housing assistance payment to the owner for any month **after** the month the family moves out. The owner may keep the housing assistance payment for the month when the family moves out of the unit.

If a participant family moves from an assisted unit with continued tenant-based assistance, the term of the assisted lease for the new assisted unit may begin during the month the family moves out of the first assisted unit. Overlap of the last housing assistance payment (for the month when the family moves out of the old unit) and the first assistance payment for the new unit, is not considered to constitute a duplicative housing subsidy.

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### MSHDA Policy

MSHDA does not pay subsidy for two units at one time without a waiver from MSHDA staff. If the move-out date overlaps with a move-in date, duplicate payments will not be made without a waiver from MSHDA staff to allow for the dual payment.

### **Zero HAP Families Who Wish to Move [24 CFR 982.455(c)]**

A participant who is not receiving any subsidy, but whose HAP contract is still in force, may request a voucher to move to a different unit.

The PHA must issue a voucher to move unless it if the PHA determines request a voucher to move to a different unit. The PHA must issue a voucher to move unless it has grounds to deny assistance under the program regulations. However, if the PHA determines no subsidy would be paid at the new unit, the PHA may refuse to enter into a HAP contract on behalf of the family.

### MSHDA Policy

If a zero HAP family requests to move to a new unit, the family may request a voucher to move. However, if no subsidy will be paid at the unit to which the family requests to move, MSHDA will not enter into a HAP contract on behalf of the family for the new unit.

## **PART II: PORTABILITY**

### **10-II.A. OVERVIEW**

Within the limitations of the regulations and this plan, a participant family or an applicant family that has been issued a voucher has the right to use tenant-based voucher assistance to lease a unit anywhere in the United States providing that the unit is located within the jurisdiction of a PHA administering a tenant-based voucher program [24 CFR 982.353(b) (c)]. The process by which a family obtains a voucher from one PHA and uses it to lease a unit in the jurisdiction of another PHA is known as portability. The PHA that issues the voucher is called the **initial PHA**. The PHA that has jurisdiction in the area to which the family wants to move is called the **receiving PHA**.

The receiving PHA has the option of administering the family's voucher for the initial PHA or absorbing the family into its own program.

Under the first option, the receiving PHA provides all housing services for the family and bills the initial PHA for the family's housing assistance payments and the fees for administering the family's voucher.

Under the second option, the receiving PHA pays for the family's assistance with its own program funds, and the initial PHA has no further relationship with the family. The initial PHA must contact the receiving PHA via email or other confirmed delivery method to determine whether the receiving PHA will administer or absorb the initial PHA's voucher. Based on the receiving PHA's response, the initial PHA must determine whether they will approve or deny the portability request [Notice PIH 2016-09].

PHAs commonly act as both the initial and receiving PHA because families may move into or out of their jurisdiction under portability. Each role involves different responsibilities. the PHA will follow the rules and policies in section 10-II. B when it is acting as the initial PHA for a family. It will follow the rules and policies in section 10-II.C when it is acting as the receiving PHA for a family.

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In administering portability, the initial PHA and the receiving PHA must comply with financial procedures required by HUD, including the use of HUD-required forms [24 CFR 982.355(e)(5) (c)].

PHAs must also comply with billing and payment deadlines. HUD may reduce an administrative fee to an initial or receiving PHA if the PHA does not comply with HUD portability requirements [24 CFR 982.355(e)(7) (c)].

### **10-II.B. INITIAL PHA ROLE**

#### **Allowable Moves under Portability**

A family may move with voucher assistance only to an area where there is at least one PHA administering a voucher program [24 CFR 982.353(b) (c)]. If there is more than one PHA in the area, the initial PHA provides the family with the contact information for the receiving PHAs that serve the area, and the family selects the receiving PHA.

The family must inform the initial PHA which receiving PHA it has selected. If the family prefers not to select the receiving PHA, the initial PHA will select the receiving PHA on behalf of the family [24 CFR 982.255(b) (c)].

Applicant families that have been issued vouchers as well as participant families may qualify to lease a unit outside the PHA's jurisdiction under portability. HUD regulations and PHA Policy determine whether a family qualifies.

#### **Applicant Families**

Under HUD regulations, most applicant families qualify to lease a unit outside the PHA's jurisdiction under portability. However, HUD gives the PHA discretion to deny a portability move by an applicant family for the same two reasons that it may deny any move by a participant family: insufficient funding and grounds for denial or termination of assistance. If a PHA intends to deny a family permission to move under portability due to insufficient funding, the PHA must notify HUD within 10 business days of the determination to deny the move [24 CFR 982.355(e) (c)].

#### MSHDA Policy

In determining whether or not to deny an applicant family permission to move under portability because MSHDA lacks sufficient funding or has grounds for denying assistance to the family, the initial PHA will follow the policies established in section 10-I.B. of this chapter. If MSHDA intends to deny a family permission to move under portability due to insufficient funding, MSHDA must notify HUD in writing within 10 business days of the determination to deny the move. [24 CFR 982.355(e) (c)].

In addition, the initial PHA may establish a policy denying the right to portability to nonresident applicants during the first 12 months after they are admitted to the program [24 CFR 982.353(c)].

#### MSHDA Policy

If neither the head of household nor the spouse/co-head of an applicant family had a domicile (legal residence) in the initial MSHDA's jurisdiction at the time that the family's initial application for assistance was submitted, the family must lease a unit within the initial MSHDA's jurisdiction for at least 12 months before requesting portability.

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MSHDA will consider exceptions to this policy for purposes of reasonable accommodation (see Chapter 2), or reasons related to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, or human trafficking.

### **Participant Families**

The initial PHA must not provide portable assistance for a participant if a family has moved out of its assisted unit in violation of the lease [24 CFR 982.353(b) (c)]. The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) creates an exception to this prohibition for families who are otherwise in compliance with program obligations but have moved to protect the health or safety of a family member who is or has been a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking, and who reasonably believed they were imminently threatened by harm from further violence if they remained in the unit [see 24 CFR 982.353(b) (c)].

#### MSHDA Policy

MSHDA will determine whether a participant family may move out of MSHDA's jurisdiction with continued assistance in accordance with the regulations and policies set forth here and in sections 10-I. A, 10-I. B of this chapter. MSHDA will notify the family of its determination in accordance with the approval policy set forth in section 10-I.C of this chapter. An HCV participant family qualifies to port to another PHA when MSHDA verifies:

- 1) The participant has been receiving assistance with the MSHDA HCV Program for at least 12 months prior to exercising portability rights.
- 2) The participant has provided written notice to vacate (minimum 30-day notice is required) to MSHDA and the landlord.
- 3) Receipt of all documents requested from the participant and landlord by MSHDA which are necessary to determine eligibility to move including a determination of good standing.

Good standing with MSHDA is determined by MSHDA reviewing the following:

- a. The participant is current on their payments toward any MSHDA repayment agreements or accounts receivable debt;
- b. Criminal and Sex Offender Screenings; and
- c. Verifies that the family is not violating any family obligations under the voucher that may result in program termination.

Good standing with the landlord is determined by MSHDA contacting the landlord and verifying the participant family:

- a. Has not violated the terms and conditions of the lease;
- b. Is not delinquent in rental payments to the landlord;
- c. Is not delinquent in utility bills which would become the responsibility of the landlord upon participant move-out; and
- d. Has not caused damage to the unit above normal wear and tear and beyond what the security deposit would pay.

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If the above criteria are met, the participant may port outside MSHDA's jurisdiction. If any of the above criteria are not met, the participant must stay in their current county until they meet the eligibility requirements; and/or be terminated from the program if the criminal screening revealed a crime for which a participant must be terminated.

### **Determining Income Eligibility**

#### **Applicant Families**

An applicant family may lease a unit in a particular area under portability only if the family is income eligible for admission to the voucher program in that area [24 CFR 982.353(d)(1) (c)]. The family must specify the area to which the family wishes to move [24 CFR 982.355(c)(1)]. (c).

The initial PHA is responsible for determining whether the family is income eligible in the area to which the family wishes to move [24 CFR 982.353(d)(1) (c), 24 CFR 982.355(9) (c)]. If the applicant family is not income eligible in that area, the PHA must inform the family that it may not move there and receive voucher assistance [Notice PIH 2016-09].

#### **Participant Families**

The income eligibility of a participant family is not redetermined if the family moves to a new jurisdiction under portability [24 CFR 982.353(d)(2) (c)],

### **Reexamination of Family Income and Composition**

No new reexamination of family income and composition is required for an applicant family.

#### MSHDA Policy

For a participant family approved to move out of its jurisdiction under portability, MSHDA generally will conduct a reexamination of family income and composition only if the family's annual reexamination must be completed on or before the initial billing deadline specified on form HUD-52665, Family Portability Information.

MSHDA will make any exceptions to this policy necessary to remain in compliance with HUD regulations.

### **Briefing**

The regulations and policies on briefings set forth in Chapter 5 of this plan require the PHA to provide information on portability to all applicant families that qualify to lease a unit outside PHA's jurisdiction under the portability procedures. Therefore, no special briefing is required for these families.

#### MSHDA Policy

No formal briefing will be required for a participant family wishing to move outside MSHDA's jurisdiction under portability. However, MSHDA will provide the family with the same oral and written explanation of portability that it provides to applicant families selected for admission to the program (see Chapter 5).

MSHDA will provide the name, address, and phone of the contact for the PHA in the jurisdiction to which they wish to move.

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If there is more than one PHA with jurisdiction over the area to which the family wishes to move, MSHDA will advise the family that the family selects the receiving PHA and notify the MSHDA of which receiving PHA was selected. MSHDA will provide the family with contact information for all of the receiving PHAs that serve the area. MSHDA will not provide any additional information about receiving PHAs in the area. MSHDA will further inform the family that if the family prefers not to select the receiving PHA, MSHDA will select the receiving PHA on behalf of the family. In this case, MSHDA will not provide the family with the information for all receiving PHAs in the area.

MSHDA will advise the family that they will be under the receiving PHA's policies and procedures, including screening, subsidy standards, voucher extension policies, and payment standards.

### **Voucher Issuance and Term**

An applicant family has no right to portability until after the family has been issued a voucher [24 CFR 982.353(b) (c)]. In issuing vouchers to applicant families, the PHA will follow the regulations and procedures set forth in Chapter 5.

#### MSHDA Policy

For participating families approved to move under portability, MSHDA will issue a new voucher within 10 business days of MSHDA's written approval to move.

The initial term of the voucher will be 60 days.

However, if the move is due to the HAP contract being terminated due to an owner failing to make required repairs within the required time frame, the PHA will issue the family a voucher no later than 30 days prior to the termination of the HAP contract. The initial term of the voucher will be 90 calendar days.

### **Voucher Extensions and Expiration**

#### MSHDA Policy

Portability participants must request an extension to the voucher in writing to MSHDA prior to the expiration of the initial voucher term or any subsequent extension term.

MSHDA will provide outgoing portability participants and absorbed incoming portability participants voucher extensions under the policies in Chapter 5, Section 5-II.E.

Billable incoming portability participants are subject to the voucher extension terms of the initial PHA.

In extenuating circumstances, MSHDA will consider extensions when the term of the voucher will expire before the family will be issued a voucher by the receiving PHA.

### **Preapproval Contact with the Receiving PHA**

Prior to approving a family's request to move under portability, the initial PHA must contact the receiving PHA via email or other confirmed delivery method to determine whether the receiving PHA will administer or absorb the family's voucher.

Based on the receiving PHA's response, the initial PHA must determine whether it will approve or deny the move [24 CFR 982.3553- 55(c)(3)].) (c)]

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### MSHDA Policy

MSHDA will use email, when possible, to contact the receiving PHA regarding whether the receiving PHA will administer or absorb the family's voucher.

### **Initial Notification to the Receiving PHA**

After approving a family's request to move under portability, the initial PHA must promptly notify the receiving PHA via email or other confirmed delivery method to expect the family [24 CFR 982.355(c)(3); 24 CFR 982.355 (c)(7) (c)].]. The initial PHA must also advise the family how to contact and request assistance from the receiving PHA [24 CFR 982.355(c)(6)].

### MSHDA Policy

Because the portability process is time sensitive, MSHDA will notify the receiving PHA by phone or email to expect the family.

MSHDA will also ask the receiving PHA to provide any information the family may need upon arrival, including the name, email address, and telephone number of the staff person responsible for business with incoming portable families and procedures related to appointments for voucher issuance. MSHDA will pass this information along to the family. The PHA will also ask for the name, address, telephone number, fax, and email of the person responsible for processing the billing information.

### **Sending Documentation to the Receiving PHA**

The initial PHA is required to send the receiving PHA the following documents:

- Form HUD-52665, Family Portability Information, with Part I filled out [Notice PIH 2016-09]
- A copy of the family's voucher [Notice PIH 2016-09]
- A copy of the family's most recent form HUD-50058, Family Report, or, if necessary, in the case of an applicant family, family and income information in a format similar to that of form HUD-50058 [24 CFR 982.355(c)(7), Notice PIH 2016-09]
- Copies of the income verifications backing up the form HUD-50058, including a copy of the family's current EIV data [24 CFR 982.355(c)(7), Notice PIH 2016-09]

### MSHDA Policy

In addition to these documents, MSHDA will provide the following information, if available, to the receiving PHA:

- Social security numbers (SSNs)
- Documentation of SSNs for all nonexempt household members whose SSNs have not been verified through the EIV system
- Documentation of legal identity
- Documentation of citizenship or eligible immigration status
- Documentation of participation in the earned income disallowance (EID) benefit

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- Documentation of participation in a family self-sufficiency (FSS) program

If applicable, information related to the family's health and medical care and disability assistance expense phased-in hardship exemption, including what stage the family is in and how many months remain in that phase-in stage, MSHDA will notify the family in writing regarding any information provided to the receiving PHA [HCV GB, p. 13-3].

### **Initial Billing Deadline [Notice PIH 2016-09]**

The deadline for submission of initial billing is 90 days following the expiration date of the voucher issued to the family by the initial PHA.

In cases where suspension of the voucher delays the initial billing submission, the receiving PHA must notify the initial PHA of delayed billing before the billing deadline and document the delay is due to the suspension. In this case, the initial PHA must extend the billing deadline by 30 days.

If the initial PHA does not receive a billing notice by the deadline and does not intend to honor a late billing submission, it must notify the receiving PHA in writing. The initial PHA may report to HUD the receiving PHA's failure to comply with the deadline.

If the initial PHA will honor the late billing, no action is required.

### MSHDA Policy

It is MSHDA's decision as to whether to accept late billing will be based on internal PHA factors, including the initial PHA's leasing or funding status. If MSHDA has not received an initial billing notice from the receiving PHA within the billing deadline and does not intend to honor the late billing, it will contact the receiving PHA to inform them that it will not honor a late billing submission and will return any subsequent billings that it receives on behalf of the family. In this case, MSHDA will send the receiving PHA a written confirmation of its decision by mail.

Among other considerations as to whether to accept late billing will be if MSHDA will allow an exception to this policy if the family includes a person with disabilities and the late billing is a result of a reasonable accommodation granted to the family by the receiving PHA.

### **Monthly Billing Payments [24 CFR 982.355(e) (c), Notice PIH 2016-09]**

If the receiving PHA is administering the family's voucher, the receiving PHA bills the initial PHA for housing assistance payments and administrative fees. When reimbursing for administrative fees, the initial PHA must promptly reimburse the receiving PHA for the lesser of 80 percent of the initial PHA ongoing administrative fee or 100 percent of the receiving PHA's ongoing administrative fee for each program unit under contract on the first day of the month for which the receiving PHA is billing the initial PHA under portability. If the administrative fees are prorated for the HCV program, the proration will apply to the amount of the administrative fee for which the receiving PHA may bill [24 CFR 982.355(e)(2) (c)].

The initial PHA is responsible for making billing payments in a timely manner. The first billing amount is due within 30 calendar days after the initial PHA receives Part II of form HUD-52665 from the receiving PHA. Subsequent payments must be **received** by the receiving PHA no later than the fifth business day of each month. The payments must be provided in a form and manner that the receiving PHA is able and willing to accept.

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The initial PHA may not terminate or delay making payments under existing portability billing arrangements as a result of over leasing or funding shortfalls. The PHA must manage its tenant-based program in a manner that ensures that it has the financial ability to provide assistance for families that move out of its jurisdiction under portability and are not absorbed by receiving PHAs as well as for families that remain within its jurisdiction.

### MSHDA Policy

The initial PHA will utilize direct deposit to ensure that the payment is received by the deadline unless the receiving PHA notifies the initial PHA that direct deposit is not acceptable to them. If the initial PHA extends the term of the voucher, the receiving PHA's voucher will expire 30 calendar days from the new expiration date of the initial PHA's voucher.

### **Annual Updates of Form HUD-50058**

If the initial PHA is being billed on behalf of a portable family, it should receive an updated form HUD-50058 each year from the receiving PHA.

If the initial PHA fails to receive an updated 50058 by the family's annual reexamination date, the initial PHA should contact the receiving PHA to verify the status of the family.

The initial PHA must continue paying the receiving PHA based on the last form HUD-50058 received, unless instructed otherwise by HUD. The initial PHA may seek absorption of the vouchers by following the steps outlined in Notice PIH 2016-09.

### **Denial or Termination of Assistance [24 CFR 982.355(c)(17) (c)]**

At any time, either the initial PHA or the receiving PHA may make a determination to deny or terminate assistance with the family in accordance with 24 CFR 982.552(c) and 24 CFR 982.553(c). (For PHA policies on denial and termination, see Chapters 3 and 12, respectively.)

### **10-II.C. RECEIVING PHA ROLE**

If a family has a right to lease a unit in the receiving PHA's jurisdiction under portability, the receiving PHA must provide assistance for the family [24 CFR 982.355(10) (c)]. HUD may determine in certain instances that a PHA is not required to accept incoming portable families, such as a PHA in a declared disaster area. However, the PHA must have approval in writing from HUD before refusing any incoming portable families [24 CFR 982.355(b) (c)].

Administration of the voucher must be in accordance with the receiving PHA's policies. This requirement also applies to policies of Moving to Work agencies. The receiving PHA procedures and preferences for selection among eligible applicants do not apply to the family, and the receiving PHA waiting list is not used [24 CFR 982.355(c)(10)].

The family's unit, or voucher, size is determined in accordance with the subsidy standards of the receiving PHA [24 CFR 982.355(c)(12)], and the receiving PHA's policies on extensions of the voucher term apply [24 CFR 982.355(c)(14)].

### MSHDA Policy

MSHDA will accept ports from other Michigan PHAs only if the family is moving outside the jurisdictional boundaries of the initial PHA, unless:

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- a conflict of interest arises within another Michigan PHA that forces the PHA to transfer the participant away from their administration.
- HUD requests the transfer due to administrative reasons (budget constraints).
- an exception is granted by the Director of Rental Assistance and Homeless Solutions.

### **Responding to Initial PHA’s Request [24 CFR 982.355(c)]**

The receiving PHA must respond via email or other confirmed delivery method to the initial PHA’s inquiry to determine whether the family’s voucher will be billed or absorbed [(24 CFR 982.355(c)(3)]. If the receiving PHA informs the initial PHA that it will be absorbing the voucher, the receiving PHA cannot reverse its decision at a later date without consent of the initial PHA (24 CFR 982.355(c)(4)).

#### MSHDA Policy

Within 10 business days after a portable family requests assistance, the receiving PHA will notify the initial PHA whether it intends to bill the receiving PHA on behalf of the portable family or absorb the family into its own program.

MSHDA will use email, when possible, to notify the initial PHA whether it will administer or absorb the family’s voucher.

### **Initial Contact with Family**

When a family moves into MSHDA’s jurisdiction under portability, the family is responsible for promptly contacting MSHDA and complying with MSHDA’s procedures for incoming portable families. The family’s failure to comply may result in denial or termination of the receiving PHA’s voucher [24 CFR 982.355I (8) (c)].

If the voucher issued to the family by the initial PHA has expired, the receiving PHA must contact the initial PHA to determine if it will extend the voucher [24 CFR 982.355(c)(13)]. An informal hearing is not required when a voucher has expired without the family leasing a unit.

If for any reason the receiving PHA refuses to process or provide assistance to a family under the portability procedures, the family must be given the opportunity for an informal review or hearing [Notice PIH 2016-09]. (For more on this topic, see later under “Denial or Termination of Assistance.”)

### **Briefing**

HUD allows the receiving PHA to require a briefing for an incoming portable family as long as the requirement does not unduly delay the family’s search [Notice PIH 2016-09].

#### MSHDA Policy

MSHDA will not require the family to attend a briefing. MSHDA will provide the family with a briefing packet (as described in Chapter 5) and, in an individual briefing, will orally inform the family about MSHDA’s payment and subsidy standards, procedures for requesting approval of a unit, the unit inspection process, and the leasing process. MSHDA will suggest that the family attend a full briefing at a later date.

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### **Income Eligibility and Reexamination**

The receiving PHA does not redetermine eligibility for a portable family that was already receiving assistance in the initial PHA's voucher program [24 CFR 982.355(c)(9)]. 19].

If the receiving PHA opts to conduct a new reexamination for a current participant family, the receiving PHA may not delay issuing the family a voucher or otherwise delay approval of a unit [24 CFR 982.355(c)(11)].

#### MSHDA Policy

For any family moving into its jurisdiction, MSHDA will rely upon any verifications provided by the initial PHA to the extent that they (a) accurately reflect the family's current circumstances and (b) were obtained within the last 120 days.

Any new information may be verified by documents provided by the family and adjusted, if necessary, when third party verification is received. MSHDA will retain the upcoming AR date indicated on the 50058.

Circumstances under which MSHDA must obtain new verifications:

- MSHDA cannot otherwise confirm that the applicant family is income eligible for admission to the program in the area where the unit is located.
- The participant family has a change in income or household composition. If a comparison of the MSHDA 1890 to the 50058 provided by the iPHA shows discrepancies, new verifications will be required.

MSHDA will not delay issuing the family a voucher or delay approving a unit for the family until the income and eligibility process is complete unless the family is an applicant and MSHDA cannot otherwise confirm that the family is income eligible for admission to the program in the area where the unit is located.

### **Voucher Issuance**

When a family moves into its jurisdiction under portability, the receiving PHA is required to issue the family a voucher [24 CFR 982.355(c)(13)]. The family must submit a request for tenancy approval to the receiving PHA during the term of the receiving PHA's voucher [24 CFR 982.355(c)(15)].

### **Timing of Voucher Issuance**

HUD expects the receiving PHA to issue the voucher within two weeks after receiving the family's paperwork from the initial PHA if the information is in order, the family has contacted the receiving PHA, and the family complies with the receiving PHA's procedures [Notice PIH 2016-09 2012-42].

#### MSHDA Policy

When a family ports into its jurisdiction, MSHDA will issue the family a voucher based on the paperwork provided by the initial PHA unless the family's paperwork from the initial PHA is incomplete, the family's voucher from the initial PHA has expired or the family does not comply with MSHDA's procedures.

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If the voucher is expired before the family arrives at MSHDA, MSHDA will contact the initial PHA to request an extension. If granted, MSHDA will assist the family within the voucher timeframe. If the extension is denied, MSHDA will return the family to the initial PHA. MSHDA will update the family's information when verification has been completed.

### **Voucher Term**

The term of the receiving PHA's voucher may not expire before 30 calendar days from the expiration of the initial PHA's voucher [24 CFR 982.355(c) (13)]. If the initial PHA extends the term of the voucher, the receiving PHA's voucher may not expire before 30 days from the new expiration date of the initial PHA's voucher [Notice PIH 2016-09].

#### MSHDA Policy

The receiving PHA's voucher will expire 30 calendar days from the expiration date of the initial PHA's voucher. If the initial PHA extends the term of the voucher, the receiving PHA's voucher will expire 30 calendar days from the new expiration date of the initial PHA's voucher.

### **Voucher Extensions [24 CFR 982.355(c)(14), Notice 2016-09]**

Once the receiving PHA issues the portable family a voucher, the receiving PHA's policies on extensions of the voucher term apply. The receiving PHA must inform the initial PHA of any extension granted to the term of the voucher.

It must also bear in mind the billing deadline provided by the initial PHA. Unless willing and able to absorb the family, the receiving PHA should ensure that any voucher expiration date would leave sufficient time to process a request for tenancy approval, execute a HAP contract, and deliver the initial billing to the initial PHA.

#### MSHDA Policy

MSHDA generally will not extend the term of the voucher that it issues to an incoming portable family unless MSHDA plans to absorb the family into its own program, in which case it will follow the policies on voucher extension set forth in section 5-II.E.

MSHDA will consider an exception to this policy as a reasonable accommodation to a person with disabilities (see Chapter 2).

### **Voucher Suspensions [24 CFR 982.303(c), 24 CFR 982.355(c)(15)]**

If the family submits a request for tenancy approval during the term of the receiving PHA's voucher, the PHA must suspend the term of that voucher. The term of the voucher stops from the date that the family submits a request for PHA approval of the tenancy until the date the PHA notifies the family in writing whether the request has been approved or denied [24 CFR 982.4(b) (c)] (see Section 5-II. E).

### **Notifying the Initial PHA**

The receiving PHA must promptly notify the initial PHA if the family has leased an eligible unit under the program or if the family fails to submit a request for tenancy approval for an eligible unit within the term of the receiving PHA's voucher [24 CFR 982.355(c)(16)].

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The receiving PHA is required to use Part II of form HUD-52665, Family Portability Information, for this purpose [Notice PIH 2016-09]. (For more on this topic and the deadline for notification, see below under “Administering a Portable Family’s Voucher.”)

If an incoming portable family ultimately decides not to lease in the jurisdiction of the receiving PHA but instead wishes to return to the initial PHA’s jurisdiction or to search in another jurisdiction, the receiving PHA must refer the family back to the initial PHA. In such a case the voucher of record for the family is once again the voucher originally issued by the initial PHA. Any extension of search time provided by the receiving PHA’s voucher is only valid for the family’s search in the receiving PHA’s jurisdiction [Notice PIH 2016-09].

### **Administering a Portable Family’s Voucher**

#### **Portability Billing [24 CFR 982.355(e) (c)]**

To cover assistance for a portable family that was not absorbed, the receiving PHA bills the initial PHA for housing assistance payments and administrative fees. The amount of the housing assistance payment for a portable family in the receiving PHA’s program is determined in the same manner as for other families in the receiving PHA’s program.

The receiving PHA may bill the initial PHA for the lesser of 80 percent of the initial PHA’s ongoing administrative fee or 100 percent of the receiving PHA’s ongoing administrative fee for each program unit under contract on the first day of the month for which the receiving PHA is billing the initial PHA under portability.

If the administrative fees are prorated for the HCV program, the proration will apply to the amount of the administrative fee for which the receiving PHA may bill (i.e., the receiving PHA may bill for the lesser of 80 percent of the initial PHA’s prorated ongoing administrative fee or 100 percent of the receiving PHA’s ongoing administrative fee).

If both PHAs agree, the PHAs may negotiate a different amount of reimbursement.

#### MSHDA Policy

Unless MSHDA negotiates a different amount of reimbursement with the initial PHA, MSHDA will bill the initial PHA the maximum amount of administrative fees allowed, ensuring any administrative fee proration has been properly applied.

### **Initial Billing Deadline**

If a portable family’s search for a unit is successful and the receiving PHA intends to administer the family’s voucher, the receiving PHA must submit its initial billing notice (Part II of form HUD-52665) in time that the notice will be **received** no later than 90 days following the expiration date of the family’s voucher issued by the initial PHA [Notice PIH 2016-09]. This deadline may be extended for 30 additional days if the delay is due to a suspension of the voucher’s term (see Initial Billing Section.) A copy of the family’s form HUD-50058, Family Report, completed by receiving PHA must be attached to the initial billing notice. The receiving PHA may send these documents by mail or email.

#### MSHDA Policy

MSHDA will send its initial billing notice by email, if necessary, to meet the billing deadline, but will also send the notice by regular mail if no other method is available.

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If the receiving PHA fails to send the initial billing by the deadline, it is required to absorb the family into its own program unless (a) the initial PHA is willing to accept the late submission or (b) HUD requires the initial PHA to honor the late submission (e.g., because the receiving PHA is over leased) [Notice PIH 2016-09].

### **Ongoing Notification Responsibilities [Notice PIH 2016-092012-42, HUD-52665]**

#### **Annual Reexamination**

The receiving PHA must send the initial PHA a copy of a portable family's updated form HUD-50058 after each annual reexamination for the duration of time the receiving PHA is billing the initial PHA on behalf of the family, regardless of whether there is a change in the billing amount.

#### MSHDA Policy

MSHDA will send a copy of the updated HUD-50058 by regular mail no later than 10 business days after the effective date of the reexamination.

#### **Change in Billing Amount**

The receiving PHA is required to notify the initial PHA, using form HUD-52665, of any change in the billing amount for the family as a result of:

- A change in the HAP amount (because of a reexamination, a change in the applicable payment standard, a move to another unit, etc.)
- An abatement or subsequent resumption of the HAP payments
- Termination of the HAP contract
- Payment of a damage/vacancy loss claim for the family
- Termination of the family from the program

The timing of the notice of the change in the billing amount should correspond with the notification to the owner and the family in order to provide the initial PHA with advance notice of the change. Under no circumstances should the notification be later than 10 business days following the effective date of the change in the billing amount.

If the receiving PHA fails to send Form HUD-52665 within 10 days of effective date of billing changes, the initial PHA is not responsible for any increase prior to notification. If the change resulted in a decrease in the monthly billing amount, the initial PHA will offset future monthly payments until the difference is reconciled.

#### **Late Payments [Notice PIH 2016-09]**

If the initial PHA fails to make a monthly payment for a portable family by the fifth business day of the month, the receiving PHA must promptly notify the initial PHA in writing of the deficiency.

The notice must identify the family, the amount of the billing payment, the date the billing payment was due, and the date the billing payment was received (if it arrived late). The receiving PHA must send a copy of the notification to the Office of Public Housing (OPH) in the HUD area office with jurisdiction over the receiving PHA. If the initial PHA fails to correct the problem by the second month following the notification, the receiving PHA may request by memorandum to the director of the OPH with jurisdiction over the receiving PHA that HUD transfer the unit in question.

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A copy of the initial notification and any subsequent correspondence between the PHAs on the matter must be attached. The receiving PHA must send a copy of the memorandum to the initial PHA. If the OPH decides to grant the transfer, the billing arrangement on behalf of the family ceases with the transfer, but the initial PHA is still responsible for any outstanding payments due to the receiving PHA.

### **Overpayments [Notice PIH 2016-09]**

In all cases where the receiving PHA has received billing payments for billing arrangements no longer in effect, the receiving PHA is responsible for returning the full amount of the overpayment (including the portion provided for administrative fees) to the initial PHA.

In the event that HUD determines billing payments have continued for at least three months because the receiving PHA failed to notify the initial PHA that the billing arrangement was terminated, the receiving PHA must take the following steps:

- Return the full amount of the overpayment, including the portion provided for administrative fees, to the initial PHA.
- Once full payment has been returned, notify the Office of Public Housing in the HUD area office with jurisdiction over the receiving PHA of the date and the amount of reimbursement to the initial PHA.

At HUD's discretion, the receiving PHA will be subject to the sanctions spelled out in Notice PIH 2016-09.

### **Denial or Termination of Assistance**

At any time, the receiving PHA may make a determination to deny or terminate assistance to a portable family for family action or inaction [24 CFR 982.355(c)(17)].

In the case of a termination, the PHA should provide adequate notice of the effective date to the initial PHA to avoid having to return a payment. In no event should the receiving PHA fail to notify the initial PHA later than 10 business days following the effective date of the termination of the billing arrangement [HUD-52665; Notice PIH 2016-09].

#### MSHDA Policy

If MSHDA elects to deny or terminate assistance for a portable family, MSHDA will notify the initial PHA within 10 business days after the informal review or hearing if the denial or termination is upheld. MSHDA will base its denial or termination decision on the policies set forth in Chapter 3 or Chapter 12, respectively. The informal review or hearing will be held in accordance with the policies in Chapter 16. The receiving PHA will furnish the initial PHA with a copy of the review or hearing decision.

### **Absorbing a Portable Family**

The receiving PHA may absorb an incoming portable family into its own program when the PHA executes a HAP contract on behalf of the family or at any time thereafter providing that the PHA has funding available under its annual contributions contract (ACC) [24 CFR 982.355(d)(1) (c), Notice PIH 2016-09].

If the receiving PHA absorbs a family from the point of admission, the admission will be counted against the income targeting obligation of the receiving PHA [24 CFR 982.201(b)(2)(vii) (c)].

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If the receiving PHA absorbs a family after providing assistance for the family under a billing arrangement with the initial PHA, the receiving PHA must send an updated form HUD-52665 to the initial PHA no later than 10 business days following the effective date of the termination of the billing arrangement. [Notice PIH 2016-09].

### MSHDA Policy

If MSHDA decides to absorb a portable family upon the execution of a HAP contract on behalf of the family, MSHDA will notify the initial PHA by the initial billing deadline specified on form HUD-52665. The effective date of the HAP contract will be the effective date of the absorption.

If MSHDA decides to absorb a family after that, it will provide the initial PHA with 30 days' advance notice, but no later than 10 business days following the effective date of the termination of the billing arrangement.

Following the absorption of an incoming portable family, the family is assisted with funds available under the consolidated ACC for the receiving PHA's voucher program [24 CFR 982.355(d) (c)], and the receiving PHA becomes the initial PHA in any subsequent moves by the family under portability [24 CFR 982.355(e)(4) (c)].