



COMMUNITY SERVICE

Presentation to Residents

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房屋局網站 (網址: www.nyc.gov/nycha) 備有文件譯本可供索取。

Перевод этого документа находится на интернете www.nyc.gov/nycha.

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Discussion Points

- ▶ Federal Law
- ▶ Exemptions
- ▶ Credits
- ▶ Requirements / Activities
- ▶ Implementation & NYCHA Support
- ▶ What Resident Leaders & Residents Can Do

Federal Law

- ▶ The Federal Government passed a law (Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act) in 1998 that requires all public housing residents (who are not exempt) to perform 8 hours of community service or participate in 8 hours of economic self-sufficiency activities each month
- ▶ Not complying is grounds for non-renewal of lease (i.e. termination of tenancy) at the end of the lease year

Federal Law

- ▶ NYCHA met with residents and developed a comprehensive list of exemptions
- ▶ NYCHA exempts a significant percentage of residents based on information they provide in their Annual Review
- ▶ Currently about 90% of residents are exempt or complying, this leaves about 40,000 residents who need to perform this required service

Going Forward NYCHA will:

- ▶ *Provide additional support identifying opportunities for residents to perform required service*
- ▶ *Increase enforcement*

Exemptions

- ▶ Exemptions excuse a resident from the performance of community service during the resident's one year lease term, unless the exemption is permanent.
 - Some examples of **exemptions** are:
 - Employed (any adult earning \$8,034 or more; single adult with any child under 13 earning \$5,356 or more; 2 adults with any child under 13 with combined income of \$9,373 or more)
 - Under age 18 or 60 years or older
 - Satisfactory attendance at secondary school or higher
 - Receiving Disability Income – SSI or SSD
 - Receiving Public Assistance
 - Enrolled in vocational or job skills training
 - Caretaker for the blind or disabled
 - Disabled (disability must be certified by doctor)
 - Childcare Provider (specific conditions apply)

Credits

- ▶ NYCHA identified certain statuses for which 8 hours of credits a month are provided for each month the person maintains the status (no other service needed):
 - ✓ Military Service (e.g. NYCHA grants 96 hours (1 year) of community service credits for serving in the active military or the guard or the reserves)
 - ✓ Resident Association Officer
 - ✓ Foster parent
 - ✓ Victim of Domestic Violence, Intimidated Victim and/or Witness (during transfer period)
 - ✓ Inability to work due to illness or incarceration or pregnancy

Performance of Community Service

- ▶ The Federal Law requires each resident perform 8 hours of community service each month
- ▶ NYCHA conducts a compliance review once a year
- ▶ During this review NYCHA ensures that proof of all hours required for the year have been submitted
- ▶ Providing documentation of 96 hours (12 months x 8 hours = 96 hours per year) for the year is accepted as compliant
- ❖ **Resident may perform community service at NYCHA or non-NYCHA facilities**

Community Service Activities

- ▶ Voluntary work or duties that are a public benefit and that serve to improve the quality of life, enhance resident self-sufficiency, or increase resident self-responsibility in the community
- ▶ Community Service is not employment and may not include political activities

Community Service Activities

▶ Examples of **NYCHA** Activities

- All Resident Association Meetings and Committee Work
 - Resident Green Committees
 - Resident sponsored clean-up days
 - Resident Watch
- Volunteering at Community Center/Senior Center
- NYCHA sponsored clean-up days
- Assisting NYCHA during emergencies (such as storm evacuations)

Community Service Activities

- ▶ Examples of **Non-NYCHA** Activities include volunteering at:
 - Faith-Based group or organization
 - Food Bank
 - Hospital
 - Nursing Home/Hospice
 - Library
 - Reading Program
 - School/After School Program
 - Youth Mentoring
 - Habitat for Humanity
 - AmeriCorps

- ▶ Additional community service activities can be found:
 - On the internet NYService.org
 - By calling 3-1-1 the NYC Citizen Service Center
 - Accessing NYCares.org on the internet or calling them at 212.402.1101

Economic Self-Sufficiency Activities

- ▶ Any program that is designed to encourage, assist, train or facilitate the economic independence of its participants and their families. An *Economic Self-Sufficiency* program can also provide work for its participants. Examples of Economic Self-Sufficiency Activities include attending:
 - Apprenticeship Program
 - Workfare Program
 - GED or ESL Program
 - Financial Management Program/Counseling (example – Household Budgeting or Management)
 - Employment Counseling
 - NYCHA's Resident Employment Services (RES) or Resident Economic Empowerment & Sustainability (REES) Programs or Orientations

NYCHA Will Assist Residents

- ▶ Find information and forms on the NYCHA website
- ▶ Use computers in all NYCHA Community Centers on regular business days, Monday – Friday from 6–9 PM to find opportunities to volunteer and other Community Service information and forms
- ▶ Call the Social Services Borough Offices for assistance finding volunteer opportunities
- ▶ Visit their development office for more program information
- ▶ Request a receipts for hours of service performed at all NYCHA run activities that are Community Service eligible

Implementation

- ▶ Starting **January 2012**, during the Annual Reviews process, any resident who is not in compliance will be called to the Property Management Office to address the Community Service requirements

Management Office Actions

- ▶ Help residents identify exemptions for which they may be entitled
- ▶ Correct information in resident files
- ▶ Identify services that the resident is providing which meet Community Service requirements
- ▶ Assist residents to find opportunities for Community Service

What Can Resident Groups & Leaders Do?

- ▶ Establish resident activities and committees to improve resident life where residents can earn community service credit at the development
- ▶ Resident Leaders can provide residents who perform community service in resident-run activities with proof of their service (including giving receipt of service at all meetings and activities)
- ▶ Resident Leaders can provide information about activities they organize where residents can volunteer or attend classes or meetings so they can be posted on the NYCHA website (give information to the Manager of the community center or development)

What Should Residents Do?

- ▶ If you believe you are exempt, and it is not indicated in the document received from NYCHA
 - Make sure to supply documentation to development staff proving the exemption
- ▶ If you are involved in activities that are community service eligible
 - Have organizations complete forms or provide letters as proof of service or training completed
 - Give documents to development staff proving activities
- ▶ If you are not involved in activities that are community service eligible:
 - Identify appropriate groups or resources for activities – Community Center staff or your development staff can help
 - Provide services or attend training
 - Collect forms from organization
 - Give documents to development staff