



HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES

SECTION 8 TENANT NEWSLETTER

November 2013 - January 2014

Abusive and Violent Behavior Against HACLA Employees

As part of your Section 8 Family Obligations, any member of your household who is abusive or violent or makes threats against any Housing Authority employee may be terminated from the Section 8 program. Words, gestures, or actions, will be considered abusive or violent behavior if there is physical danger, and could cause death or serious harm.

If the Housing Authority determines that abusive or violent behavior took place, a notice of termination will be sent to the family for non-compliance with the Section 8 Family Obligations. If the Housing Authority confirms that the family's behavior was not abusive or violent, the family will receive a written notification including a statement of the incident, and any Housing Authority action if abusive or violent behavior occurs again, including but not limited to denial or termination of housing assistance.

Healthcare Coverage for You and Your Family

Sign up for healthcare coverage for you and your family. Legal residents of California can get health coverage through a new, easy-to-use marketplace called Covered California, through the Obamacare legislation. Covered California will offer health insurance plans, that cannot be canceled or denied, at an affordable price. You can shop for plans online or see if you are eligible for Medi-Cal. Covered California will provide in-person and phone assistance for those who need it.

To make sure you have healthcare coverage in 2014, you need to get health insurance before **March 31, 2014**, or you need to wait until the next open-enrollment period begins, in October 2014, for coverage in 2015. You can always find out if you're eligible for Medi-Cal.

For health insurance plans offered by Covered California, you need to enroll during open enrollment unless you have a life-changing event, in which case you would qualify for special enrollment. (Examples include the loss of a job, the death of a spouse or the birth of a child). **Medi-Cal enrollment is available year-round.**

If you do not currently have health insurance, you do not have to wait until Covered California opens to get covered. You may be able to purchase private insurance for yourself by contacting a health insurance company directly or working with an agent. You may be eligible right now for health coverage under Medi-Cal. For more information on enrolling in the Medi-Cal program, you can contact your local county social services office.

If you have not yet turned 26 years old, and your parents have health insurance, you can be added to your parents' plan. **If you are 65 or older or have certain disabilities, you can receive coverage under Medicare.**

To find out more about the Covered California healthcare coverage go to **www.CoveredCA.com** or call **(800) 300-1506**.

HACLA does not endorse this service

HACLA is Not Accepting Applications for the Section 8 Program

Applications for housing assistance are FREE. Do not give your personal information to people asking you for money to receive or fill out an application, or to get you to the top of the waiting list.

If there is anyone who is asking for money to sign you up for Section 8 please call **(800) 461-9330** or file a report online at: **www.mysafeworkplace.com**. You do not need to give us your name.

Protection for Victims of Abuse

If you are a victim of domestic violence you have certain rights under The Violence Against Women Act of 1994. Protection is provided to tenants and family members who are victims of domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking from being evicted or losing housing assistance because of violence against them.

Criminal activity which is due to abuse by a member of a tenant's household or any guest or other person under the tenant's control, should not be the reason for terminating tenancy, or occupancy rights if the tenant or a member of the tenant's family is the victim or threatened victim of domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking.

The owner can divide the lease, or remove a household member from a lease in order to evict, remove, terminate occupancy rights, or terminate assistance to any individual who is a tenant or lawful occupant and who engages in criminal acts of physical violence against family members or others. This action may be taken without evicting, removing, terminating assistance to, or otherwise penalizing the victim of the violence who is also a tenant or lawful occupant. Such eviction, removal, termination of occupancy rights, or termination of assistance shall be effected in accordance with the procedures prescribed by Federal, State, and local law for the termination of leases or assistance under the housing choice voucher program.

The Violence Against Women Act does not limit the Housing Authority, owner or manager from evicting or terminating the housing assistance of a tenant if it can be demonstrated that housing the tenant is a threat to other tenants, if the tenant is not evicted or terminated from assistance.

Source: HUD Tenancy Addendum

Section 8 Advisory Meeting

Section 8 Advisory Meetings give you the opportunity to provide the HACLA with input on Section 8 policies, procedures, and practices, as well as to learn about changes and challenges to the Section 8 program.

If you would like to attend any of the future meetings, you may register online at www.hacla.org, click on "Calendar of Events" or by e-mail **S8Advisory@hacla.org**.

The Housing Authority will be closed to the public on the following dates:

December 23-31
January 1,17,20

Drop-off items will be accepted only on December 26, 27, & 30

You can view property listings online at: www.hacla.org. Click on the "Property Listings" link on the right-hand side of the main page. You can also call the toll free phone number at 1-877-428-8844 to receive printed listings.

You can find the Tenant Newsletter online at: http://www.hacla.org/tnt_news_1/