

13-II.J. OVER_INCOME FAMILIES [24 CFR 960.507; FR Notice 7/26/18; Notice PIH 2019-11; FR Notice 2/14/23]

In the public housing program, an *over-income family* is defined as a family whose income exceeds the over-income limit for 24 consecutive months. When this occurs, the PHA must either:

- Terminate the family’s tenancy within six months of the PHA’s final notification of the end of the 24-month grace period; or
- Within 60 days of the PHA’s final notification of the end of the 24-month grace period or the next lease renewal (whichever is sooner), have the family execute a new lease that is consistent with 24 CFR 960.509 and charge the family a monthly rent that is the higher of the applicable fair market rent (FMR) or the amount of monthly subsidy for the unit, including amounts from the operating and capital funds.

The PHA must establish a continued occupancy policy for over-income families in the ACOP indicating which of the above will occur.

PHA Policy

For families whose income exceeds the over-income limit for 24 consecutive months, the WCHA will not terminate the family’s tenancy and will charge the family the alternative non-public housing rent, as well as require the family to sign a new non-public housing lease in accordance with the continued occupancy policies below.

Over-Income Limit [Notice PIH 2019-11]

The PHA must publish over-income limits in their ACOP and update them no later than 60 days after HUD publishes new income limits each year. The over-income limit is calculated by multiplying the very low-income limit (VLI) by 2.4, as adjusted for family size.

PHA Policy

The WCHA will use the following over-income limits. These amounts will be updated within 60 days of HUD publishing new income limits each year and will be effective for all annual and interim reexaminations.

Over-Income Limits

Effective April 18, 2022

Family Size	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Very-Low Income Limit	\$33,200	\$37,950	\$42,700	\$47,400	\$51,200	\$55,000	\$58,800	\$62,600
HUD Adjustment Factor	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4
Over-Income Limit	\$79,680	\$91,080	\$102,480	\$113,760	\$122,880	\$132,000	\$141,120	\$150,240

Westmoreland County, PA

For families larger than 8 persons, the over-income limit will be calculated by multiplying the applicable very-low-income limit by 2.4.

Decreases in Income [24 CFR 960.507(c)(4)]

If, at any time during the consecutive 24-month period following the initial over-income determination, the PHA determines that the family's income is below the over-income limit, the PHA's over-income policies no longer apply to the family. If the PHA later determines that the family's income exceeds the over-income limit at a subsequent annual or interim reexamination, the family is entitled to a new 24 consecutive month period and new notices under this section.

PHA Policy

If, at any time during the 24-month period following the initial over-income determination, an over-income family experiences a decrease in income, the family may request an interim redetermination of rent in accordance with the WCHA policy in Chapter 9.

If, as a result, the previously over-income family is now below the over-income limit, the family is no longer subject to over-income provisions as of the effective date of the recertification. The WCHA will notify the family in writing within 10 business days of the determination that over-income policies no longer apply to them.

Initial Notice of Over-Income Status [24 CFR 960.507(c)(1)]

If the PHA determines the family has exceeded the over-income limit during an annual or interim reexamination, the PHA must provide written notice to the family of the over-income determination no later than 30 days after the income examination. The notice must state that the family has exceeded the over-income limit and continuing to do so for a total of 24 consecutive months will result in the PHA following its continued occupancy policy for over-income families. The PHA must afford the family an opportunity for a hearing if the family disputes within a reasonable time the PHA's determination that the family has exceeded the over-income limit.

PHA Policy

At annual or interim reexamination, if a family's income exceeds the applicable over-income limit, within 10 business days the WCHA will notify the family in writing of the determination and that if the family continues to be over-income for 24 consecutive months, the family will be subject to the WCHA over-income policies. The notice will state that the family may request a hearing if the family disputes the WCHA's determination within 14 calendar days in accordance with WCHA policies in Chapter 14. Additionally, the family will also be required at re-examination to sign an initial acknowledgement of over income status.

Second Notice of Over-Income Status [24 CFR 960.507(c)(2)]

The PHA must conduct an income examination 12 months after the initial over-income determination, unless the PHA determined the family's income fell below the over-income limit since the initial over-income determination. If the PHA determines the family continues to exceed the over-income limit for 12 consecutive months, the PHA must provide written notification of this 12-month over-income determination no later than 30 days after the income examination. The notice must state that the family has exceeded the over-income limit for 12 consecutive months and continuing to do so for a total of 24 consecutive months will result in the

PHA following its continued occupancy policy for over-income families. Additionally, if applicable under PHA policy, the notice must include an estimate (based on current data) of the alternative non-public housing rent for the family's unit. The PHA must afford the family an opportunity for a hearing if the family disputes within a reasonable time the PHA's determination that the family has exceeded the over-income limit.

PHA Policy

If a family's income exceeds the applicable over-income limit after 12 consecutive months, within 10 business days, the WCHA will notify the family in writing of the determination and that if the family continues to be over-income for 24 consecutive months, the family will be subject to the WCHA's over-income policies. The notice will provide an estimate of the alternative non-public housing rent applicable to the family at the close of the 24 consecutive month period. The notice will also state that the family may request a hearing if the family disputes the WCHA's determination within 14 calendar days in accordance with WCHA policies in Chapter 14. Additionally, the family will also be required at re-examination to sign a second acknowledgement of over income status.

Final Notice of Over-Income Status [24 CFR 960.507(c)(3) and 960.509]

Unless the PHA determined the family's income fell below the over-income limit since the second over-income determination, the PHA must conduct an income examination 24 months after the initial over income determination. If the family continues to be over-income based on this determination, the PHA must provide written notification of this determination no later than 30 days after the income examination. The notice must state that the family has exceeded the over-income limit for 24 consecutive months and that the PHA will follow its continued occupancy policies for over-income families. The PHA must afford the family an opportunity for a hearing if the family disputes within a reasonable time the PHA's determination that the family has exceeded the over-income limit.

PHA Policy

If a family's income exceeds the applicable over-income limit for 24 consecutive months, the WCHA will notify the family in writing of the determination within 10 business days of the date of the determination. The notice will state that the family will be charged the alternative non-public housing rent in accordance with WCHA's continued occupancy policies and HUD regulations and provide the family's new rent amount. The notice will state that the family may request a hearing if the family disputes the WCHA's determination within 14 calendar days in accordance with WCHA policies in Chapter 14.

The notice will also include a new non-public housing lease and inform the family that the lease must be executed by the family and the WCHA no later than 60 days from the date of the notice or at the next lease renewal, whichever is sooner. The family will continue to be a public housing program participant until the family executes the new non-public housing lease. The notice will also state that failure to execute the lease within this time period stated in the notice will result in termination of tenancy no more than six months after the date of the notice. The WCHA will permit an over-income family to execute a lease beyond this time period, but before termination of tenancy, if the over-

income family pays the WCHA the total difference between the alternative non-public housing rent and their public housing rent dating back to the point in time that the over-income family was required to execute the new lease.

Once the family signs the new non-public housing lease, the family will no longer be a public housing participant family. The family will no longer be subject to income examinations, are precluded from participating in the resident council, and cannot participate in any programs that are only for public housing or low-income families.

The non-public housing over-income lease will contain all required provisions listed at 24 CFR 960.509. The initial term of the lease will be for one year. Upon expiration of the initial lease term, the lease will not renew automatically, and subsequent leases will state renewal terms. At any time, the WCHA may terminate tenancy in accordance with 24 CFR 960.509(b)(11) and in accordance with state and local law.

Upon execution of the lease, the tenant will be required to pay the amount of monthly tenant rent (known as the alternative non-public housing rent) determined by the WCHA in accordance with HUD regulations. The WCHA will comply with state and local law in giving the tenant written notice stating any changes in the amount of tenant rent. Charges assessed under the lease will be due in accordance with state and local law.