



Berkeley Housing Authority

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William E. Wilkins, Executive Director

Section 8 News

Who is my Housing Specialist?

We recently re-assigned some cases; see below for your assigned case worker.

Last Name begins with:

Housing Specialist:

A, B, C, D, K, L and O.....	Lynda DeShazier, 981-5482, ldeshazier@ci.berkeley.ca.us
E, F, G, H, I, J, M and N.....	Tracy Jackson, 981-5486, tjackson@ci.berkeley.ca.us
Mc, P, Q, R, S, T, U, V, W, X, Y and Z.....	Althea Maybon, 981-5478, amaybon@ci.berkeley.ca.us
New Contracts/Portability/Mod Rehab.....	Tilda Barnes, 981-5484, tbarnes@ci.berkeley.ca.us

** If you are currently participating in th Family Self Sufficiency Program (FSS), your Housing Specialist is Celinda Aguilar-Vasquez, 981-5483, caguilar-vasquez@ci.berkeley.ca.us.

Customer Service Changes

After providing you with top quality customer service for the past two years, Nakia Lipsey has advanced her career with another affordable housing provider here in the City of Berkeley. We are now pleased to introduce Alexis Brown as the new face of reception who will continue to provide you with great customer service. Additionally, we have started “duty worker” hours with all of our Housing Specialists and their supervisor providing service to our customers during their assigned shifts (closed 12-1 p.m.):

- Tuesdays – 9am – 4pm
- Wednesdays – 1pm – 4pm
- Thursdays – 9am – 12pm

Typically you are required to make an appointment with your caseworker when you come into the office and have questions about the submission of your recertification papers, requests to port out of Berkeley, change in household composition, income changes, etc. Now if you arrive during the duty worker hours, you will be able to speak with one of the asigned workers who will be able to answer your questions.

BHA is no longer open between 12-1 p.m., so please plan your visit accordingly when you are coming to the office. And, the coffice is closed every Friday.

BHA Shortfall Status

The Berkeley Housing Authority continues to experience a “shortfall” with our Housing Assistance Payments (HAP) funding from HUD. Additionally, last year the Executive Director was asked by HUD to send all Section 8 participants a letter notifying Section 8 participants of the shortfall status and the efforts BHA would be taking to reduce the deficit. BHA and the Board of Commissioners are doing everything possible to ensure you will not be affected by this financial crisis. However, we will be making sure that everyone continues to comply with the established regulations and payments are being made on your behalf to your landlord according to HUD policies. Additionally, BHA will also be moving to interim re-exams for all income increases, by the end of the year. So please continue to report all income changes within 10 days.

BHA Board of Commissioners: Seeking Participant Board Member

The BHA Board of Commissioners is a seven member board responsible for the governance of the Berkeley Housing Authority. Two of the Commissioners are “participants” of the Housing Choice Voucher Program, and HUD policy requires that upon expiration of their terms, BHA must solicit interest from existing program participants. After notification of interest is received by BHA, a review of their program status occurs to ensure the applicant is compliant with all existing HUD program regulations. The Chairperson of the Board of Commissioners and the Executive Director will refer 5 applicants to the Mayor’s office. Each member is appointed by the Mayor of Berkeley, and approved by the City Council. The Commissioners are appointed to four year terms and are required to attend monthly Board meetings on the second Tuesday of each month. These meetings are usually scheduled to start at 6 p.m..

If you are interested in applying for a position as a BHA Commissioner, please come into the office and complete an application of interest no later than July 15, 2018.

Biennial Inspections

Since the beginning of 2018 BHA has been initiating the process of biennial inspections. This means that for 2018 inspections that pass on the first attempt, the inspector will be back in 2020 (skipping a year). If the 2018 inspection fails on the first attempt, that unit will be reinspected. The next inspection will not skip a year; our inspector will return again in 2019 (approximately 10 months later) to conduct another Housing Quality Standards inspection. So, before your next inspection in 2018, be sure to test your smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detector (if you have gas appliances), and check the cover plates of your electrical sockets—these tend to be the items with highest fail rates. And remember, if you or the landlord request a Special inspection, we will send our inspector, no matter how long it has been since your most recent inspection.