



Berkeley Housing Authority

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October 2018

William E. Wilkins, Executive Director

BHA - Section 8 News

BHA Shortfall Status

Unfortunately BHA continues to experience a HUD funding shortfall of our Housing Assistance Payments, which is the rental subsidy paid directly to landlords on behalf of the 1,530 households participating in the Section 8 program. We continue to work with HUD to ensure that no one will be terminated from the program.

It is also an important reminder of the need to comply with all Section 8 Family Obligations, which include:

1. Abiding by your lease.
2. Not committing fraud, and providing BHA complete and truthful information with regard to your household members and income. You must notify BHA of all increases in income or benefits for anyone in your household within 14 days.
3. Not subleasing or renting any of the rooms in the assisted unit.
4. Allowing the owner reasonable access to your unit to inspect and/or make repairs.
5. Requesting written permission to add a person to the household.
6. Notifying BHA when someone moves, or will be out of the unit for 30-days or more.

Note: every year during your annual reexamination, the head of household and all members over the age of 18 are requested to read and sign off on the Family Obligations/Program Rules.

Inspections Desk Customer Service Changes

The inspections unit will now have *set customer service drop in hours* at the office, on **Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 am – 12:00 noon**. Most inspections questions can be handled via a simple form you can submit, for example, a change of inspection date or an extension for a reinspection (usually handled by the landlord). Inspections questions that cannot be handled by submitting a form, may be emailed, to Omar Flores, oflores@cityofberkeley.info, or by calling him at 510-981-5490.

Heaters/Pilot Lights & PG&E

It's Fall and there's a slight chill in the air, especially at night. It's a good time to think about re-lighting your heater's pilot light, if it is turned off, or if you haven't used your heater in some time. PG&E offers free heater pilot lighting services. To schedule an appointment, call 1-800-743-5000 or visit the website: <https://www.pge.com/>.

Inspections in 2019

Just a reminder that BHA has fully moved to “Biennial Inspections” which means that if your annual inspection passed on the first attempt in 2018, then we will skip your unit inspection in 2019, and return to inspect in 2020. If your inspection in 2018 failed, the next inspection will take place in calendar year 2019. Anyone, regardless of when your unit last passed inspection, has the right to request a Special Inspection, by contacting Omar Flores at oflores@cityofberkeley.info or 510-981-5490. We only ask before requesting a Special Inspection, that you have: 1. already asked your landlord to make the repair, 2. given sufficient time for a response, and 3. provided access to the unit to make that repair.

Two New Programs at BHA

BHA was awarded two new sets of vouchers by HUD to assist (a) veterans participating in Veteran’s Administration (VA)/HUD programming (15 “VASH” Vouchers) and (b) non-elderly, disabled homeless or at-risk homeless adults (40 “Mainstream” Vouchers). Staff is partnering with the VA for referrals for the VASH vouchers and with City of Berkeley Homeless Services and the Center for Independent Living (CIL) for the disabled homeless/at-risk vouchers. If you know of anyone who is homeless or immanently homeless, have them contact the City’s Coordinated Entry System by calling 211.

Customer Service Duty Worker Hours

Housing Specialists are available to answer customer service questions during the following days/times (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 or income. If you arrive during on-duty worker hours, you will be able to speak with one of the assigned workers.

Upcoming Office Closures

BHA is closed every Friday, and we are closed between 12:00 – 1:00 pm daily. The office also will be closed on:

- Monday, Oct. 8: Indigenous Peoples’ Day
- Monday, Nov. 12: Veteran’s Day
- Wednesday & Thursday Nov. 21 & 22: Thanksgiving Office Closure
- Tuesday, Dec. 25 through Tuesday, Jan. 1: Christmas/New Year’s Holiday Closure.

Who is my Housing Specialist?

Last Name begins with:

Housing Specialist:

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

** If you are currently participating in the Family Self Sufficiency Program (FSS), your Housing Specialist is Celinda Aguilar-Vasquez, 981-5483, caguilar-vasquez@cityofberkeley.info.