



Berkeley Housing Authority

BHA Client Newsletter

February 2020

Census 2020—Be Counted and Help Count

Why it Matters: The US Census determines how federal funds are distributed. Each person counted brings back an estimated average of \$10,000 over a ten year period in funding to the City of Berkeley for critical services, such as affordable housing, schools, roads, public transit, and health care. Census results also determine State and Federal representation. Failing to count everyone could cost California a seat in Congress. For those who were concerned about the “citizenship question,” it no longer appears on the census questionnaire, and all results are protected.



Be a Part of History – Apply for a Census Job, and Earn \$25 per Hour: The Census for Alameda County is hiring workers to help encourage people to complete the census form. If you are interested, please **visit the following website: 2020census.gov/jobs or call 1-855-562-2020** to learn more and apply. Note: your income from this temporary job will not be counted in your rent calculation. The count will be in May/June primarily, but now is the time to apply!

Local workshops for census jobs will be held:

- **Tues, Feb. 11, 4 – 7 pm**, Central Library, 2090 Kittredge (at Shattuck)
- **Fri, Feb. 7, 11 am – 2 pm**, West Branch Library, 1125 University (at San Pablo)
- **Thurs, Feb. 20, 4 – 6 pm**, West Branch Library, 1125 University (at San Pablo)

2020 Resident Advisory Board

Annually, BHA updates our Section 8 “Administrative Plan” which guides staff on the Section 8 Program. As part of the process we appoint a Resident Advisory Board (RAB), who are asked to review the proposed changes and provide comment during a meeting held in March. If you are interested and are selected (we will conduct a lottery based on the number of responses), you will receive \$50 for your time during the meeting, which won’t be counted towards your rent calculation.

To volunteer for the RAB contact us in writing by February 21, 2020 at 4:30 p.m. with your name, address, phone number, and email. You can send by regular mail, drop off in the office, or email the information to caguilar-vasquez@cityofberkeley.info. With questions, please call Celinda at 510-981-5483.

Who is my Housing Specialist?

Client 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.....HCV Supvsr 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, 510-981-5483, caguilar-vasquez@cityofberkeley.info.

Specialist of the Day “Window” Hours

If you wish to speak to a Housing Specialist directly, consider dropping in during Housing Specialists office hours:



Days/Times

Tuesdays, 9 am to 12 pm:

Tuesdays, 1 pm to 4 pm:

Wednesdays, 9 am to 12 pm:

Thursdays, 1 pm to 4 pm:

Specialist(s)

Lynda DeShazier

Tracy Jackson

HCV Supvrs Tilda Barnes

Althea Maybon

Family Obligations-Rules of Ongoing Participation in Section 8

When your household began participation in BHA’s rental program, you and all those over the age of 18 signed off that you agree to follow certain rules and regulations, called “Family Obligations.” Here are some of them, as a quick refresher—following them will assist in a smoother and more pleasant landlord-tenant relationship:

- Must not violate lease provisions, such as paying rent on time, and no damage to the unit
- Need to provide true and complete information to BHA, such as notifying your Specialist when you or a family member gets a new job, or has an increase in pay
- No subleasing of any of rooms in your unit, or allowing unauthorized people to live there
- May not be a nuisance to others in the building or neighborhood including no criminal or drug related activity
- Must provide documents requested by BHA staff, including your annual recertification packet, and any other items needed to process an interim reexam
- Must request written permission to add anyone to your household and notify BHA if someone will be out of the unit for 30 days or more for any reason.

Next time you sign off on your Family Obligations, be sure to read them carefully, and ensure that all of your adult household members understand them.

Free Museums Entry

The de Young and Legion of Honor museums in San Francisco are providing free admission every Saturday to residents of all nine counties in the Bay Area, including Alameda County. You can reserve your ticket in advance by visiting this website, or just show up at the museum with an ID:

<https://deyoung.famsf.org/free-reduced-admission>. Additionally on the first Tuesday of each month, the museums are free admission to all.

Hours of these museums are Tuesdays through Sundays, 9:30 am–5:15 pm. The de Young is located in Golden Gate Park, 50 Hagiwara Tea Garden Dr; the Legion of Honor: Lincoln Park, 100 34th Ave.

Closer to home, the Berkeley Art Museum/Pacific Film Archive is free to all the first Thursday of each month. The address is 2115 Center Street; hours are Wednesdays through Sundays, 11 am to 7 pm.

