



Berkeley Housing Authority

## BHA Client Newsletter Spring 2021



### Dear BHA Program Participants,

Every Californian 16 and older is now eligible to get vaccinated. The vaccine is free of charge and you do not need to have health insurance to get it. Many health care providers are offering the vaccine, as are many pharmacies. Check [myturn.ca.gov](https://myturn.ca.gov) to view your eligibility and schedule appointments, or call 1-833-422-4255. If you wish to receive updates from the City of Berkeley Public Health Department regarding availability of the Covid 19 vaccine, you can sign up for alerts through this weblink: <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/CABERKE/signup/22371>.

**New Document Dropbox!** Located just outside the front door of our new office at 1947 Center Street, we now have a document drop box for BHA clients and landlords. The drop box is checked regularly Mondays through Thursdays. Please use the box when you are not able to email or fax documents to staff. Emails are listed on page 2 of this newsletter; our fax number is 510-981-5480.

**Please remember your obligation to provide true and complete information to BHA**, such as notifying your Housing Specialist when someone in your household gets a new job, loses a job, has a decrease in income, or is receiving unemployment. **You must also inform your Housing Specialist before you wish to move, or add or remove someone to or from your assisted household.** Please see our website for many of our forms you can use to report these changes: [https://www.cityofberkeley.info/BHA/Home/Forms\\_for\\_Owners\\_and\\_Tenants.aspx](https://www.cityofberkeley.info/BHA/Home/Forms_for_Owners_and_Tenants.aspx).

**Although we remain closed to the public, you must continue to pay your rent portion to your landlord.** An eviction moratorium remains in effect in the State of California through the end of June. If you experience a decrease in income or job loss it is important to let BHA know immediately so your rent portion can be readjusted (see below).

### Annual Inspections to Re-start This Summer

As you know BHA placed annual inspections on hold during the pandemic, to keep one another safe in an attempt to contain virus spread. (We have continued to conduct Special Inspections and "RTA" Move in Inspections.) Starting in July, we will return to conducting Annual Inspections. It has been a long time, in some cases, over 2 years since BHA has inspected many units. Those with the most length of time since the last inspection are being prioritized for the "catching up" process. Letters will be mailed 15-20 days in advance of the scheduled inspections dates. Thank you for your cooperation.

### Move To Work Program

BHA will be submitting an application in August for a HUD designation called "Move to Work" (MTW). This designation provides flexibilities for housing authorities, to study various aspects of the Section 8 program. BHA will be applying to the MTW focus area of *Landlord Incentives*—looking at various ways to increase the number of landlords in our program, thereby increasing the number of available units for our Program Participants to live in here in the City of Berkeley. HUD requires applicants for MTW designation to reach out to our Program Participants to obtain input on the MTW application before it is submitted.

There will be two Program Participant Hearings on the MTW plan, via Zoom: **Tues. May 18, and Tues. June 1, both at 10 am.** If you are unable to participate in either of these hearings, feel free to submit comments on the MTW plan to [bha@cityofberkeley.info](mailto:bha@cityofberkeley.info). All proposed plans will be posted on our website.

**Both meetings will be held using the following link/call in number** (note: you can join by just phone, or video, it is up to you):

<https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/3044140707?pwd=M2VWYotUUFUySDVzMVFY2FzVXcudzog>

Meeting ID: 304 414 0707

Passcode: 403702

888 475 4499 US Toll-free

877 853 5257 US Toll-free

### Utility/Rental Assistance & Fiber (Internet) Program for BUSD Families

Enclosed with this newsletter are two important flyers, regarding: (1) Information about financial support from the County for back owed utility bills and rent, in situations where Covid has impacted ability to pay either (note: if you have already received State of California assistance please double check with the agency taking your County application). (2) Free fiber (internet) connection program for families with students enrolled in Berkeley Public Schools. As we all discovered during this pandemic, internet is a must have for kids to be able to connect with their teachers and classes while remote schooling.

### Contacting BHA Staff

Staff	Position/Client Last Name Begins with:	Phone: 510-981-	Email: @cityofberkeley.info
Lynda DeShazier	Housing Specialist A, B, C, D, K, L, O	5482	ldeshazier
Tracy Jackson	Housing Specialist E, F, G, H, I, J, M, N	5486	tjackson
Althea Maybon	Housing Specialist Mc, P, Q, R, S, T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z	5478	amaybon
Tilda Barnes	Supervisor/New Contracts/ Ports/Mod Rehab.	5484	tbarnes
Tyra Pumphrey	Office Assistant I (Reception)	5470	tpumphrey
Celinda Aguilar-Vasquez	Exec. Assistant/FSS Coordinator	5483	caguilar-vasquez
Jesy Yturralde	Finance Manager	5488	jyturralde
Jayla Fuentesilla	Office Asst. II/Accounting	5474	bfuentesilla
Maggie Wang	Accountant	5477	ywang
Rachel Gonzales-Levine	Acting Executive Director/ Management Analyst	5485	rgonzales-levine

### Upcoming Office Closures

- Thurs., May 20 – Malcolm X’s Birthday
- Mon., May 31 – Memorial Day
- Mon., July 5 – Independence Day
- Closed every Friday.