



Section 8 News—April 2010

Census 2010

Every 10 years the United States Government conducts a “**Census.**” The purpose of the “census” is to identify and count every person living in each county across the entire United States. You should have received the official questionnaire in the mail in March. Other than voting, participating in the Census is one of the best things you can do to make sure much needed money comes into **YOUR** community for services and programs serving low and very-low income households. Every person counted in the Census represents approximately \$1,000-\$2,000 for California. Make sure **EVERYONE** in your household is counted. Complete and return your form ASAP. ALL of the information you provide is kept **CONFIDENTIAL.**

We Need Your Help

There is a new story in the newspaper and on television news each day describing another business or industry hard hit by the current economic crisis. Your BHA is also experiencing financial challenges. We are doing everything we can to limit our costs, so that we can remain a Berkeley-based Housing Authority serving residents of the City of Berkeley. There are two ways you can help:

1. **Unit Inspections.** At least once each year we must (by HUD regulations) inspect your unit to make sure it is safe, and everything is operating properly. You can help us complete this important task with one visit to your home by (1) working with your owner to make sure any known problems are corrected **BEFORE** the inspection and (2) making sure someone 18 years or older is present to allow the inspector access to the unit on the scheduled date and time. NOTE- many units fail because the smoke detector is not working or cover plates are missing (or broken) on electrical outlets.
2. **Annual Recertifications.** Approximately 60-90 days before your “anniversary” you will receive written notice from BHA advising you of things you need to do to complete your recertification. Gather the required documents (e.g. income verification; bank statements; full time student documentation) and submit them as instructed in the letter.

Thank you in advance for your help!

DON'T TAKE THE RISK

Your voucher provides valuable rental assistance that other qualified families only wish they had. We just opened the Section 8 Wait List. Over 34,000 families applied, and 1,500 names will be drawn in a lottery and placed on the official Wait List (one for tenant based Section 8 and one for project based Section 8). Don't risk losing your voucher. Report all household income; notify BHA before moving from your unit; get prior permission from BHA and your landlord before allowing someone to move into your unit; keep all your BHA appointments and respond quickly to all letters; if you have a debt (loan or repayment agreement) make all of the required payments. And most importantly, don't engage in ANY criminal behavior. BHA investigates and takes action on all reports of FRAUD. If you suspect someone is committing fraud, please report it to your Housing Specialist so we can follow up.