

CLINTON COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY POLICIES

ONE – STRIKE POLICY

The Clinton County Housing Authority screens applicants and states in the Public Housing Lease Agreement that illegal drug use and other criminal activities that threaten the well-being of our residents are grounds to deny or terminate Public Housing Assistance

The Housing Opportunity Program Extension Act of 1996 (Extension Act) gives Public Housing Authority's authority and obligation to deny occupancy on the basis of illegal drug-related activity and alcohol abuse.

Most public housing residents are law-abiding citizens; trying to raise their children and protect them from drugs and crime. The Clinton County Housing Authority utilizes this "One-Strike Policy" as a tool to fight the negative element and designation placed on its Projects by gangs, drug trade and violent crime. The "One-Strike Policy" improves the safety and quality of life for residents in public housing. The policy reflects a genuine commitment from our residents, Clinton County Housing Authority Staff and Law Enforcement to maintain safe, viable communities for our residents.

The "One-Strike Policy" is designed to be fair and effective. All policy provisions are enforced in a fair manner; i.e., similar violations result in similar sanctions. The "One-Strike Policy" promotes "Zero Tolerance". Any applicant, resident, household member or guest engaged in any prohibited criminal activity results in immediate denial or termination of housing assistance for the applicant or household.

An arrest or conviction is not required to deny or terminate housing assistance. Participation in criminal activity is sufficient cause for denial or termination. The Clinton County Housing Authority must have sufficient evidence to warrant any action taken. Denial or termination cannot be based on suspicion alone.

All applicants are afforded due process. Background checks are conducted on all applicants and family members 18 years of age or older. Background checks are conducted on all persons 18 years of age or older requested to be added to a resident's household. If an applicant is denied housing assistance based on the information contained in the background check:

1. Applicant is given a written notice on ineligible status.
2. Applicant may dispute the accuracy of the information obtained.
3. Applicant is given the opportunity for an informal review.

Any applicant evicted from Public Housing within the past seven (7) years for drug related criminal activity will be denied public housing assistance. The Clinton County Housing Authority may take into consideration any evidence of rehabilitation on a case-by-case basis.

Clinton County Housing Authority residents who witness violent crime and come forward with their testimony will receive relocation assistance in recognition of the potential danger to themselves and their families. Relocation assistance is limited to the Clinton County Housing Authority Projects.

The Clinton County Housing Authority includes in the Public Housing Lease Agreement restrictions on drug related and criminal activity. Any criminal activity is grounds for eviction if health, safety or right to peaceful enjoyment of the premises is threatened. Any drug-related criminal activity occurring either on or off the premises is grounds for eviction.