

APPLYING FOR HOUSING IN A FEDERAL LOW INCOME HOUSING PROGRAM?

A Point to ponder...

Is Fraud worth it?

Do You Realize...

If you commit fraud to obtain housing in a federal housing program you could be:

- Evicted from you apartment or house
- Required to repay all overpaid rental assistance you receive
- Fined up to \$10,000
- Imprisoned for up to five years
- Prohibited from receiving future assistance
- Subject to State and local government penalties

Do You Know...

You are committing fraud if you sign a form knowing that you provided false or misleading information.

The information you provide on a housing applications and recertification forms will be checked. The local housing agency, Colorado Housing Finance Authority or the Office of Inspector General will check the income and asset information you provide with other Federal, State or local governments and with private agencies. Certifying false information is fraud.

So Be Careful!

When you fill out your application and the yearly recertification for housing in a Low Income Housing Tax Credit property make sure your answers to the questions are accurate and honest. You must include:

All sources of income and changes in income you or any members of your household receive, such as wages, welfare payments, social security and veterans' benefits, pensions, retirement, etc.

Any money you receive on behalf of your children, such as child support, AFDC payments, SSI, Old age pensions, regular monetary contributions from family or friends, regular payments for utilities or groceries, etc.

Any increases in income, such as wages from a new job or an expected pay raise or bonus

All assets, such as bank accounts, savings bonds, certificates of deposit, stocks, real estate, etc that are owned by you or any member of your household.

All income from assets, such as interest from savings and checking accounts, stock dividends, etc.

Any business or asset (your home) that you sold in the last two years a less than full value

The names of everyone, adults or children, relatives and non-relatives, who are living with you and make up your household.

Ask Questions

If you don't understand something on the application or recertification forms, always ask questions. It is better to be safe than sorry.

Watch Out for Housing Assistance Scams!

- Don't pay money to have someone fill out housing application and recertification forms for you
- Don't pay money to move up on a waiting list
- Don't pay for anything that is not covered by your lease
- Get a receipt for any money you pay
- Get a written explanation if you are required to pay for anything other than rent, such as maintenance charges (provided you did not cause the charge due to damage or neglect)

Report Fraud

If you know of anyone who provided false information on a housing application or recertification or if anyone tells you to provide false information, report that person to the Property Manager.