



HAP CHECK NEWS

THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF LONG BEACH OWNER NEWSLETTER

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Making a Difference- Eliminating Homelessness for America's Veterans

In 2008, the Housing Authority partnered with the Long Beach Veterans Administration in HUD's Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) voucher program—a program that combines rental assistance for homeless veterans with case management and clinical services provided by the Veterans Affairs at its medical centers and in the community.

Today, thanks to your participation in the VASH program, almost 210 veterans are living here in Long Beach. Here is a success story that we can all be proud of:

- Roy Finegan U.S. Navy Veteran (Long Beach): Roy became homeless after losing his job in 2007. "I couldn't afford to live anywhere... I was helpless." For over two years he remained unemployed, homeless and then became dependent on alcohol. In 2009, he reached out to the VA for help. After entering recovery and becoming re-employed, Roy was referred to the VASH program. With VASH, he rented an apartment in January 2010. "The program has helped this veteran get back to having a good life. I know I made a mess of things at one time and I am now extremely grateful that there is a program like this for the veterans who want and need help."

New Utility Allowance Schedules

In February 2011, the Housing Authority Commission approved the adoption of revisions to both the Standard Utility Allowance Schedules and the Energy Efficient Utility Allowance Schedules for new construction projects. These new schedules became effective March 1, 2011 and can be found on the Housing Authority's website at http://www.longbeach.gov/health/housing/owner_information/utility_allowance_schedule.asp

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires Public Housing Agencies to annually review and amend, if

necessary, their Utility Allowance Schedules if there is a 10% change in utility rates. This fall, the Housing Authority hired the Nelrod Company to review and assess 1) the Standard Utility Allowance Schedules which are used when calculating the tenant portion that each assisted household must pay for utilities and 2) the Energy Efficient Utility Allowance Schedules which are used to calculate the costs of tenant paid utilities in new residential construction projects that meet certain energy criteria.

During the review by Nelrod, it was found that in comparing the utility rates from last year to this year, there was a rate change of more than 10% in several of the utilities; therefore, updated/revised Utility Allowance Schedules were implemented.

REMINDER 1: Installation of Carbon Monoxide Detectors

Starting on July 1, 2011, the first phase of the new CA law (SB183) goes into effect regarding the installation of carbon monoxide detectors. Don't get caught unprepared-- for more details refer to your December 2010 HAP CHECK NEWS or visit our website-

<http://www.longbeach.gov/health/housing/resources/hapchecknews.asp>

REMINDER 2: Inspection Policies

Don't forget! Scheduled Annual HQS appointments resulting in "No Entries" are considered "Failed" inspections. And, remember a combination of two consecutive "No Entries, and Failed" inspections automatically stop HAP payments. If you have any questions on these very important reminders, please contact the Inspections Unit at 562-570-5303.

REMINDER 3: Next Owner Orientation

The next Owner orientation session is scheduled for Wednesday, August 24 from 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm at the Housing Authority Office, 521 East 4th Street, Long Beach, CA, 90802 (on 4th Street between Atlantic and Linden Avenues). Seating is limited, so please RSVP by calling Monique Lathrop at 562-570-5490, or sending an email to

Monique.lathrop@longbeach.gov

Upcoming Holidays

The Housing Authority Bureau will be closed Monday, July 4, 2011, for Independence Day and Monday, September 5, 2011, for Labor Day.