



# HAP CHECK NEWS

THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF LONG BEACH OWNER NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2010

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## **New Utility Allowance Schedules**

In January, 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 February 1, 2010 and can be found on the Housing Authority's website at [http://www.longbeach.gov/cd/housing/owner\\_information/utility\\_allowance\\_schedule.asp](http://www.longbeach.gov/cd/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.

## **New Procedures for Requests for Tenancy Approval**

Just a reminder, on February 1, 2010, the Housing Authority implemented new procedures and forms, regarding the processing of requests for tenancy approval also known as requests for lease approvals.

The Housing Authority will now require that all owner information be submitted upfront, before an inspection date can be set. This change will enable the Housing Authority 1) to increase its ability to move the contract forward and 2) to more quickly process and render payments. The new forms can be found on the website at [http://www.longbeach.gov/cd/housing/owner\\_information/default.asp](http://www.longbeach.gov/cd/housing/owner_information/default.asp)

## **2010 Census- Make it Count!**

In Long Beach, everybody counts. That is why it is so important that all residents participate in the 2010 Census. Participation is easy, important and safe.

Long Beach receives federal funding based on the accuracy of the Census count. Census data helps government agencies to make funding decisions for more than \$400 billion in federal and state funding for local communities. In Long Beach, it is estimated that each person counted represents \$2,900 in federal or state funding.

This funding allows the City to enhance programs and services that are vital to our community. This funding will make possible: additional health care services; enhanced water quality; more parks and open space; expanded library services; increased school funding; improvements to streets and sidewalks; expanded services and support for veterans; and enhanced services to seniors .

The U.S. Census Bureau will mail or deliver forms to your house in March 2010. The 2010 Census form is new and easy to understand. The questionnaire asks 10 questions, will take less than 10 minutes to complete, and your answers are confidential and safe. Residents are encouraged to fill out and return the questionnaire as soon as possible. To learn more, visit <http://2010.census.gov/2010census/>

## **New Owner Orientation Sessions for 2010**

New and existing owners are welcome to join the staff of the Housing Authority for a workshop designed to provide property owners and managers with information about Housing Choice Voucher Program rules and regulations along with various Housing Authority processes and procedures.

For 2010, the new owner orientation sessions will be held on Wednesdays on these dates: May 26; August 25; and November 17.

All of the sessions are from 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm at the Housing Authority Office, 521 E 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Long Beach, CA, 90802 (on 4<sup>th</sup> Street between Atlantic and Linden Avenues). Seating is limited, so please RSVP by sending an email to [Monique\\_lathrop@longbeach.gov](mailto:Monique_lathrop@longbeach.gov) or calling Monique Lathrop at 562-570-5490.

Guest parking is available at the parking lot located 1 block west of the Housing Authority's office (521 East 4<sup>th</sup> Street), on the north side of the street. We look forward to seeing you at the session!