



Holyoke Housing Authority

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION AGENCY
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HOLYOKE HOUSING AUTHORITY ONE STRIKE POLICY “ONE STRIKE YOU’RE OUT”

The Holyoke Housing Authority will screen applicants and has stated within the Lease Agreement that illegal drug use and other criminal activities that threaten the well being of our residents is:

1. Grounds to deny housing assistance (will not be able to make application for seven (7) years from offense); and
2. Grounds for termination of assistance.

The Housing Opportunity Program Extension Act of 1996 (Extension Act) gives PHA's new authority and obligations 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 HHA will utilize this One Strike Policy as a tool to fight the negative element and designation placed on its Public Housing Developments by gangs, drug trade, and violent crime. The One Strike Policy will help improve the safety and quality of life in the Public Housing Communities.

This Policy reflects a genuine commitment from our residents, and HHA staff to obtain safe, viable communities for our residents.

The HHA One Strike Policy is designed to be fair and effective. The HHA will enforce this provision against all violators in a fair evenhanded manner, i.e., similar violations will result in similar sanctions. The HHA One Strike Policy is a “Zero Tolerance”. If an applicant or resident, family member or guest in the household engages in prohibited criminal activity, housing assistance will be denied or terminated.

An arrest or conviction is not required to deny or terminate housing assistance. Criminal activity is cause for denial of assistance or eviction. Denial of housing assistance will not be based upon suspicion rather upon violation of participant obligation or lease violation. The HHA will have evidence to warrant any action taken against an applicant or resident.

Applicant screening will consist of all of the following:

1. Criminal Background Check
2. Landlord Reference
3. Credit Report
4. Housekeeping Inspections
5. Resident Orientation Screening

Background checks will be conducted on all applicants and family members, 17 years of age or older. Background checks will be conducted on all persons wishing to be added to the resident household that are 17 years of age or older.