

## FAQ's – Royston Housing Authority

### **Q: What is Public Housing?**

A: Public housing was established to provide decent and safe rental housing for eligible low-income families, the elderly, and persons with disabilities. Public housing comes in all sizes and types, from scattered single family houses to highrise apartments for elderly families. There are approximately 1.2 million households living in public housing units, managed by some 3,300 HAs. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) administers Federal aid to local housing agencies (HAs) that manage the housing for low-income residents at rents they can afford. HUD furnishes technical and professional assistance in planning, developing and managing these developments.

### **Q: Why does my number on the waitlist move? For example, I just checked my position yesterday and it was 12 and now it is 14.**

A: Waitlist number fluctuates from time to time because applicants may update their application by adding a preference i.e., Disabled, Elderly or living/working within Royston City limits. When an application is updated, the applicant's status will change to give them a priority for housing assistance.

### **Q: Does the Housing Authority screen tenants?**

A: The Housing Authority does screening as to income eligibility for the program, as well as a criminal background screening and a landlord reference check.

### **Q: How long will I have to wait before I am called for an apartment?**

A: There is no way to predict how long you may have to wait before you are called for an apartment. This depends on when people move out and a vacancy occurs. It is very important that you notify the manager if there is any change of address or telephone number so you will be able to be reached.

### **Q: What happens when my name comes to the top of the waiting list?**

A: Once your name comes to the top of the waiting list, RHA staff will review your information to determine eligibility.

### **Q: What should I do once I am on a waiting list?**

A: We ask that you call in to the office at least once every three months to check on and/or update your application information.

### **Q: Can I have guests stay with me in public housing?**

A: You can have family and visitors - you are responsible for their conduct. Guests will be allowed to stay overnight for 14 days in a calendar year.

**Q: Can I have pets in public housing?**

A: You can have a pet that fits within RHA regulations. The regulations require a \$300 pet deposit for non service animals and sets some limits on the type and size of the pet. All animals, including service animals must be up to date and spayed or neutered.

**Q: What are community service requirements?**

A: The Quality and Work Responsibility Act of 1998 requires that all non-exempt public housing adult residents (18 or older) contribute eight hours per month of community service (volunteer work) or participate in eight hours of training, counseling or other activities that help an individual start toward self-sufficiency and economic independence. This is a requirement of the public housing lease

**Q: Is there a maximum income that would make me ineligible?**

A: Yes. The maximum gross income a family may have is based on the family size. Income limits are posted on [www.hud.gov](http://www.hud.gov), or you may go to the complex of your choice on this website for further information.